

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

Summary of Meeting
Approved August 13, 2012

June 11, 2012
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Conference Call

Introductions

Wendy Blank	Illinois Department of Corrections
Jennifer Martin	Illinois Department of Public Health, Injury & Violence Prevention Program
Mary Mayes	Illinois Department on Aging
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

Ms. Martin - The Director signed letters, which will be sent to the respective directors of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, inviting them to nominate a staff person to represent their agency on the alliance. When a nominee is identified, they will be invited to participate in the state agency workgroup calls.

Dr. Wendy Blank was announced as the new co-chair of the alliance. She will replace Dr. Steinhausen who retired. Dr. Blank invited the members to contact her if they have ideas of how the state agency subcommittee can increase their effectiveness.

Approval of April 9, 2012 minutes

No minutes – tabled until the next meeting

Update on state agency projects

Ms. Reedy provided an update on the changes with the Division of Mental Health Services.

Old business

- Ms. Martin reported the draft survey to catalog the various suicide prevention activities occurring across the state is still being reviewed. The members also asked Ms. Martin to discuss with her supervisor what the next phase of the project will be.
- During the last meeting, a reporter from the Medill News Service joined the call to learn more about the alliance and suicide prevention, in preparation for an article. Ms. Martin was asked to send a copy of the article to the workgroup members.

New Business

- Ms. Reedy reported the Center of Excellence for Justice is working on a training with regards to understand what the center is able to help with. If you'd like to be informed of the training, then please let Ms. Reedy know.
- Ms. Reedy mentioned the National Association of Social Workers – Illinois Chapter (NASW) is working on a major initiative to ensure social work remains relevant to the need. NASW is partnering with the deans of

universities and directors of social work programs. One of the multiple links included getting a sense of how well prepared social workers are to be clinical social workers when they graduate, in addition to what can schools of social work do to keep people prepared. It is possible to get out of most school and sit for licensure yet have little training on suicide evaluation and assessment. Ms. Reedy asked if there are issues the group thought she should take to the discussion. Some ideas included - Cross fertilization, gatekeep PLUS train for mental health professionals, system framework, in addition to literature and science of implementing best practice – if you want to change the behavior of any profession then you have to go beyond just training people.

- Dr. Blank explained her agency is taking a “change management approach” to ensure what they are doing is proper and appropriate. Dr. Blank is interested if any other agencies have utilized this approach. Ms. Reedy had information to share and will schedule a time to discuss it further with Dr. Blank.
- The members discussed the possibility of developing a packet for agency directors to reacquaint them with the alliance. This idea will be presented to the alliance during the next meeting.
- Ms. Martin reported the ISPA Education and Training Workgroup are at a crossroads to determine the next activity they will work on. Their role is to train professionals and have researched what other states are doing. This is an opportunity for the state agency subcommittee to collaborate with their workgroup to train staff within the state system. Ms. Reedy will outreach to the Ms. Brechline, chair of the ISPA Education and Training Committee.

Divide Task

- Ms. Reedy will meet with Dr. Blank.
- Ms. Martin will coordinate a meeting between the chairs of the State Agency Support and Review Subcommittee and Education and Training Workgroup to discuss cross fertilization for training opportunities.
- Make note to present the idea of developing a packet for agency directors during the next alliance meeting.

Set meeting dates for FY13

- Continue to meet the 2nd Monday every other month at 3 p.m.

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