

Illinois Department of Public Health  
Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance (ISPA)  
Summary of Minutes – July 14, 2010  
10:00 a.m. – 2:30:p.m.  
*Approved February 16, 2011*

Illinois Department of Public Health  
IDPH Training Center facility (Lake Level)  
Located at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
One Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL 62702

Video conferencing was available for those unable to travel to Chicago

**Chicago** – Illinois Department of Public Health, 122 S. Michigan, Conference room 723, 7th Floor

**Marion** – Illinois Department of Public Health, 2309 W. Main St., Public Health Conference Room

**Appointed Members in Attendance**

Judy Ashby, LifeSavers Training Corporation (*Marion*)

Eric Davidson, Illinois Higher Education Center (*phone*)

Glenn Steinhausen, Illinois State Board of Education (*Springfield*)

Sharneice Snyder, Streamwood Behavioral Health Systems/Jason Foundation (*phone*)

Shannon Sullivan, Illinois Safe Schools Alliance (*Chicago*)

Lora Thomas, NAMI Illinois – National Alliance on Mental Illness (*Springfield*)

**Ex-Officio Members in Attendance**

Srgt Jill Allen, Illinois State Police (*Chicago*)

Wendy Blank, Illinois Department of Corrections (*Chicago*)

Patricia Reedy, Illinois Department of Human Services (*Chicago*)

Mary Mayes, Illinois Department on Aging (*Springfield*)

**Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Staff**

Jennifer Martin, IDPH, Injury & Violence Prevention Program (*Springfield*)

Mark Flotow, IDPH, Center for Health Statistics (*Springfield*)

**Stakeholders in Attendance**

Mariann Blacconiere, Hines VA Center (*Chicago*)

Chris Boyster, Illinois Center Against Handgun Violence (*Springfield*)

Chuck Johnson, Blessing Hospital (*Springfield*)

Stan Lewy, (*Chicago*)

Ariel Mindel, Mental Health America of Illinois (*Chicago*)

Steve Moore, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – Illinois Chapter

Mike Rohlings, Southern Illinois Regional Social Services (*Marion*)

Cynthia Watts, Marion VA Center (*Marion*)

Meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m.

### **Introductions/Welcome**

Introductions and a welcome were made by Co-Chair Dr. Steinhausen. Quorum is met.

### **Review & Approval of April 20, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

Copies of the minutes were distributed to the members prior to the meeting and copies were available during the meeting. Shannon Sullivan motioned for the approval of the minutes, with a second from Mary Mayes. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Update from Illinois Department of Public Health (Reporting: Jennifer Martin)**

*Ethics* – Ms. Martin thanked the members for completing their ethics training. She received Acknowledgment of Participation forms from all alliance members.

*Nominations* – Ms. Martin reported the nomination for Steve Moore, to represent the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention on the alliance, was submitted and being reviewed by the Department. The nomination for Judith Rehder, to represent the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, is also being reviewed.

*Grant application for depression screening* – Ms. Martin reported she and the Department's Aging Unit received a grant to the Administration on Aging to implement the Healthy IDEAS (Identifying Depression, Empowering Activities for Seniors) program in three areas of the state. Grants will be awarded to AgeOptions, East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging and White Crane Wellness Center to implement the program within their systems of care. It is estimated 390 older adults will be screened for depression.

*Bylaws* – Ms. Martin inquired on the status of the bylaws. She got the indication the bylaws may be done, however, she needs to follow up.

*Issue papers* – Several years ago, numerous issues papers were drafted with the assistance of the Illinois Suicide Prevention Coalition. Due to other publications that need to be completed, the issue papers were put on hold. Ms. Martin updated a couple of the papers, presented them internally as a sample of what the issue papers would encompass, and is seeking approval to move forward on finalizing the issue papers. In meantime, she requested the staff from the Suicide Prevention Resource Center review the papers and she received a wealth of comments to consider.

*Annual Report* – the annual report was submitted and is being reviewed by the Department.

