

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

Summary of Meeting  
*Approved October 9, 2012*

August 13, 2012  
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Conference Call

**Introductions**

Jessica Gerdes	Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)
Jennifer Martin	Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)
Ed Petik	Illinois State Police
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

**Approval of June 11, 2012 minutes**

Ms. Simpson motioned for the approval of the minutes, with a second from Ms. Thomas. All in favor, motion carried.

**Update on state agency projects**

Ms. Gerdes asked the members what types of activities the past ISBE represented reported on. She also asked if there was data on school based suicide prevention. Ms. Martin will forward information on where to find youth suicide data to all members on the call. Ms. Gerdes mentioned she was involved with suicide position during her previous position in Indiana and has some ideas the group may be interested in (e.g., modules for teachers to identify signs and symptoms.)

Ms. Reedy reported IDHS send suggestions to providers on what they can do to promote suicide prevention week and forwarded a motivation letter. IDHS also continues to develop plans for center closures.

Ms. Martin mentioned she was working with the community outreach workgroup to develop a press release and messages to post on social media websites. Members discussed the possibility of organizing a multi-agency press release but determined it would not be feasible at this point in time.

Ms. Thomas reported NAMI Illinois included messages in their weekly e-news update with regards to understanding suicide. The series is a 10 week project based on the Quick Series publications. Ms. Reedy asked if the members could be added the email distribution.

Master Sergeant Petrik and Ms. Simpson mentioned they continue to remain involved in the alliances work though their nomination and/or appointment haven't been finalized. Their participation is greatly appreciated.

### **Discuss potential collaboration with ISPA Education and Training Workgroup**

Ms. Martin explained the Education and Training Workgroup was interested in collaborating with the state agency representatives to identify opportunities to train professionals statewide by adding suicide prevention to existing trainings and conferences. Ms. Reedy will schedule a time to talk with the chair of their workgroup. Ms. Reedy mentioned IDHS is training emergency department staff on a variety of issues and included a large amount of information about suicide in the trainings. Ms. Martin also encouraged the members to reply to an email she recently sent asking the alliance members to list annual training and conferences that exist. Ms. Reedy also reported she is working with the Illinois chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and deans of schools of social work to enhance social worker's competency on suicide prevention.

### **Old business**

*Update on the inventory of suicide prevention activities* – members decided to send the inventory to the alliance members first then work one on one with the state agency representatives with regards to the best avenue for sharing the inventory with programs in their agency; while at the same time outreach other statewide agencies. Members discussed the idea of asking the governor's office to send the inventory to the state agencies; requesting each agency to distribute it their programs; however, it was determined it wouldn't be realistic.

*Finalize proposal to the full alliance requesting the development of a packet for agency directors* – the intent of the packet is to re-acquaint agency directors with the work of the alliance. Members recommended including a cover letter (signed by the co-chairs) which included an overview of the role of the alliance, its conception, and its accomplishments in addition to gratitude from the alliance for the agency's continued support. Members plan to present the idea to the full alliance to gain their feedback and assist in more fully developing the idea.

### **New Business**

- None

### **Divide Task**

- Ms. Martin will share youth suicide data with the group.
- 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 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*