

Illinois Suicide Prevention Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance (ISPA)  
 Summary of Minutes May 16, 2014  
 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
**Approved August 18, 2014**

VIDEO CONFERENCE:  
 122 S. Michigan Ave., 7th floor, Chicago  
 One Natural Resources Way, Lake Level, Springfield  
 2309n W. Main St., Marion

**Appointed Members in Attendance**

		<b><i>Present</i></b>	<b><i>Excused</i></b>	<b><i>Un-Excused</i></b>
Chuck Johnson	Illinois Hospital Association	<i>Springfield</i>		
Colleen Daley	Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence	<i>Chicago</i>		
Eric Davidson	Illinois Higher Education Center	<i>Phone</i>		
Jeff Dill	Representing Fire Service		X	
Jessica Gerdes	Illinois State Board of Education	<i>Phone</i>		
Judy Ashby	LifeSavers Training Corporation	<i>Phone</i>		
Lora Thomas	NAMI Illinois – National Alliance on Mental Illness	<i>Phone</i>		
Mariann Blacconiere	Representing service members, veterans, and their families	<i>Chicago</i>		
Nicole Pekovitch	Representing mental health consumers		X	
Paul Fleming	Survivor	<i>Phone</i>		
Peter Mulhall	Center for Prevention Research and Development	<i>Phone</i>		
Steve Moore	American Foundation for Suicide Prevention	<i>Chicago</i>		

**Ex-Oficio Members in Attendance**

Jennifer Martin	Illinois Department of Public Health	<i>Springfield</i>		
Jessica O'Leary	Office of the Attorney General		X	
Mary Mayes	Illinois Department on Aging	<i>Springfield</i>		
Mary Ratliff	Illinois Criminal Justice Authority	<i>Springfield</i>		
Master Sergeant Ed Petrik	Illinois State Police		X	
Patricia Reedy ( <i>proxy Trina Diedrich</i> )	Illinois Department of Human Services	<i>Springfield</i>		

**Stakeholders in Attendance**

Libby Bair	Illinois Department of Public Health	<i>Springfield</i>
Candace Moore	Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence	<i>Chicago</i>
Heather Shadur	Alliance of Hope for Suicide Survivors	<i>Chicago</i>
Katie Jones	Molina Healthcare of Illinois	<i>Phone</i>
Nicola Lancki	Illinois Department of Public Health	<i>Chicago</i>
Sandy Szpyrka	Illinois Department of Public Health	<i>Springfield</i>
Stan Lewy	Suicide Prevention Association	<i>Chicago</i>
Tiffanie Denny	Illinois Department of Public Health	<i>Springfield</i>
Tom Miller	Illinois Department of Human Services	<i>Springfield</i>

**Meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.**

**Introductions/Welcome**

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

### **Review and approval of February 19, 2014 minutes**

Copies of the minutes were distributed to the members prior to the meeting and copies were available during the meeting. Mr. Johnson motioned for the approval of the minutes, with a second from Ms. Diedrich. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Update from Illinois Department of Public Health (Department)**

Ms. Martin introduced Ms. Tiffanie Denny, the new division chief for Chronic Disease. Ms. Denny moved to her position from another in the Department.

Ms. Martin reported the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) announced its next round of funding for state suicide prevention programs. Illinois currently receives funding under this grant but will be eligible to apply in a year. Though Illinois wouldn't apply this year, staff is looking at the announcement to gain for next year's application process. Some of the components include the ability to show outcomes of data, linkages to care, inclusion of youth voice and input.

There will be a team from Illinois (Ms. Martin, Mr. Mulhall, and Ms. Reedy) representing the project at the SAMSHA grantee meeting in Washington D.C. in June.

Lurie Children's Hospital is working on an application to apply on Illinois' behalf for the National Violent Death Reporting system. On a national level, funding is becoming available for about 30 new states. The application is due next month.

Ms. Martin introduced Mr. Tom Miller of Illinois Department of Human Services/ Division of Mental Health, who was present to follow up on the Suicide Prevention Activity form presented by Mr. Jordan Litvak at the last quarterly meeting. The form was created in a collaborative effort between the Illinois Joining Forces (IJF) Behavior Health Workgroup and the Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance. Those in attendance were given a copy of the form to review. Mr. Miller asked alliance members to disseminate the form widely to gather information about suicide prevention activities being performed in the state. After a period of about 6 months, results will be compiled.

Mr. Miller also shared a draft letter accompanying the form, which serves as an introduction to the form and includes instructions as to where to send completed forms. The form is currently in an Excel file, and Mental Health America of Illinois will be responsible for collecting the forms.

For those who were unfamiliar with the group, Mr. Miller gave a brief overview of Illinois Joining Forces.

### **Update of ISPA leadership positions and membership vacancies**

Ms. Martin reported there are open nominations for both Ms. Gall's former co-chair position as well as a chair of the Education and Training workgroup. Ms. Denny will be assisting Ms. Martin in working through identifying potential individuals to fill alliance vacancies.

Ms. Martin is also actively pursuing alliance representation vacant positions.

