

Illinois Department of Public Health  
Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance (ISPA)  
Summary of Minutes – May 19, 2009  
*Approved – September 15, 2009*

Mental Health Centers of Central Illinois  
710 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Springfield, IL

**Appointed Members in Attendance**

Judy Ashby, LifeSavers Training Corporation  
Paul Fleming, Survivor  
Thom Mannard, Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence  
Christine Mitchell, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Illinois Chapter  
Sharneice Snyder, Jason Foundation @ Streamwood Hospital (*Phone*)  
Glenn Steinhausen, Illinois State Board of Education  
Lora Thomas, NAMI Illinois – National America for Mental  
Carol Wozniowski, Mental Health America of Illinois

**Ex-Officio Members in Attendance**

Mary Mayes, Illinois Department on Aging  
Marilyn Peebles, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services  
Patricia Reedy, Illinois Department of Human Services

**IDPH Staff**

George Dirks, Illinois Department of Public Health, Office of Health Promotion  
Mark Flotow, Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics  
Jennifer Martin, Illinois Department of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Program

**Stakeholders in Attendance**

Amy Ashland, Jason Foundation @ Streamwood Hospital  
Mariann Blaconiere, Hines VA Hospital  
Stan Lewy, Survivor  
Carolyn Broughton, Illinois Department of Human Services  
Ariel Mindel, Mental Health America of Illinois  
Mike Rohling, Southern Illinois Regional Social Services

Meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

**Welcome & Roll Call and Introductions**

Roll call was completed. Quorum is met. Introductions and a welcome were made by Co-Chair Carol Wozniowski.

**Review & Approval of March 12, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

Copies of the minutes were distributed to the members prior to the meeting and copies were available during the meeting. Judy Ashby motioned for the approval of the minutes, with a second from Patricia Reedy. All in favor, motion carried.

**Update from Illinois Department of Public Health** (*Reporting: Ms. Martin, Mr. Dirks & Mr. Flotow*)

*Ethics* – Ms. Martin reminded the members that documentation of the completion of the annual ethic training is due by May 22, 2009. Additional copies of the training packet were available during today's meeting.

*Two new appointees-* Ms. Martin announced two new members have been appointed to the Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance. Christine Mitchell will represent the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – Illinois Chapter and Paul Fleming will represent survivors. Each were invited to introduce themselves to the alliance.

*SAMHSA Youth Suicide Prevention overview* - Ms. Martin reported a grant application was submitted to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for youth suicide prevention. It was proposed that the majority of the funds would be to support local entities through a mini-grant process. Additional activities included a strategy meeting with higher education regarding best practices to preventing suicide on their campuses; consensus meeting with agencies working with youth at risk for suicide; expansion of the public awareness campaign to include materials focused on youth suicide prevention; and evaluation of the above activities.

*Reports* – The 2008 Suicide Prevention Report was released. Ms. Martin received edits for the State Agency Review and Support Report from the Department's division of communications. She'll make those changes and forward the final version to the alliance upon approval.

*IDHS Maternal Child Health report* – Each year, the Illinois Department of Human Services, Maternal Child Health (MCH) program submits a report to their federal funders regarding how Illinois is address the national MCH objectives. One of those objectives is focused on reducing youth suicides. Mr. Martin provided the MCH program with an overview of the suicide prevention activities accomplished by the Department and the alliance, for inclusion in their report.

*CDC Framing Guide for Communicating About Injury* – Ms. Martin brought attention to a document, that was forwarded to the alliance and stakeholders, entitled "Framing Guide for Communicating About Injury" from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The document provides an overview of how to communicate the message of injury prevention to different audiences. It discussed the need for all professionals in the field (child passenger safety, fire prevention, violence, suicide, etc) to have a unified message. Based on research, CDC found that the common value among the field is that each of us agrees that "We want a society where people can live to their full potential." At the very least, we are asked to incorporate this message in any communication. -- The document also provided some "messaging funnels" to show how various professionals can adapted the message to different audiences. Example messaging funnels were provided for certain injury types; however, one was not developed for suicide. Ms. Martin contacted the regional representative from the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) to inquire if SPRC would develop a messaging funnel for suicide prevention, to ensure all the states were presenting the message consistently. SPRC does not have plans to develop one; however, they would be willing to help Illinois create one for our statewide efforts.

*State Budget* - Mr. Dirks provided an overview of the state budget.

*BRFSS* - Mr. Flotow reported the 2008 Illinois Behavioral Risk Surveillance Survey results will be released soon. During the Fourth Round (2007-2009), some counties included questions about quality of life – e.g. days past month depressed, sad, or blue; frequency of social/emotional support; how satisfied you are with your life; and within the last 12 month, stopped activities due to sadness. --- Mr. Flotow also reported he was added to the board of reviews for the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System project.

#### **Update from Mental Health America of Illinois (MHAi) Regarding Suicide Prevention Activities under the IDPH Contract** (Reporting: Carol Wozniowski, MHAi)

*Coalition Development Communities* – some of the communities haven't started on their projects, therefore, MHAi will redirect those funds to other coalitions. The Center for Prevention Research and Development at the University of Illinois will evaluate the development of the coalitions to assess if coalitions should be developed differently, if the training should be done differently, etc. Currently, they are conducting surveys with the coalitions to identify different variables and will be conducting some site interviews in the near future.

*Public Awareness Campaign - "It Only Takes One"* – a draft of the campaign is being reviewed by the Department. MHAI is recruiting agencies to host sites to launch the campaign.

