Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)  
Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance (ISPA)  
Summary of Minutes August 19, 2011  
10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Approved November 21, 2011  

Jackson County Health Department  
415 Health Department Road  
Murphysboro, IL

Appointed Members in Attendance
Judy Ashby, LifeSavers Training Corp.  
Colleen Daley, Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence (phone)  
Paul Fleming, Survivor  
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

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance  
Mary Ratliff, Illinois Violence Prevention Authority  
Patricia Reedy, Illinois Department of Human Services (phone)  
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  
Joan Hart  
Ariel Mindel, Mental Health America of Illinois  
Cally Mooneyham, John A Logan College  
Alessandra Nicholson, John A Logan College  
Mike Rohling  
Jennifer Rose, John A Logan College  
Verletta Saxon, Southern Illinois Regional Social Services  
Cynthia Watts, Marion VA Center

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

Introductions/Welcome  
Introductions and a welcome were made by Co-Chairs Carol Gall and Dr. Steinhausen. Quorum is met.
Review & Approval of May 26, 2011 Meeting Minutes
Copies of the minutes were distributed to the members prior to the meeting and copies were available during the meeting. Lora Thomas motioned for the approval of the minutes, with a second from Judy Rehder. All in favor, motion carried.

Highlights of suicide prevention initiatives in Southern Illinois (Reporting: Judy Ashby)
Judy Ashby facilitated a presentation which highlighted some of the suicide prevention efforts in Southern Illinois. She shared information on the burden of suicide in their area. For example, Williamson County had 13 people die from suicide in 2009 and for 2010, they already had 7.

- Cynthia Watts, Marion VA – The VA covers a large area; cross multiple states. They do case reviews and have daily contact with their clients on the intense caseload. They also do presentations in the community and can go outside of their community. Ms. Watts added that the 7 people who died by suicide in Williamson County probably do not include the VA statistics, which demonstrates the burden of suicide is greater than realizes. The VA also sees numerous people attempt suicide. Their main challenge in lack of transportation to services. Unemployment and relationship problems are also contributing factors. The VA has a candle light vigil planned for Suicide Prevention Week.

- Jennifer Rose, John A Logan College – Ms. Rose is an advisor of the LifeSavers program at the college. Their students are commuters; no resident life. She was looking for a way to encourage students to come talk to her if they needed assistance. The LifeSavers program helped her accomplish this goal. LifeSavers program is the most active student organization they have and their volunteers are motivated, in fact their fundraising efforts allowed them to sponsor 11 people to be trained. They have a training planned for November and their goal is to train 30 people.

- Cally Mooneyhan, John A Logan College – Ms. Mooneyhan was trained twice in the LifeSavers program. She was a lifesaver in high school and now in college. She explained that high school is a stagnant environment which students are there every day and connected with friends; however, college life is different which reinforces the need for a suicide prevention program at the college level.

Ms. Ashby invited other stakeholders but they were unable to attend today’s meeting. They included the local coroner, mental health administrator, boot camp, and women’s center (which is the first in the country.)

Update from Illinois Department of Public Health (Reporting: Jennifer Martin)
Nominations – Ms. Martin reported the following appointments and vacancies.
The following new appointments were announced and invited to share a few words:

- Mary Ratliff, Illinois Violence Prevention Authority. Ms. Ratliff works in the field of violence prevention, specifically with the Safety Network Neighborhood, which includes suicide prevention as a focus area. Through her participation with the alliance, she hopes to share ideas and gain more knowledge about the issue of suicide.

- Colleen Daley, Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence (ICHV.) Ms. Daley is the executive director of ICHV and they look at gun violence as a public health issue. Through her participation with the alliance, she hopes to become more educated on the issue of suicide and to increase the awareness of the correlation between guns and suicide.
The following positions are vacant:

- Illinois State Police - Master Sergeant Ed Petrik will submit paperwork
- Researcher
- Representative of the GLBTQ community - Alliance members develop a list on agencies to consider representing the GLBTQ community. Members are asked to send their recommendations to the co-chairs.
  - Ms. Rehder mentioned the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services has an agency they work with.
  - Dr. Steinhausen recommended the Center on Halsted
  - Mr. Fleming recommended the Rainbow Café.

**Ethics Training** – Ms. Martin thanked the alliance members for completing the annual mandated ethics training. All members completed.

**New Assistant Deputy Director** – Ms. Martin announced Conny Mueller Moody, is the new Assistant Deputy Director of the Office of Health Promotion at the Illinois Department of Public Health. Ms. Martin reports directly to her and will keep her updated on the alliance business.

