Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council

Agenda
April 21, 2026
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

1. **1:00 p.m. – Call to Order/Welcome**
   Jessica Felts, Chair
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Approval of January 29, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes**
   Jessica Felts, Chair
4. **Self-Injury and Suicide Death Data**
   Daniela Santos, Suicide Prevention Specialist
5. **988 Florida Lifeline Program**
   Javy Passalacqua, 988 Coordinator
6. **Guest Speaker**
   First Responder Suicide Summary
   Dr. Kellie O'Dare, 2nd Alarm Project @ UCF Restores
7. **Guest Speaker**
   Suicide Amongst Active and Former Officers
   Matthew H. Sharp, Florida Department of Law Enforcement
8. **Public Comment**
9. **Closing Remarks**
   Jessica Felts, Chair

Council Members

Secretary Taylor N. Hatch
Florida Department of Children and Families

Ralph E. Cash, PhD., ABPP
Florida Association of School Psychologists

Executive Director Matt Dunagan
Florida Sheriffs Association

Paul Jaquith
Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention

Rachelle S. Burns
Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition

Wendy Thompson
American Foundation of Suicide Prevention

Karen Brill
Florida School Board Association

Dan Reidenberg, PsyD
National Council for Suicide Prevention

Melanie Brown Woofter
Florida Behavioral Health Association

Carly Paro-Tompkins, Ed.D., LMHC
Florida Counseling Association

Carali McLean
NAMI Florida

Ryan C.W. Hall, MD
Florida Medical Association

Farah Ferreiro, DO
Florida Osteopathic Medical Association

Council Members

Joseph E. Thornton, MD
Florida Psychiatric Society

Danna Fowble
Florida Psychological Association

Executive Director Joe Marino
Veterans Florida

Natalie K. Kelly
Florida Association of Managing Entities

Secretary Michelle Branham
Florida Department of Elder Affairs

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD., PhD
Florida State Surgeon General

Commissioner Anastasios Kamoutsas
Florida Department of Education

Secretary Shevaun L. Harris
Florida Agency for Health Care Administration

Secretary Matt Walsh
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Secretary Ricky D. Dixon
Florida Department of Corrections

Commissioner Mark Glass
Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Executive Director James S. Hartsell
Florida Department of Veterans Affairs

Secretary J. Alex Kelly
Florida Department of Commerce

Secretary Jared W. Perdue, P. E.
Florida Department of Transportation

Call to Order and Introduction of the SPCC Chair

The quarterly meeting of the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council (SPCC) was called to order at 1:02 p.m. EST on April 21st, 2026, by Jessica Felts, SAMH Suicide Prevention Coordinator with the Florida Department of Children and Families.

Roll Call, Introductions and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Felts provided the following reminder: The SPCC is dedicated to using non-stigmatizing language as a method for suicide prevention, especially as one way to promote help-seeking for those struggling with suicide-related experiences. To commemorate this dedication, meetings regularly commence with encouragement to replace the words “commit” and “complete” suicide with died by suicide, similarly to how language refers to someone who “died by heart disease” or “died from cancer”.

Chairperson Felts introduced new members of council and their affiliations. Roll call was conducted for required members and delegates. Guests were invited to include their names and professional affiliation in the chat for record-keeping. There was a motion to approve January’s meeting minutes by Council Member Paul Jaquith. The motion was seconded by Terrie Andrews.

The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Florida Department of Children and Families Data Overview

Daniela Santos, The Department’s Suicide Prevention Specialist, provided information on suicide attempts and annual suicide death count data for calendar years 2014-2025. Suicide prevention data is provided by Florida Department of Health, visit www.flhealthcharts.gov.

