

Illinois Department of Public Health
Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance (ISPA)
Summary of Minutes May 16, 2011
10:00 a.m. – 2:30:p.m.
Approved August 19, 2011

Illinois Department of Public Health
Mental Health America of Illinois
70 East Lake Street, Suite 900
Chicago, IL

Appointed Members in Attendance

Eric Davidson, Illinois Higher Education Center
Paul Fleming, Survivor (*phone*)
Carol Gall, Mental Health America of Illinois
Steve Moore, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – Illinois Chapter
Glenn Steinhausen, Illinois State Board of Education
Lora Thomas, NAMI Illinois – National Alliance on Mental Illness (*phone*)

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance

Jessica O’Leary, Office of the Attorney General
Mary Mayes, Illinois Department on Aging
Patricia Reedy, Illinois Department of Human Services
Judy Rehder, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Staff

Jennifer Martin, IDPH, Injury & Violence Prevention Program

Stakeholders in Attendance

Marianne Blacconiere, Hines VA
Maureen Kunz, Linden Oaks Hospital @ Edward in Naperville
Ariel Mindel, Mental Health America of Illinois
Colleen Daley, Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence

Meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m.

Introductions/Welcome

Introductions and a welcome were made by Co-Chairs Carol Gall and Dr. Steinhausen. Quorum is met.

Review & Approval of February 16, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Copies of the minutes were distributed to the members prior to the meeting and copies were available during the meeting. Steve Moore 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)

Nominations – Ms. Martin reported the following nominee and vacancies

- New nominee
 - Mary Ratliff, Illinois Violence Prevention Authority
- Vacancies
 - Researcher
 - During today's meeting, ISPA members recommended Dr. Peter Mulhall from the University of Illinois Center for Prevention Research and Development. He and his staff evaluated the local suicide prevention coalitions who participated in the coalition development initiative through the grant the Illinois Department of Public Health granted to the Mental Health Association of Illinois. Dr. Mulhall and his staff are familiar with suicide prevention and the alliance.
 - Illinois State Police
 - Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence (the new executive director, Colleen Daley, will submit her board nomination forms)
 - Agency representing the LGBTQ community

Issue Papers - Three suicide-related issue papers were released and posted on the Department website - "Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Youth Suicide," "Suicide and College Students" and "Suicide and Older Adults."

Conversation with Child Death Review Team – Ms. Martin was approached by staff from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) who oversee the Child Death Review teams. The team was interested in making recommendations to the IDCFS Director about suicide prevention in children. In an attempt not to duplicate efforts, they wanted to learn more about the efforts by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance. Ms. Martin and ISPA appointed member Judith Rehder (IDCFS representative on the ISPA) provided an overview of the current activities and answered several questions. The questions centered on if IDCFS and IDPH could act together after a suicide, what authority IDPH has, what education is given to families and if there is any type of review conducted after a suicide. After explaining IDPH focuses on primary prevention versus regulatory authority, the team requested additional information on which service intervention workers are mandated reporters and the referral process to a service provider for survivors when IDPH becomes aware of a suicide. Ms. Martin also provided a copy of the state plan and the recent ISPA annual report. ISPA looks forward to seeing the recommendations the Child Death Review team makes to the IDCFS director and identify ways to collaborate.

This topic sparked a discussion among the ISPA members, though we are encouraged to review suicide data, it is with the intent to identify what prevention strategies could have implemented, and there is a hesitancy to find fault and be punitive. The alliance members agreed with Judy's responses to the child death review team. The members discussed other ideas such as having a letter with a list of resources send to a family who just lost a loved one to suicide, but there were questions about who would send the letter. How would the family react to getting a letter from the government (the Department)? Yet a non-for-profit probably wouldn't have the resources to oversee the task either. Perhaps, working with funeral homes and first responders would be a better way to reach families.

Invitation to join planning committee for Illinois Department of Human Services' application for the Strategic Prevention Framework State Prevention Enhancement (SPE) grant – Ms. Martin talked with staff from the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Community Health and Prevention and Division of Mental Health to identify avenues to incorporate suicide prevention activities within their SPE grant application to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Ms. Martin shared information on the alliance, the needs assessments completed during the strategic plan process, in addition to information on the public awareness campaign and data projects.

Report on Illinois Suicide and Suicide Attempt Data Source– At the last ISPA meeting, Ms. Martin reported she received edits from the Department regarding the report on Illinois suicide and suicide attempt data sources. One of the recommendations was to rewrite the interview responses into complete sentences so the document is more formal instead of simply using phrases to articulate the interviewee's answers. Ms. Martin sought a colleague to assist in this revision. (This report was developed by the Pacific Institute for Research & Evaluation is a result of a grant from the Department to the Mental Health America of Illinois.)