**Community Transformation Grant** – The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a grant announcement entitled “The Community Transformation Grants (CTG) program” which will support community-level efforts to reduce chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes. The Department is applying for the grant which has five strategic directions. It was mandatory for applicants to address the first three strategic directions - focused on Tobacco Free Living, Active Living and Healthy Eating, and Increased Use of High Impact Quality Clinical Preventive Services. Ms. Martin and Dr. Steinhausen participated in a workgroup that looked at the optional strategic direction 4 (social and emotional wellness) and strategic direction 5 (healthy and safe physical environment.) The workgroup recommend the grant activities should enhance the Coordinated School Health (CSH) model to add mental health (including suicide prevention), educate boards/superintendents/principal on CSH, in addition to train and provide technical assistance for community coalitions. Suicide prevention and bullying were a large part of the discussion. The State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) was heavily referenced in the application. SHIP includes suicide prevention. It is unsure if the workgroup recommendations were included in the final application; however, Ms. Martin will inform the alliance if the Department is awarded the grant or not.

**Summit on Advancing Bidirectional Behavioral Health and Primary Care Integration** – the summit was held on June 22, 2011 and co-sponsored by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the Illinois Department of Public Health. Within the supporting materials distributed prior to the summit, one of the priority health concerns include mental health and outlined the “reduce suicide attempts and suicide rates across the lifespan” as a long-term outcome with the intermediate outcome listed as “implement the strategies identified in the state suicide prevention plan.” Dr. Steinhausen, Ms. Thomas and Ms. Reedy attended the summit and Ms. Martin joined by webinar; however, there didn’t appear to be a large amount of discussion related to suicide prevention. As the summit identifies their next steps, the alliance will continue to look for opportunities to be involved in the discussion.
Miscellaneous – Ms. Martin provided the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) with a brief example of the data analysis Illinois completed. This summary may be used as an example within SPRC’s revision of their online course for strategic planning in suicide prevention. Ms. Martin also reported funding for the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System remained in the state budget.

Review of the bylaws
The Department’s legal office reviewed the bylaws and has given approval to move forward. A copy of the bylaws was distributed to the appointed members prior to the meeting. Ms. Martin provided an overview of the changes made to the bylaws since the last time the alliance reviewed them. Members had a lengthy discussion about who should be representing on the alliance and recommended the following agencies or professions be represented on the alliance – Illinois Hospital Association, fire service, emergency medical services, veteran services, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and Illinois Department of Veteran’s Alliance. Members would like to add other groups without amending the bylaws, so Judy Rehder motioned for the bylaws to be changed to reflect that alliance is comprised of not a specific number of members, rather to state “including the following, but not limited to” for sections related to the appointed and ex-officio members, with a second by Lora Thomas. All in favor, motion carried. The alliance also discussed that members will have staggering terms (e.g., 3 members shall be appointed for 1 year, 3 for 2 years and the remaining for 3 years.) and discussed how to identify which members would be assigned to the initial terms. Dr. Steinhausen and Judy Rehder volunteered to serve the 1 year terms since they will be retiring in the within a year. The alliance also recommended setting the annual meeting to occur in May or June and that the alliance should operate on the fiscal year, rather than the calendar year. The alliance requested Ms. Martin inquire the answers to the following questions. What is the process of reappointing members? Will members need to reapply or would the co-chairs simply need to submit a letter recommending their term be renewed? Judy Ashby motioned for the approval of the edits recommended during today’s meeting, with a second from Steve Moore. All in favor, motion carried. Since the bylaws are crucial to the Alliance’s operations, the Department wanted to allow the appointed members ample time to read the draft bylaws; therefore, final approval of the bylaws will be made at the November 21, 2011 ISPA meeting.

Approval of the 2010 Annual Report
Members reviewed a revised version of the annual report based on the changes made during the last alliance meeting. Additional grammatical edits were made, basically to the section with regards to examples of suicide prevention efforts by partner agencies. Paul Fleming motioned for the approval of the 2010 annual report, with a second from Mary Ratliff. All in favor, motion carried.

Review of the Draft Strategic Plan Update
A written report was submitted. The workgroups met a couple of times since the last meeting to discuss updates to the strategic plan. Workgroup members continue to review national and state documents to determine if other additional objectives should be included in the strategic plan. A couple of the goals are considered for merging. Workgroups will continue to meet.

Discuss activities planned for suicide prevention day/month around the state
A written summary was submitted with regards to various events planned to acknowledge World Suicide Prevention Day. Events range from ads, community walks, educational sessions, interviews
and presentations. Members mentioned it would be beneficial to learn what agencies were doing throughout the year.

Next meeting
The co-chairs have conflicts for the next meeting and requested the meeting be changed. The alliance members identified alternate meeting dates and possible locations.

Agency Announcements
- Ms. Ashby reported the LifeSaver’s Training Corporation was accepted to the Suicide Prevention Resource Center/American Foundation for Suicide Prevention’s Best Practice Registry under Section III – Adhere to Standards. Ms. Ashby also mentioned they have a benefit concert scheduled for September 2nd.
- Ms. Gall stated the Mental Health Association of Illinois has a “Light Up the Loop” event planned for October 5, 2011. Also, for National Depression Screening Day (October 16th) they will partner with Walgreens to pilot health corners in 9 of the Walgreens locations in Chicago.
- Ms. Blacconiere mentioned she has gun locks available for programs to hand out at events.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20p.m. Minutes prepared by Jennifer Martin