Ms. Ratliff informed the group of her intent to step down as co-chair for state agency representation, regrettably, due to increasing work responsibilities. She plans on continuing her alliance membership.

### **Presentation about local efforts**

- a. Local response to reporting of patients who are developmentally and intellectually impaired who are required Firearm Owner Identification card reporting**

Mr. Johnson and the executive director of Transitions of Western Illinois are expressing concern of new provisions potentially discriminating against those who have ever been diagnosed as developmentally and intellectually impaired when applying for a Firearm Owner Identification (FOID) card.

Mr. Johnson noted a permanent record of such diagnoses (and their role in the FOID card application process) discourages diagnosis of children of these specific diagnoses, resulting in lack of needed treatment. A large concern is that this population already has a stigma placed upon it that is now widened due to discrimination as a result of the concealed carry provisions. He added there is no research which shows developmentally disabled people are more likely to commit acts of violence.

Mr. Johnson and his colleague have gone on record saying they would like this to be revisited and reconsidered. They are talking with several groups to express concern and they are willing to testify to committees and speak with senators and representatives.

Ms. Daley added Mr. Johnson is not alone in his concerns. She added the issue will be addressed either through legislative session or through administrative rule and encouraged anyone present at the meeting to contact her with any questions about this.

Mr. Lewy expressed his concerns of the alliance speaking from a standpoint that encourages the increase in guns in society in any form, as it is contradictory in that guns are a clear contribution to suicidal acts. Ms. Blacconiere mentioned it is not permissible to take away the right to bear arms, but there do need to be gun laws. She stated the alliance should stand neutral on this issue.

Ms. Diedrich mentioned individuals with developmental disabilities are not the only people who are discriminated against. These provisions also affect those who have ever been reported to have sought psychiatric care, which may also affect individuals' likelihood to seek treatment.

Mr. Johnson also mentioned some law enforcement officials avoid treatment due to the potential for job loss, to which Ms. Daley responded that 2 years ago legislation passed stating law enforcement are exempt from FOID card revocation and job loss if they seek treatment for mental health issues.

Ms. Martin explained the alliance would not be asked to take a stand on this issue; the discussion was intended as opportunity for individuals as agency representatives to become informed and take initiative on their own accord to become involved if they wish.

**b. Heather Shadur – Alliance of Hope for Suicide Survivors**

Ms. Shadur talked about her experiences as a survivor of suicide loss. Her mother created a website for survivors of suicide- [allianceofhope.org](http://allianceofhope.org). The website features a clinically-moderated forum led by trained moderators that have experienced suicide loss as well.

The website overall gets about 20,000 hits per month and 6,000 registered users in the forum. "Postvention as prevention" is the guiding philosophy of Alliance of Hope. They have a Facebook presence, blog, bookstore for survivors, and are working to create a children's corner.

Mr. Lewy asked if Ms. Shadur knows how many of the website users are from IL , to which she responded 6-7%. Mr. Johnson asked if there is any training provided by Alliance of Hope; Ms. Shadur responded there currently is no structured in addition to the regular training for moderators and stewards.

Three to four of the online moderators have gone onto becoming support or grief leaders in their local communities. Support groups are using the forums as a supplement for round-the-clock connections. To spread the word, Ms. Martin will share Ms. Shader's information with the listserv.

**Discussion about implications of the section within the concealed carry law requiring school administrators, etc., to report clear and present danger including being suicidal**

Ms. Martin reported Ms. Marjory Lewe-Brady, who asked the alliances insight into this issue was unable to attend and asked Ms. Martin to relay her concerns on this issue. Ms. Lewe-Brady's concerns: Unqualified personnel would be making the decision as to what is clear and present danger and school personnel do not have this expertise.

The discussion moved to questions regarding the "list" those who are reported as being a danger to themselves are put on. Such questions include whether a child/young adult stays on the list for life and whether they can work in law enforcement or military service later in life, who has access to the list, etc.

Ms. Moore provided an overview of the statute being discussed: the law established a duty to report at principals of public elementary-high schools, chief administrators of private schools, and chief administrators of public and private universities. Those officials need to report a student who is showing clear and present danger within 24 hours to state police.

After further discussion of the "list" and its repercussions for those on it, including lasting stigma, Ms. Ratliff suggested reaching out to an authority on the subject to report back at the next quarterly meeting. Both the Illinois State Police and Department of Human Services were identified as potential sources of authorities. Ms. Daley also added she has legislative connections that may be of relevancy. Ms. Thomas noted she will forward current training modules to Ms. Martin.

Specifically, when reaching out to potential speakers for the next quarterly meeting, specifically needing addressed are the following points:

- What is the "list" and all its implications.
- A comprehensive overview of concealed carry and specific items that exclude someone from getting a FOID card.
- What happens to those who have ever been diagnosed during any time of their life, no matter what age, when applying for a card.

