

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)
 Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance (ISPA)
 Summary of Minutes August 27, 2012
 10:00 a.m. – 2:30:p.m.
Approved November 27, 2012

Illinois Department of Public Health
 122 S. Michigan Ave., 7th Floor, Conference Room 711
 Chicago

*with video conferencing available at Illinois Department of Public Health offices located at
 535 W. Jefferson St. in Springfield, IL and 2309 W. Main St. in Marion, IL*

| | | Present | Excused | Un- excused |
|--|---|--------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| <u>Appointed Members in Attendance</u> | | | | |
| Eric Davidson | Illinois Higher Education Center | | X | |
| Katie Mason (<i>proxy</i>) | Mental Health America of Illinois | <i>Chicago</i> | | |
| Steve Moore | American Foundation for Suicide Prevention | <i>Chicago</i> | | |
| Judy Ashby | LifeSavers Training Corporation | <i>Marion</i> | | |
| Lora Thomas | NAMI Illinois – National Alliance on Mental Illness | <i>Springfield</i> | | |
| Paul Fleming | Survivor | | X | |
| Colleen Daley | Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence | <i>Chicago</i> | | |
| Samuel A. Giordano Jr. | Representing emergency medical services | | X | |
| Nicole Pekovitch | Representing mental health consumers | <i>Chicago</i> | | |
| Mariann Blaconiere | Representing service members, veterans and their families | <i>Chicago</i> | | |
| <u>Ex-Officio Members in Attendance</u> | | | | |
| Jennifer Martin | Illinois Department of Public Health | <i>Chicago</i> | | |
| Jessica O’Leary | Office of the Attorney General | <i>Chicago</i> | | |
| Mary Mayes | Illinois Department on Aging | <i>Springfield</i> | | |
| Patricia Reedy | Illinois Department of Human Services | <i>Chicago</i> | | |
| Mary Ratliff | Illinois Violence Prevention Authority | <i>Springfield</i> | | |
| Dr. Sam Gaines | Illinois Department of Public Health | | X | |
| <u>Stakeholders in Attendance</u> | | | | |
| Jonny Boucher | Hope for the Day | <i>Chicago</i> | | |
| Mark Flotow | Illinois Department of Public Health | <i>Springfield</i> | | |
| Jessica Gerdes | Illinois State Board of Education | <i>Chicago</i> | | |
| Chuck Johnson | Blessing Hospital | <i>Springfield</i> | | |
| Master Sergeant Ed Petrik | Illinois State Police | <i>Chicago</i> | | |
| Gail Simpson | Illinois Department of Children and Family Services | <i>Springfield</i> | | |

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

Introductions/Welcome

Introductions and a welcome were made by Ms. Martin. Quorum is met.

Review & Approval of May 11, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Copies of the minutes were distributed to the members prior to the meeting and copies were available during the meeting. Colleen Daley motioned for the approval of the minutes, with a second from Jessica O'Leary. All in favor, motion carried.

Update from Illinois Department of Public Health *(Reporting: Jennifer Martin and Mark Flotow)*

FY13 meeting dates – Ms. Martin distributed a list of Fy13 meeting dates for the alliance and workgroups. The alliance will meet quarterly throughout the state, with video conferencing capabilities available. The workgroups will meet bi-monthly.

Ethics training – Ms. Martin thanked all the appointed members for completing their ethics training.

Open meetings act training – Ms. Martin recently forwarded information to the appointment members of a new training requirement. Since the alliance is a public body subject to the Open Meetings Act (OMA,) the appointed members are required to complete an electronic OMA training by the end of the year. Ms. Martin would like to have the trainings completed by the November 27th ISPA meeting and will send monthly reminders to the members.

Youth suicide prevention project – Ms. Martin announced the Department just learned they received a three-year youth suicide prevention grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The award is in response to an application submitted last fiscal year but was reconsidered for this fiscal year. The Department's proposal included implementing an evidence-based program called Reconnecting Youth, in addition to conducting a consensus meeting with youth suicide prevention stakeholders and offering a training for higher education personnel to identify how they can implement suicide prevention strategies on their campus.

2009 fatality data update – Mr. Flotow reported the Department is still looking at the 2009 data before it's released. When ready, the data will be posted on the Department's website and Mr. Flotow will be able to start taking data requests. It is anticipated 2010 data may be ready in 8-9 months and 2011 data available 6-7 months afterwards.

