

Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee

Conference Call Meeting; February 22, 2007 10 AM – 12 Noon

Minutes of the Meeting

Call To Order.

Roll Call was taken with the following being present: Susan Calloway, Deb Cook, Dr. Stanley Edlavitch, Bill Heberle was represented by Greg, Rep. Connie Johnson was represented by Mindy, Lesley Levin, Elizabeth Makulec, Dottie Mullikin, Sheila Osborn, Dr. Joe Parks, Aurita Prince Caldwell, Edward Riedel, John Robbins, Donna Scott.

Members absent: Mariann Atwell, Maureen Hennessy, Brenda Miner, Sen. Charlie Shields

Other participants included Debbie Meller, Rita McElhany, Scott Perkins, Vickie Miller, Liz Sale.

Old Business.

1. Notes from the January 25 SPAC meeting call.

The notes from the January call were accepted without correction; the voice vote was unanimous with no negative votes.

2. Committee Structure

There was discussion of the three Committees. Dr. Parks has agreed to chair the Legislative Committee; Dr. Stanley Edlavitch agreed to chair the Goals Committee and Ms. Prince Caldwell agreed to chair the Public Awareness Committee. Each Committee has been assigned a staff person to facilitate meetings. It is hoped that each Committee will be able to have a preliminary phone call meeting prior to the March face-to-face meeting; during the March meeting we will plan time for simultaneous Committee meetings. The first task for each Committee is to define the scope of work and set goals.

Legislative Committee:

Chair: Joe Parks

Staff: Scott

Members: Mariann, Deb

Public Awareness Committee:

Chair: Aurita

Staff: Debbie

Members: Donna, Lesley, John, Sheila, Connie, Ed

Goals and Objectives Committee:

Chair: Stan

Staff: Rita

Members: Elizabeth, Susan, Bill

Debbie will contact other members to determine their preference for Committee work.

New Business.

3. Individual Responsibilities

This portion of the agenda was very positive! It was invigorating to hear of the number of areas impacting the field of suicide prevention that have the involvement of individual SPAC members. Integrating suicide prevention materials into the curriculum of community college classes, trainings filled to capacity, national information about rolling the two suicide numbers into one, exposure to suicide relative to friends, family and the media is now such a strong risk factor that it is being included in assessment criteria, participation in a radio show dealing with suicide. It was exciting to hear folks making connections as various areas overlapped and resonated with individuals. The list could go on; everyone deserves a "pat on the back" for being such catalysts within the field of suicide prevention. Thank you!

4. Updated statistical data.

The discussion centered around the 2003 and 2004 figures presented for Missouri and for the nation as a whole. Several years' data needs to be combined to have a sense of trends. Geographical distribution would be useful, but sometimes the Missouri numbers are so small that understanding the ramifications by location is challenging. Data on the number of hotline calls would be helpful information as well. There was discussion regarding looking at Health's unintentional injury data in the future. Since participation in the National Violent Deaths database is not funded for Missouri, it was decided to refer this issue to the Legislative Committee to consider for the 2008 legislative session. That would allow time to make a decision about whether or not to proceed, who might sponsor such legislation, laying the groundwork with members of the Missouri House and Senate, etc.

5. Discussion of article sent.

We skipped this agenda item as the article only went out via e-mail an hour prior to the meeting – not adequate time for SPAC members to read it and reflect on the information and its meaning.

6. Minigrants.

Scott presented information on two minigrants that were funded with this year's awards. He highlighted the work of NAMI in St. Louis created an expanded edition of their regular newsletter with a focus on suicide prevention. They printed additional

copies and distributed them as a resource to teachers, nurses, counselors and other youth workers. This has been well received.

The Moberly community suicide awareness initiative aimed to increase awareness and prevention efforts by distributing items promoting crisis hotlines and also purchasing a variety of books and videos for their local public library as well as their middle school and high school libraries. The library created a display highlighting the additions and included a discussion of suicide in general including warning signs. The local newspaper had a nice article focused on the need for community education regarding suicide so that prevention efforts can be more effective.

7. The reapplication process.

The application for Year 3 of the Youth Suicide Prevention grant from the federal government is due March 15, 2007. Scott is taking the lead in this process. We need a narrative that details the accomplishments of the year and a workplan for the coming year. We discussed gaps in service. It was mentioned that some areas have been successful in promoting a suicide hotline designed and promoted for men. This has been very effective in increasing the support given to male callers. This will be our third and final year of the grant. We continue to await to hear if our carry over dollars will be available for use in Missouri. We also need to hold a discussion regarding ongoing programming for suicide prevention when this grant resource is no longer available.

8. Compliance with the Sunshine Law

Recent training regarding our responsibilities under the Sunshine law has raised awareness of the need to be transparent in our dealings so the public can be involved as possible. To this end, meeting notices will be posted on our web site as well as in the DMH lobby in the area designated for this purpose. Minutes will be available also. Instructions for participating in phone meetings will give Scott as the contact and he will involve individual citizens as requested. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses for SPAC members will not be available. At our next meeting we will designate a "custodian of records" and pass a resolution to that effect. DMH legal counsel is drafting wording that will be used. Members wanted the web site to be clear in making it possible for the average citizen to request information if they so chose.

9. The State Suicide Prevention Plan

In your original SPAC notebooks which were distributed at the November SPAC meeting, one section contains a copy of the State Suicide Prevention Plan. We discussed the portion of the State Plan on pages 9-13. Looking at awareness as highlighted in the state plan makes that Committee even more urgent. We did discuss a second round of community based mini grants. DSS is a partner agency and

expecting that some will target youth in foster care. We did mention stigma and the impact this has in this area and the possibility of targeting school nurses given their importance in health care for youth. We did reference the Wellness Resource Center at MU Columbia and the Center for the Advancement of Mental Health Practices in Schools. The Resource Centers and minigrants appear to be solid ways to look at suicide prevention in a way that responds to local circumstances. The methodology focus which begins at the bottom of page 12 of the Plan concentrates on the SPAC so we need to refer to those sections regularly.

10. SPAC Web Site

Each SPAC member needs to check out the web site for accuracy. Remember that we will take pictures at the March meeting. We have contacted Bill Hedrick who retired as Warden from the Medical Center in Springfield and has also worked in the County Jail there; he is eager to be considered for SPAC. Staff will forward his application and resume to the Governor's office once it is received. SPAC members are encouraged to forward additional names for consideration. Southwest Missouri is currently under represented geographically on SPAC.

11. Scheduling the face-to-face meeting.

We spent time discussing coming meetings. March 21 from 1-5 and the 22nd from 8:30-3 was mentioned as a likely time for the face to face meeting in Jefferson City. There was consensus among those participating in the call and Debbie will contact others prior to finalizing.

A tentative date of June 26 and 27th has been proposed for the quarterly face-to-face meeting with the suggestion that it be held in St. Louis. Please let Debbie know availability and any thought on having it in St. Louis.

12. Adjourn.

It was mentioned that Dr. Joe Parks has accepted the position as Director of the Division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services effective immediately. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The unanimous vote by acclamation was in the affirmative.

Approved March 21, 2007