Javy Passalacqua, the Department's 988 Coordinator, provided data for 988 Florida Lifeline. 988 is a free behavioral health support service that connects Floridians experiencing suicidal thoughts, substance use disorder, and mental health crises with a crisis counselor in their immediate area. In State Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (through February 28, 2026), the 988 Florida Lifeline answered 109,526 calls, diverting 96% of callers from higher-level crisis care. Of these calls, 930 calls included an active suicide in progress that resulted in the caller making it to the next stage of care alive.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Kellie O'Dare, 2nd Alarm Project @ UCF Restores

Dr. Kellie O'Dare, Research Associate Professor and Deputy Executive Director of UCF Restores, presented on First Responder suicides, efforts to improve suicide mortality surveillance, and efforts to support mental wellbeing and resiliency through an adaptation of the Zero Suicide Framework for Florida's fire service. Dr. O'Dare's contact information is kellie.odare@ucf.edu.

Guest Speaker: Matthew H. Sharp, Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Matthew Sharp Research Manager at Florida Department of Law Enforcement provided a review of FDLE's first peer reviewed scholarly study "Measuring Suicide Among Active and Former Sworn Law Enforcement Personnel: A State Level, Proof of Concept Methodology". Mr. Sharp's contact information is MatthewSharp@fdle.state.fl.us.

Public Comment

Stephen Roggenbaum provided a reminder about The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition's annual Statewide Conference. The pre-conference will be held on March 1st, and the Conference will be March 2nd & 3rd 2027 in Wesley Chapel/Lutz Florida.

Angelina Whalen provided first responder resources:

Hook-a-Hero: Through partnerships with carefully vetted, experienced counselors, we offer specialized therapy, counseling, and coaching tailored to the unique needs of first responders and military members.

First Responders Children's Foundation: They support the children and families of First Responder heroes who risk their lives every day in service to our communities.

Terri Andrews notified council that Here Tomorrow launched a podcast specifically to target first responders and military. Clearing the MindField Podcast is Hosted by retired Police Sargeant and Here Tomorrow Military & First Responder Program Manager, Brannon Hicks.

Motion to Adjourn

There was a motion to adjourn by Joy Bennink, and this motion was seconded by Ute Gazioch. The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m. EST.

Minutes submitted by Daniela Santos.

Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council (SPCC)

Representing	Appointed Official	Delegate
Florida Department of Children and Families	Taylor N. Hatch	Amanda VanLaningham
Florida Association of School Psychologists	Ralph E. Cash	
Florida Sheriffs Association	Matt Dunagan	Allie McNair
Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention	Paul Jaquith	
Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition	Rachelle S. Burns	Steve Roggenbaum
Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition	Wendy Thompson	Courtney Hadl Angelic Conn
Florida School Board Association	Karen Brill	
National Council for Suicide Prevention	Dan Reidenberg	Jennifer Owens
AARP Florida	*Vacant*	
Florida Behavioral Health Association	Melanie Brown Woofter	Jennifer Johnson Ute Gazioch
Florida Counseling Association	Carly Paro	
NAMI Florida	Carali McLean	Suzanne Mailloux
Florida Medical Association	Ryan Hall	
Florida Osteopathic Medical Association	Farah Ferreiro	
Florida Psychiatric Society	Joseph Thornton	
Florida Psychological Association	Danna Fowble	Dr. David Kirk
Veterans Florida	Joe Marino	Jeremy Sinnemaki
Florida Association of Managing Entities	Natalie K. Kelly	Paul Bebee

Florida Department of Elder Affairs	Michelle Branham	Gretta Jones
Florida State Surgeon General	Joseph A. Ladapo	Laura Corbin Mary Prim
Florida Department of Education	Anastasios Kamoutsas	Beverly Wilks Taqueria Thompson
Florida Agency for Health Care Administration	Shevaun L. Harris	Dr. Timothy Buehner
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice	Matt Walsh	Dr. Tracy Shelby Joy Bennink
Florida Department of Corrections	Ricky D. Dixon	Dr. Adam Wasserman
Florida Department of Law Enforcement	Mark Glass	Rebekah Corley
Florida Department of Veterans Affairs	James S. Hartsell	Al Carter Roy Clark
Florida Department of Commerce	J. Alex Kelly	Wendy Castle
Governor's Appointee	*Vacant*	
Florida Department of Transportation	Jared W. Perdue	Brenda Young