*Data Analysis and Report* – Staff from the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation completed their first phase of the project by conducting phone interviews with the data managers that collect or utilize fatality data. They now will move to interviewing managers of non-fatal data. As they collect this information, they will make recommendation and suggest ideas for partnerships.

Mr. Lewy added that 40,000 of the calls to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline were from Illinois. Hotlines want to meet to compare clinical notes. Mariann also reminded the group that if a call from a veteran is made from their area, then her agency is notified.

*Trainings for mental health providers* – One of the three Question, Persuade, Refer trainings for suicide risk assessment and management has been implemented for providers within the mental health system. 25 professionals are completing a self study program to be QPR trainers.

*Training for providers within the aging network* – All of the trainings have been implemented. Currently, MHAI is identifying videos that can be purchased for the Illinois Department on Aging to use to train staff on older adult suicide prevention. Ms. Broughton recommended contacting the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council and Illinois Violence Prevention Authority for ideas.

#### **Proposal to Develop a Volunteer of the Year Award** (Reporting: Dr. Glenn Steinhausen)

Dr. Steinhausen reported the Volunteer of the Year Award was first awarded during the statewide suicide prevention conference several years ago. It was named after Sherry Bryant and had been given out annually by the coalition. Since the group became an appointed committee and the coalition dissolved, the question remains as to how to proceed with the Volunteer of the Year award. During a recent ISPA Education and Training Committee meeting, the members shared their desire to reinstate the award and asked Dr. Steinhausen to present this question at the next alliance meeting.

The Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance discussed the issue and there was a strong interest in finding an avenue to continue the award. Ms. Mitchell motioned that responsibility of implementing the award be given to the Mental Health America of Illinois, with support from other stakeholders, preferably as a part of the "It Only Takes One" Campaign, with a second from Mr. Mannard. All in favor, motion carried. -- Ms. Martin will present the alliance's recommendation to the Department.

#### **Workgroup Report out/Submit Proposal for Approval**

Data Workgroup - (Reporting: Dr. Glenn Steinhausen) – Minutes from the April 14, 2009 work group meeting were approved. Members plan to research components of what the survey. Agenda items for the next workgroup meeting were set. Dr. Steinhausen also mentioned he'd have an update on the Youth Behavior Risk Surveillance Survey at the September meeting.

Community Awareness (Reporting: Carol Wozniowski) – Minutes from the April 9, 2009 work group meeting were approved. The workgroup discussed the proposal they submitted during the last meeting regarding developing an awareness toolkit. They discussed the proposal in more detail. The workgroup plans to 1) research existing fact sheets and review them at their next meeting, 2) develop a calendar of important dates and times of the year that might produce opportunities for awareness, and 3) develop statewide resource list, including websites. Future conversations will focus on developing examples of what communities can do. Ms. Mitchell stated the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is also developing a list of organizations that are doing suicide prevention. She believes the list will be completed at the end of June and will share with the workgroup.

Education and Training Workgroup (Reporting: Christine Mitchell) – Minutes from the April 13, 2009 work group meeting were approved. The workgroup discussed the proposal they submitted during the last meeting regarding offering trainings across the state. They discussed the proposal in more detail and the need to

outline where the 10 training would be located, in addition to what local resources could be utilized (e.g. law enforcement departments).

State Agency Review and Support Subcommittee (Reporting: Patricia Reedy) – Minutes from the April 17, 2009 work group meeting were approved. The workgroup discussed the proposal they submitted during the last meeting regarding identifying which agencies are not represented on the alliance and should be considered to invite to join the workgroup. The workgroup did not deem these agencies to be appointed members at this time, but rather to join the workgroup's discussions on suicide prevention within the state system. The two entities they considered a priority were the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the Screening, Assessment and Support Services (SASS) Program. Other agencies also to consider were employment security, Division of Insurance, IL Dept of Transportation, and unemployment services.

### **Agency Announcements**

- Ms. Ashby recommended a book entitled "Eight Stories Up" by DeQuincy Lezine is written for younger folks. Ms. Reedy mentioned if you make a recommendation to state library then they'll purchase the book to have available for others to check out.
- Ms. Ashland reported Streamwood Behavior Health Systems will open three new units – 1) a second advanced unit for 5-10 year olds, 2) a forensic adolescent unit, and 3) and the first Illinois/USA adolescent autistic unit. Invitations to the open house will be forwarded to the alliance and stakeholders.
- Ms. Mitchell reported the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's "More than Sad" DVD will be distributed soon. Over 400 people registered for the webinar that was funded by MHA through the IDPH contract. AFSP also has an interactive screening program that will be brought to a few schools in IL. The suicide prevention screening project been was done at ITI, but they are looking for a few schools. Ms. Mitchell also reported that almost 1700 people signed up for the Out of the Darkness overnight walk.
- Ms. Wozniowski distributed invitation to the Chicago premiere of the "No Kidding, Me To" documentary on May 28, 2009. It documents seven peoples' struggles, with the intend of breaking the stigma of mental illness.
- Ms. Reedy announced the Division of Mental Health's Evidence based and Emerging Best Practices conference will be held at the Hilton in Oak Lawn, IL this week.

### **Next Meeting**

Ms. Wozniowski and Dr. Steinhausen inquired how many members planned to attend the next meeting in Carbondale. They strongly encouraged everyone to make it a point to attend. Ms. Wozniowski and others from the Chicago area plan to take the train and they invite others in the area to join them in their travel plans. Ms. Ashby reminded the members that there are interesting things to do in southern Illinois.

Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

*Submitted by Jennifer Martin*