*Data – (Reporting: Mark Flotow)* – Mr. Flotow reported 2007 remains the most current mortality data available. He anticipates the 2008 data will be released in the Fall with the 2009 data released shortly afterwards in the Winter. The 2008 data needs to be cleaned up and converted to the electronic data set. A graduate student has been hired to assist with data

quality issues, which should speed up the process. Due to the electronic data system, subsequent years of data should be released more swiftly than in previous years.

**Update from Mental Health America of Illinois (MHAI) regarding suicide prevention activities under the IDPH contract** *(Reporting: Jennifer Martin/Dr. Wendy Blank/Ariel Mindel)*

Since the MHAI Executive Director is on maternity leave, the MHAI report was shared between the various members assisting with the projects.

*Report on Illinois Suicide and Suicide Attempt Data Source– (Reporting: Jennifer Martin)* – The Pacific Institute for Research & Evaluation in Maryland submitted the report and the Department is currently reviewing the document before it is released.

*Campus Suicide Prevention - (Reporting: Jennifer Martin)* – MHAI worked with the Department and the Illinois Higher Education Center for Alcohol, Other Drug and Violence Prevention (IHEC) to offer 4 regional train-the-trainer trainings for the Campus Connect: A Suicide Prevention Training for Gatekeepers program at the following locations: April 30 at Western Illinois University, Macomb; May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Northern Illinois Region; May 5<sup>th</sup> at Eastern Illinois University, Charleston and May 7<sup>th</sup> at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Overall, 86 people were trained, representing 14 universities. The planning committee is reviewing additional technical support which can be provided to these universities.

*Training for Healthcare Providers - (Reporting: Jennifer Martin)* – MHAI and the Department's Injury and Violence Prevention Program are consulting with the Department's Division of Emergency Medical Services Medical Director to identify the best avenue to train healthcare professionals on recognizing and responding to people at risk of suicide. The intent is to offer training in Fall 2010. The planning committee is looking at offering either the American Association of Suicidology's course entitled "Recognizing and Responding to Suicide Risk in Primary Care" and/or the QPR Institutes' "QPRT-Suicide Risk Assessment for Medical Providers." Mr. Johnson suggested collaborating with a hospital's CME committee to create a module for healthcare providers. Due to the time limitations, we need to go with an existing training; however, the alliance could make the recommendation to the Department to consider. Dr. Steinhausen mentioned nurses now are required to have CEU's.

*Training for Correctional Staff - (Reporting: Dr. Wendy Blank)* – Dr. Blank, Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC), reported she has been collaborating with MHAI and the Department to offer trainings on self-injurious behaviors in the correctional settings. Dean Aufderheide, Ph.D. from the Florida Department of Corrections is a national speaker on the topic and has agreed to conduct the trainings. Currently, the plan is to offer two identical one-day trainings at the end of the summer. The Director of IDOC has approved for all staff to participate. The training will be recorded for those unable to attend the training, even those from other agencies. Ideally, Dr. Blank would like to include this training in the employee's annual training. Alliance members asked if the training would be extended to juvenile justice, forensic hospitals (who could offer CEU and CME credits) and alternative schools.

*Public Awareness Campaign – (Reporting: Ariel Mindel)* Ms. Mindel provided an overview of the kick-off event for the “It Only Takes One” (IOTO) campaign. The event was held at Bin 36 in Chicago followed by a concert by the band Blue October at the House of Blues. MHAI collaborated with Q101 to promote the event and the campaign. During the launch, MHAI unveiled the campaign and invite Q101, Blue October and a survivor to speak during the event. During the concert, the band continued to promote the campaign and talked about suicide in between sets. At the end of the concert, tear away cards were distributed to audience members.

