

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance
Community Awareness Workgroup
(Addressing newly formed Goals 3 and 4)
Approved March 8, 2012

Thursday, February 9, 2012
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Conference call)

Introductions

April Tolbert	Cook County Department of Public Health
Chuck Johnson	Blessing Hospital
Jennifer Martin	Illinois Department of Public Health
Carol Gall	Mental Health America of Illinois

Minutes from January 12, 2012 – Mr. Johnson motioned for the approval of the minutes, with a second from Ms. Gall. All in favor, motion carried.

Announcements – None

Update on the “It Only Takes One” campaign – Ms. Gall mentioned Mental Health America of Illinois (MHAI) is strategizing how they can leverage the *It Only Takes One* campaign with other projects they are working, in addition how they can collaborate with other agencies. Also, MHAI may have secured a spokesperson for the campaign.

Discuss the final strategic plan revisions - Ms. Martin distributed a new draft (reformatted) of the strategic plan to the workgroup before the meeting. Ms. Martin mentioned a strategy about ‘developing issue papers and identifying avenues to distribute information to professions’ was added. Mr. Johnson recommended adding the following potential strategies. Under Goal 3’s objective regarding promoting models of treatment that have been shown to increase the probability of treatment adherence - “Encourage best evidence models such as the SAMHSA and SPRC program ‘*Is Your Patient Suicidal? Tools to Help ED Providers When the Answer is Yes.*’” (This program had an excellent response from the emergency department staff at Blessing Hospital.) Under Goal 4’s objective regarding increasing the proportion of news reports on suicide that observe consensus reporting recommendations - “Promote the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention’s ‘*Recommendation for Reporting on Suicide.*’” All workgroup members agreed with Mr. Johnson’s recommendations.

Overview of issue papers – The Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence reviewed the original draft of the Access to Means issue paper and made some revisions. The issue paper is not in a final format but they asked the workgroup members to review the current version. Mr. Johnson shared some concerns. He cautioned advocating for the disposal of firearms from homes. He instead recommended focusing on removal of firearms from homes where a member of the family is suicidal; in addition to encourage securing guns unloaded and locked not only to reduce suicide but to prevent access of guns to young children in the home. Ms. Martin believes that was the wording in the original issue paper, also she believed the intent of

the issue paper was to encourage removal of firearms from homes where a member of the family is suicidal, so perhaps we need to reword it to reflect that. Mr. Johnson also was concerned about advocating limiting over the counter medications, household chemicals, natural gas from stoves, ventilation requirements for garages and barriers for railroad tracks, tall buildings and bridges. His main concern was the financial burden on Illinois taxpayers to implement these strategies with the limited return on investment. Ms. Martin mentioned that many of these strategies mirror national strategies; plus, we need to ensure we are reinforcing the public health approach. Due to limited time, the workgroup was not able to discuss these concerns in depth. The discussion will continue during the next conference call, when the author can be on the call to provide insight on the content.

Ms. Martin received information to include in the other issue papers with regards to suicide and the military; suicide and first responders. She'll compile the information and draft issue papers for the workgroup to review during the next meeting.

Next Meeting - Thursday, March 8, 2012 – 3-4p.m.

- Set agenda
 - Introductions
 - Approve minutes from February 9, 2012 meeting
 - Announcements
 - Update on the “It Only Takes One” campaign
 - Overview of issue papers

Summary submitted by Jennifer Martin