Discussion of ISPA leadership positions and member vacancies *(Reporting: Jennifer Martin)*

Resignation of founding member – Ms. Martin reported Sherry Bryant decided to officially resign from the alliance but would like to remain updated on its progress. Alliance members fondly remember the dedication, perseverance and leadership she provided in order to initiate and guide the statewide suicide prevention efforts. Ms. Bryant was unable to attend today's meeting to formally be recognized for her efforts but Ms. Martin read her resignation letter which included words of encouragement as the alliance moves forward.

Introduction of new appointees – Ms. Blaconiere and Ms. Pekovitch recently were appointed to the alliance and were provided a few minutes to introduce themselves during the meeting. Ms. Blaconiere will represent the serving military, veterans and their families. She is the Suicide Prevention Coordinator at Hines Veterans Affairs Hospital and has been an active stakeholder in the alliance. She mentioned 5,000 of the 30,000 deaths by suicide annually are veterans. There are new statistics coming out with regards to active duty and National Guard. Ms. Pekovitch is a Certified Recovery Support Specialist with the Human Resources Center and will represent mental health consumers. Ms. Reedy commented that we'd needed someone representing consumers for a long time.

Co-chair position – Since the last meeting, Dr. Blank from the Illinois Department of Corrections volunteered to serve as the co-chair of the alliance. Since then, she has accepted a position with another agency so the co-

chair position is open for nomination again. Let Ms. Martin and/or Co-chair Carol Gall know if you are interested in serving in this capacity.

Develop introduction for the strategic plan

The alliance was asked to develop an introduction for the revised strategic plan. Prior to the meeting, Ms. Martin drafted an introduction and sought consultation from the members who worked on the strategic plan. The draft introduction was shared with the members during today's meeting. Members provided formatting edits but also felt it was important to include a statement about how if it weren't for the community volunteer efforts ten years ago, we wouldn't be where we are now (e.g., developing our second strategic plan.) The alliance was comfortable with the Department adding this wording without their approval. Mr. Moore motioned for the approval of the introduction, with a second from Ms. Reedy. All in favor, motion carried.

Workgroup Updates

Data Workgroup – a wealth of data continues to be added to the annual report each year, and the workgroup was reviewing if some of the data could be released separately. For the past couple of years, the release of the annual report was delayed due to finalizing the data components. The workgroup sought the alliance's input on what data they'd recommend keeping in the report. Ms. Thomas recommending identifying the two things we want legislators to get out of the report (and what you want them to do) and have the data reflect it. Mr. Flotow mentioned legislators like to see time series. All members agreed the county maps are useful. Ms. Martin stated 2009 data will be the first year Illinois will have mortality, hospital discharge and emergence department for a single year; perhaps a pyramid reflecting suicides are just the tip of the iceberg would be a helpful visual. Members recommended having a link to updated data in the report so the public could gain additional data if needed. Mr. Flotow mentioned the Data Workgroup could propose to the Department to set up tables on the department's website –by doing this, the health statistics staff would automatically update the tables when new data is available.

The Data Workgroup also plans to take a closer look at the data released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with regards to their annual Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Report and a separate article was released entitled "Chicago Leads Nation in Teen Suicide Planning, Attempts." Mr. Moore reminded the group that the study compared Chicago with other urban areas.

During today's meeting, the question came up about training coroners to report a suicide quicker. Mr. Flotow explained statute dictates their timeline for reporting. He also clarified there may be delays in a coroner turning in data as they determine the cause of death.

State Agency Review and Support Subcommittee – The draft survey to inventory suicide prevention activities has been reviewed and approved by the Department. Ms. Martin will convert the survey to an online format. The subcommittee 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. The alliance members discussed other avenues for distribution – e.g., survey hospitals by working with the Illinois Hospital Association; survey consumer agencies like the Bi-Polar Alliance, National Association of Peer Specialists and Power2You; survey assistance programs per profession like the Lawyers Assistance Program; survey law enforcement by working with the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, mobile training units and the police suicide task force. ~ The discussion about law enforcement led to a conversation about the unique changes for law enforcement officers in seeking mental health services and proposed changes to the FOIA Act.