The new website –[www.itonlytakesone.org](http://www.itonlytakesone.org) - is up and running. MHAI will continue to accept personal stories and information on resources to add to the webpage. Members were asked to share their information with Micaeh Johnson from Market M at [mjohnson@marketm.com](mailto:mjohnson@marketm.com). MarketM had staff change over, so MHAI is working with them to ensure the IOTO activities are implemented on schedule. MarketM still plans to have billboards up in July in central Illinois and downstate. Ms. Mindel plans to follow-up with MarketM to ensure they contact the Illinois Commerce Commission about their interest in preventing railroad-related suicide. MarketM also is in the process of developing a guide for communities to host their own launch event. Mr. Mindel asked Mr. Johnson to share an overview of how he launched IOTO in the Quincy, Ill area. He set the launch as a press release to present both the IOTO and SAMHSA teen suicide prevention campaigns. He provided statistics, a power point on the campaigns and allowed a question/answer segment. In attendance, were representatives from schools, health care community, mental health professionals, consumers, and the director of their local NAMI group. Mr. Johnson mentioned the schools were thrilled to receive these resources. MHAI wants to find ways to outreach to alliance members and stakeholders to encourage them to host a launch. MHAI was asked if they had a tracking system to know how many people have viewed the website. They will look into it.

### **Overview of National and State Data from Youth Behavior Risk Survey**

Dr. Steinhausen planned to share graphs comparing data from the Youth Behavior Risk Survey; however, he'll need to present the data during the next alliance meeting. He mentioned they are getting ready for the 2011 survey, which they will be adding one more question regarding suicide.

### **Ideas for Suicide Prevention Week**

Ms. Martin mentioned Suicide Prevention Week is in September. Last year, she asked people to share how they planned to observe the week, and then she shared those ideas with the alliance members and stakeholders. She asked the alliance if they thought it was useful to do again this year and if they had other ideas on how the Department could observe the week, which didn't cost funds.

- The alliance thought it was useful to compile a list of local ideas.
- In the past, letters were sent to churches, asking them to recognize suicide prevention week and explained where they could access free material to hand out to their congregation.

- Dr. Steinhausen believed he could include a 2-4 paragraph blurb in the electronic message that goes to schools, if MarketM could put some language together. *(In August, their legal department will probably send information on the new law requiring school social workers to be trained in suicide prevention.)*
- Mr. Boyster recommended collaborating with the community centers who receive funds from the Department for HIV programs. If they provide a list of their grantees, then MHAJ or MarketM could send the tear off cards to the centers. He also recommended collaborating with Minority Health to send cards to their grantees.
- Ms. Snyder recommended sharing information with the Local Area Networks, through the Illinois Department of Human Services.
- Ms. Sullivan recommended placing an article in the Illinois Families Now and Forever newsletter, through the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.
- Ms. Reedy recommended collaborating with the Illinois Hospital Association.
- Dr. Steinhausen recommended sending information to the local health departments.
- Ask agency directors/secretaries to send information throughout their agency.
- Ask for a proclamation.

Here is a list of what other organizations have planned:

- Hine VA is planning an entire week of activities, which will conclude with a mental health fair on the last day.
- NAMI Illinois will focus their efforts during Mental Health Awareness week (first week of October); however, the NAMI chapters probably would be willing to collaborate on a suicide prevention event.
- MHAJ is utilizing their Ambassador Council to host a grassroots event to distribute ribbons.
- Mr. Boyster mentioned organizations may consider collaborating with their local National Night Out committee to set up a booth about suicide prevention during their local event. National Night Out will occur in August.
- Ms. Ashby plans to hold candle light vigils.

### **Overview of the SAMHSA Teen Suicide Prevention Campaign**

Chuck Johnson, Blessing Hospital, provided an overview of the teen suicide prevention campaign funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services administration. He presented on the background of the campaign, materials that are available and assisted the alliance in reviewing the website - <http://us.reachout.com/wecanhelpus/>. He also explained how he promoted the campaign, along with the It Only Takes One campaign, during a press conference.

