

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

Summary of Meeting
Approved February 11, 2013

January 14, 2013
3 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Conference Call

Introductions

Jennifer Martin	Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)
Jessica Gerdes	Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)
Mary Mayes	Illinois Department on Aging
Mary Ratliff	Illinois Violence Prevention Authority
Patricia Reedy (Chair)	Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)/Division of Mental Health (DMH)
Lora Thomas	NAMI-Illinois

Approval of October 9, 2012 minutes

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

Announcements –

- IDPH sent follow up letters to the following state agencies requesting they add a representative to the alliance – Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services.
- Since all the state agency representatives are on Outlook, the group asked that meeting reminder be sent via Outlook so the meeting can be added to each member's calendar.

Update on state agency projects

Ms. Reedy also is talking with colleagues in the division of substance abuse and rehab services within IDHS about offering suicide prevention training and moving forward the idea to ensure competency is required.

Ms. Gerdes reported ISBE Jessica is co-sponsoring the Critical Issues Conference on May 3. She and Ms. Martin submitted an abstract to present on youth suicide prevention. Ms. Gerdes also participated on an internal group to discuss how their individual programs can integrate. They specifically want to look at research on how eating healthy impacts mental health and they plan to disseminate this research. Ms. Gerdes asked the group for more information about the Screening and Support Services (SASS) program which is a collaboration between DMH and Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (e.g., if student has a mental health crisis and goes to the emergency department, then SASS, SASS will provide services to the family until the crisis ends.

Ms. Reedy mentioned a research article she read about if a child has muscular weakness; it's an indicator of a higher suicide risk later in life. She'll request a copy of the article and forward it to the group.

Ms. Gerdes reported 46 high schools will participate in the Youth Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance Survey. Four of the questions are suicide-related. The survey will be distributed in February and March, with survey

results expected in June. The survey is implemented with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Discuss collaboration with ISPA Education and Training Workgroup

Ms. Reedy mentioned there has been a national focus to strengthen professional competencies. Ms. Reedy and Angie Brechline, ISPA Education and Training chair and Ms. Martin have gathered information on the professional development and licensure opportunities; in particular, Washington State requires certain disciplines to be trained in suicide prevention. Mr. Reedy outreached to one of the leaders of that initiative to provide resources and serve as a mentor to Illinois as we move forward with this idea. It is anticipated the work completed by Ms. Reedy, Brechline and Martin will move forward and get to a point when it grows into a small working group.

Old business

Feedback regarding the online survey, which was piloted by the members, to inventory of suicide prevention activities

Prior to the meeting, Ms. Martin requested member pilot the online survey. Ms. Gerdes and Ms. Thomas volunteered to pilot it and asked the survey be resent to them.

Discuss draft informational letter to share with agency directors

Ms. Mayes and Ms. Martin met prior to the November 27th full alliance meeting to draft a letter. They received feedback on the first draft during the alliance meeting. Since then, Ms. Mayes rewrote the letter. Ms. Martin will forward the draft to the subcommittee member for further input.

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