Subcommittee members also proposed a packet and/or letter be sent to the agency directors for the appointed members to reacquaint the directors to the alliance – e.g., what the alliance is, keep them informed of what we are doing, encourage them appoint an designee if they have a vacancy. Alliance members also

discussed this may be an opportunity to meet in-person with their director to discuss what needs their agency has in addressing suicide prevention internally. The alliance would like to see this done with all the member agencies – letter, list of members, identify needs and overview of the alliance. Since the alliance liked the idea, the subcommittee will add it to the agenda for their next meeting to discuss further.

The chairs of the State Agency subcommittee and Education and Training Workgroup have scheduled a time to discuss how their two groups can collaborate to identify opportunities to train professionals statewide by adding suicide prevention to existing trainings and conferences.

Education and Training Workgroup – members have been reviewing the national efforts to train professionals and developing a list of professional-specific training that currently exists. A chart was created outlining the components of the *Suicide Care in Systems Frameworks*, what’s going on in other states and a list of existing professional-specific trainings. Alliance members were asked to send information if they are aware of other professionals who require suicide prevention training.

The workgroup plans to develop a directory of training opportunities in Illinois. This is an opportunity for the alliance to build upon existing trainings. Prior to the meeting, Ms. Martin sent a request to the alliance asking if they were aware of any annual suicide prevention trainings/conferences in Illinois and if they knew of existing conferences. The result of the shared during today’s meeting and members were asked to add to the list. The workgroup would like to ask Mental Health America of Illinois if the list can be added to the *It Only Takes One* website.

The workgroup would like to develop a proposal to the Department to host webinar but needs to develop a cost analysis. The workgroup included the cost for software license and phone lines for webinars; but asked if the alliance members could think of other costs to include. Ms. Simpson mentioned they may have a toll-free number we could use and Ms. Ratliff stated they usually collaborate with other agencies that already have webinar capabilities to save on costs. Ms. Gerdes mentioned the Illinois Public Health Institute may be a potential partner and Ms. Thomas mentioned community colleges may be interested in collaborating.

The workgroup chair would like to see another statewide conference offered. At this point, Ms. Martin is unsure how to support a conference due to lack of staff and funding resources. The workgroup would be interested in learning about other funding opportunities for conferences.

Community Awareness Workgroup – data graphs were added to the draft issue paper on “Suicide and Access to Means” which increased the number of pages. Workgroup members are going to work on shortening it. The workgroup also discussed developing an outline for a webpage on the Department website. They’ve brainstormed on ideas and will present their ideas at the next alliance meeting.

The alliance discussed ideas for suicide prevention week. Ms. Martin will draft a press release and messages for social media for the workgroup to review. Mr. Johnson shared what activities are planned at the hospital he works at. Ms. Mason mentioned Mental Health America of Illinois plans to distribute cards and have an iPad available to sign up people for the Violet Registry. Ms. Simpson recommended collaborating with the Do Something and National Night Out events next year. She also recommended encouraging schools to get involved by working with the school districts and regional offices of education.

Agency Announcements

- Ms. Mason shared date saver cards for the Jammin’ Away the Blues! Fundraiser by Mental Health America of Illinois, a benefit concert to support suicide prevention and awareness, on October 4, 2012 in Chicago.

The public service announcement (PSA) with Tregg Duerson will be unveiled during the Jammin' Away the Blues! Event. Perhaps Mr. Duerson could attend the next alliance meeting and the PSA could be shown.

- Ms. Gerdes explained she has taken over several of Dr. Steinhausen's duties (physical education, HIV, health education...) at the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) after his retirement. A letter was sent from Superintendent Kock to Director Hasbrouck nominating Ms. Gerdes represent the ISBE on the alliance. Ms. Gerdes also mentioned she worked on suicide prevention within her school nurse collaborative when she worked in North Carolina and looks forward to continuing to work on suicide prevention in her new role in Illinois. Prior to working in North Carolina, Ms. Gerdes worked in school based health at the Dupage County Health Department.
- Mr. Moore reported the Illinois Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention has Out of the Darkness walks planned across the state in September and October – go to outofthedarkness.org to find a walk near you.
- Ms. Martin mentioned there was still space available for the *Brief Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Suicidality* workshop by Dr. Craig J. Bryan in Springfield. The workshop will be offered again the following month in southern Illinois.
- Mr. Moore stated a legislative day is planned for March in Springfield. He is collecting names of people who may be interested in participating.
- Ms. Thomas reported they are planning an educational conference in Lisle in October, which will be an action orientated event.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Martin