Bylaws – Ms. Martin reported the Department's legal services provided additional feedback on the draft of the bylaws, specifically as it pertains to allowing alternates, maintaining quorum and how the workgroups should operate. Ms. Martin is seeking additional clarification regarding the section pertaining to workgroups.

Review Draft Annual Report for 2010

The alliance reviewed the draft annual report and made the following recommendations:

- Re-title the Executive Summary as "Background History" then add an Executive Summary.
- Add a link to the strategic plan in the Background History section.
- Add "child welfare professional" to the list of professionals in the executive summary and under the summary of goals and activities in the narrative of the Accomplishments section.
- If each alliance member has worked on a goal or objective, it should be listed under the Accomplishments section to reflect what is going on in the state, since this is a state plan.
- Next year, the accomplishments should be tied to the Illinois goals and objectives. Some of the accomplishments will cross goals
- The report should link to resources and other information (e.g., a clearinghouse).
- LifeSavers Training Corp would like to add a list of accomplishments.
- Update list of members.
- Update hospitalization data.
- In addition to other formatting and grammatical changes.

Alliance members are asked to submit changes by the end of the week and Ms. Martin will send a clean draft by the end of the month.

Review of the Draft Strategic Plan Update

Since the last meeting, a workgroup was created to update the strategic plan. The workgroup started to make revision then determined it would be beneficial to ask the other workgroups to review their respective goals and objectives. In addition to making revisions, each workgroup was tasked with 1) identifying accomplishments they wanted to highlight that occurred since the last strategic plan was released, 2) reviewing other documents (e.g., *"Charting the Future: A 2010 Progress Review of the*

National Strategy and Recommendations for the Decade Ahead,” CDC materials on connectedness and the report from UoI-the Center for Prevention Research and Development evaluating the implementation of the local coalitions) and 3) determining if there were any recommendations from those documents that should be threaded in the state plan.

The Data Workgroup and State Agency Review and Support Subcommittee completed their review. Due to scheduling conflicts, the Community Awareness is trying to find a time to meet. A couple of meetings were planned for the Education & Training Workgroup; however, no one joined the call. This workgroup has been inactive, so Mr. Davidson offered to chair the workgroup and the following people agreed to join as members – Ms. Blacsoniere, Ms. Kunz, and Ms. Mindel. Since a couple of the workgroups were unable to meet, the alliance decided to extend the deadline for the workgroups to review the goals and objectives.

Ms. Martin also sought guidance from Illinois’ regional representative at the Suicide Prevention Resource Center and their recommendations were addressed by the workgroups. A couple of the ideas were presented to the alliance for discussion.

- Currently, the goals do not seem to flow together, so it was recommended to regroup relative goals together. The alliance agreed and approved to regroup so that training goals are first (Goals 1, 4 and 5), then community awareness (Goals 2, 3, 6, 8 and 9), followed by data (Goal 7) and funding (Goal 10).
- The alliance verified that the strategic plan is a plan for the state (versus a plan for the Department or the alliance.) Recommended including wording to reflect that the strategic plan is a tool to guide anyone in Illinois doing suicide prevention.
- There was a question regarding if there was a conceptual difference between Goal 1 and 5 or if they could be merged. The alliance made the decision to leave it up to the Education and Training Workgroup to decide if Goal 1 and 5 should be merged.
- There was a question regarding if there was a reason there was a goal for victims of harassment but no goals for other high-risk populations. Does the goal need to be broader to encompass all high-risk populations or other goals added to address the other populations. The alliance had an in-depth conversation about Goal 4 (Promote utilization of suicide prevention services for victims of harassment and violence.) and determined it was broad enough, since it covers bullying, domestic violence, hate crime, etc.; however, it was recommended to adding “Veterans” as one of the next steps of Goal 4 as a population exposed to violence.

Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for August 19 in Carbondale. The co-chairs felt it was important to have one of the meetings in southern Illinois and they strongly encourage all the members to attend the meeting. If you are unable to attend, then please let Ms. Martin know.

Agency Announcements

- Ms. Blacsoniere mentioned the Lifeline is now a crisis line. She also distributed copies of a clinical tool used by the VA for self-directed violence classification system
- Ms. Thomas reported NAMI’s national conference is July 6-9 in Chicago.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Martin