Illinois Department of Public Health  
Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance (ISPA)  
State Agency Review and Support Subcommittee  

Summary of Meeting  
Approved – January 14, 2013

October 9, 2012  
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Conference Call

Introductions  
Jennifer Martin  Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)  
Mary Mayes  Illinois Department on Aging  
Mary Ratliff  Illinois Violence Prevention Authority  
Patricia Reedy (Chair)  Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Mental Health (DMH)  
Gail Simpson  Illinois Department of Children and Family Services  
Lora Thomas  NAMI-Illinois

Announcements – no announcements  
- Ms. Ratliff reported the director of the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority retired and a national search is occurring to fill the vacancy.  
- Ms. Reedy mentioned the closure of facilities has created opportunity to implement best practice strategies.  
- Ms. Martin provided an overview of the newly released National Strategy for Suicide Prevention and what has changed since the 2001 national plan. There are four strategic directions for the national plan – 1) Healthy and Empowered Individuals, Families and Communities; 2) Clinical and Community Preventative services; 3) Treatment and Support Services and 4) Surveillance, Research and Evaluation. Each section concludes with information on what can we do to advance the goals and objectives. This subcommittee may be particularly interested in the recommendations for state, territorial, tribal and local governments. Workgroup members asked Ms. Martin to mail a copy of the plan to them.

Approval of August 13, 2012 minutes  
Ms. Simpson motioned for the approval of the minutes, with a second from Ms. Mayes. All in favor, motion carried.

Update on state agency projects  
Ms. Martin talked with staff from Illinois Law Enforcement Training Board. It was an opportunity to learn about each other’s projects and confirmed there is an interest in looking for opportunities to collaborate through sharing information and providing training.

Discuss potential collaboration with ISPA Education and Training Workgroup  
Ms. Reedy has a meeting schedule this week with the Education and Training Workgroup chair to start discussion opportunities for the two workgroups to collaborate. Ms. Reedy reminded the group of the list Ms. Martin created outlining professional specific training opportunities. Ms. Reedy would like to add Psychiatric First Aid to the list because it is important to talk with forensic leaders on how some best practice curriculum on SP can be provided to state and county entities. Ms. Reedy recommended separately corrections and
juvenile justice. Ms. Reedy also recommended adding staff that play a role in making a physical plant safer; Ms. Reedy will develop this list.

Old business

Update on the inventory of suicide prevention activities – Ms. Martin is converting the survey to an online version. Initially, the survey will be sent to members then outreach to others and invite them to participate.

Finalize proposal to the full alliance requesting the development of a packet for agency directors – The subcommittee presented the idea during the August 27, 2012 full alliance meeting. The alliance liked the idea and said the subcommittee could discuss the idea further. The following ideas were generated:

Packet

- **Packet** – include cover letter, summary of national plan (demonstrate Illinois’s efforts complement the national efforts) and copy of state plan.
- **Signature** – the members discussed who should send the letter. They felt it would be more of an impact if the packet comes from the IDPH director to their director (rather than the co-chairs)
- **Intent** – the original intent was to send letters to the state agency directors, but there is an interest in expanding to all agencies that have a seat on the alliance.
  - Other agencies - local public service offices would benefit from learning the signs of depression (it has been taught informally,) other state agencies not active but may have a role (e.g., IDOT,) etc. benefits (learning signs for depression have been taught informally), IDOT
- **Distribution** – Phase 1 – send packets to current directors
  - Phase 2 – send packets to stakeholders
    - General packet of info; would come from alliance versus the director; would be more general in nature; could be developed by the alliance rather than this workgroup.)
  - Ms. Mayes and Ms. Martin agreed to draft the letter

New Business - None

Divide Task

- Ms. Reedy will meet the chair of the Education and Training Workgroup to discuss cross fertilization for training opportunities.
- Ms. Reedy will develop a list of staff that plays a role in making a physical plant safer.
- Ms. Mayes and Ms. Martin will draft a letter

Set agenda items for next meeting – *all members agreed to continue to utilize the following standard agenda*

I. Introductions
II. Announcements
III. Update on state agency projects
IV. Old business
   a. Update on the inventory of suicide prevention activities
   b. Update on collaboration with ISPA Education and Training Workgroup
   c. Update on the idea to develop a packet for agency directors
V. New business
VI. Divide tasks
VII. Determine expectations for next meeting
VIII. Set agenda items for next meeting

Submitted by Jennifer Martin