### **Review of the Draft Strategic Plan Update**

Copies of the draft strategic plan update were distributed prior to the meeting. Members were provided an opportunity to review the document over the lunch break. Ms. Martin explained she developed the document to serve as an addendum to the strategic plan, rather than try to incorporate the alliance's changes/updates in the strategic plan. The draft document lists the

goals and objectives and reflects the revised timelines. Then, a list of accomplishments and recommended actions steps are listed in the sidebar of each goal. The alliance liked the format because it was clear and specific. The current draft only reflects the updates mentioned during the recent ISPA meetings. The members started to discuss a couple of the goals. Some discussion was generated around “Goal 4: Promote utilization of suicide prevention services for victims of harassment and violence.” Alliance members discussed ideas on collaborating with other statewide initiatives (Bullying Task Force, Attorney General’s Bullying Hotline, etc.) to address the correlation between bullying and risk of suicide. The alliance also decided to keep the objectives that relate to advocacy (Objectives 6.1 and 8.1). Even though the role of the alliance isn’t to advocate, the strategic plan is a plan for the state, not the alliance, so they felt it was okay to keep those objectives. In response to “Objective 6.1: establish an advisory council on rural suicide prevention,” Ms. Ashby suggested working with the Farm Resource Center as a possible recommended action step. The intention is that members would review the draft and provided comments to Ms. Martin, Ms. Gall and/or Dr. Steinhausen by mid-September, so the document can be reviewed and approved at the October alliance meeting.

### **Agency Announcements**

- Dr. Steinhausen mentioned the school code had been amended (HB4672) requiring school social workers be trained on suicide prevention and allows a suicide prevention training to count as a professional development activity.
- Ms. Snyder further explained that HB4672 is the Jason Flatt Act (Public Act 096-0951), which the Jason Foundation spearheaded. Their director, Clark Flatt, worked with Representative Greg Harris and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to reach this milestone. They have worked on the legislation for over a year and collaborated with many community groups. Mr. Flatt traveled to Illinois for the public signing.
- Ms. Sullivan shared that the day after the Jason Flatt Act was signed, bullying prevention legislation was passed (Public Act 096-0952) that creates the Bullying Prevention Task Force, expands the definition of bullying, and requires all schools to have a bullying prevention policy. The Illinois Safe Schools Alliance has been building relationships with community groups and the Illinois State Board of Education for the past 4 years to achieve this legislation. A public signing was held.
- Dr. Steinhausen mentioned the question being added to the 2011 Youth Behavior Risk Survey asks students if they have been bullied for being perceived as gay, lesbian, or bisexual.
- Ms. Reedy announced the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Mental Health (DMH) is currently drafting its annual federal block grant application to the SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS). The application outlines Illinois' plan for the provision of mental health services to adults, adolescents, and children in need of critical services to recover from severe mental illnesses or emotional disturbances. The draft application can be found on the frontpage of the DHS website at <http://www.dhs.state.il.us> entitled “FY2011 Community Mental Health Services Block Grant Application.” The comment period ends in about a month.

- Ms. Reedy also mentioned DMH is concerned about people accessing services if they are not insured by Medicaid, therefore, they are pulling together stakeholders to develop a plan on how to access services to ensure continuum of care for each region. Alliance members are invited to participate and Ms. Reedy volunteered to connect members to the DMH regional staff.
- Mr. Moore mentioned the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) developed a training for educators entitled “More than Sad.” More information can be found at <http://morethansad.org/> . Also, the Chicago chapter of AFSP will send a set of the videos to each regional superintendent and inform all the schools in Illinois.
- Ms. Ashby reported the LifeSavers program was featured in the April, 2010, issue of Youth Today; The Newspaper on Youth Work, on page 14-15. In response to HB4672, Public Act 096-0951, they offered training services to Regional Offices of Education’s 2, 12, 20, 21, 25, 30, and 45 in southern Illinois. They also will launch the first college-level LifeSavers training on Sept. 24-26, 2010, for Southern Illinois University Carbondale and John A. Logan Community College. They will establish the first Florida chapter of LifeSavers for the University of Florida High School in Tallahassee on Sept. 17-19, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50p.m.

*Minutes prepared by Jennifer Martin*