**Summary of statewide conference and discussion of next steps**

Ms. Bair shared a presentation outlining the current evaluation results from the conference and discussion from the ad-hoc debriefing call. Around 80 of 177 total conference attendees responded to the first evaluation push; the following results are based on that 45% response rate. IPHA will close the evaluations a month from the date of the conference and may send multiple reminders via email before that date.

- During the ad-hoc debrief, Ms Ratliff commented on the fact both sessions she attended ended up cutting out their Q&A portions due to running out of time. As a next step, the committee will consider the possibility of offering 1.5 hour breakout sessions during the FY15 conference.

- Opinions on UIS as a venue were varied, and the conference will have outgrown UIS as a venue regardless of opinion of it overall.
  - During their debriefing meeting, the ad-hoc committee discussed centrally located venues vs. Chicagoland venues and their pros and cons; 1 conference vs. 2 conferences
- The CEU sign-in process caused some crowding and confusion due to everything being located in one location
- 91% of respondents indicated the conference met its goals
- More than half of respondents indicated the conference as having excellent relevancy to their professional development/work
- Around 80% of respondents indicated the conference was at an excellent or good level.
- One comment in particular noted there was a lack of identification of signs, symptoms, and interventions within the breakout sessions
  - As next steps, the committee will plan to explicitly include warning signs, etc. in the program booklet, as well as attempt to reach out to a keynote speaker that can cover these themes. Additionally, the committee will plan to ensure there are identified sessions that touch on core skills and “how-to” ideas (in addition to program overviews).
- Various topic suggestions were given in evaluation comments
- Respondents also included specific action items they plan to see through immediately as well as within 6-12 months from the conference.

Ms. Martin indicated a proposal for the FY15 conference will be compiled and an ad-hoc committee will be formed. In terms of a date for the FY conference, the group discussed the pros of cons of another April date. April is a busy time of year for educators, especially,

### **Workgroup updates**

#### **a. Education and Training Workgroup**

Mr. Davidson reported on the meeting for higher education breakout session held at the April 25<sup>th</sup> conference. Around 30-40% of the participants at the conference session participated in July’s consensus-building meeting. Among the participants in the breakout session were counselors, medical staff, and higher education administrators from public and private universities as well as community colleges.

Mr. Davidson noted the following themes coming up within the discussion:

- Barriers on campus include voluntary vs. mandated care and how it is influenced by student code of conduct
- Some campuses have difficulty identifying who is in charge of primary prevention at their institution
- Prevention and intervention often become intertwined in conversation
- In higher education, institutions are concerned with what other institutions are doing, however, there is no standard benchmarking process to determine what prevention programming already exists

Overall, Mr. Davidson considered the session to have very good discussion, and as an action item, a prevention programming benchmarking survey is to be developed.

Ms. Bair gave additional updates for the Education and Training Workgroup, which included the following:

- Surveys are in the final stages of construction for both substance use disorder professionals and healthcare professionals. Upon release of the surveys and collection of data, webinars for both professionals will be planned accordingly.

- There may be opportunities for presentation at the university counseling center director's conference to be held in the fall, and Ms. Martin is planning for both EverThrive Illinois and National Alliance for Mentally Ill conferences.

Ms. Katie Jones introduced herself to the group and indicated her willingness to become involved with this particular workgroup. She will serve as chair in the interim, and will communicate to Ms. Martin regarding other potential training opportunities.

## **b. Community Awareness Workgroup**

Mr. Johnson reported on the following items:

- IOTO pocket cards were distributed at the April 25<sup>th</sup> conference
- The IOTO website redesign is now live (Ms. Martin added there is a possibility the marketing firm may be able to do a live demo of the site at a future meeting, and a webinar highlighting the site is also in consideration)
- The workgroup has identified a need to better reach youth in the state by looking at existing successes, such as Reachout.com
- The First Responders issue paper has gone through several reviews (the workgroup, Jeff Dill of fire service, Ed Petrik of IL State Police). Ms. Martin also consulted Division Chief Denny regarding the reference list exceeding the 4 page limit. In discussion with the group, it was decided to move all main content to the first four pages, leaving the 5<sup>th</sup> page strictly for references.
  - Mr. Lewy motioned to approve the issue paper with the preceding change. Ms. Ratliff seconded, all in favor.

Ms. Martin shared two forms related to the IOTO site: one for those who want added to the provider directory, and one for those who have an upcoming suicide prevention event.

Mr. Johnson gave a brief update regarding the recommendations from the consensus-building meeting assigned to the workgroup. The workgroup, as mentioned earlier, is focused on coming up with methods to better outreach to youth, particularly through technology.

Ms. Ratliff suggested getting youth directly involved as advisors to the process. Additional suggestions included conference calling health classes during meeting times as well as involving students in the LifeSavers program for input.

As a result of the previous discussion, youth involvement will be added to the agenda for the next quarterly meeting.

## **c. Data Workgroup**

Mr. Mulhall reported on the following items:

- The annual data report is currently in progress, as Department staff is currently working on it
- There is an occasional feeling that we are "data rich" but "information poor," as data comes from different levels on the care spectrum all at once (prevention, intervention, etc.)
- Lurie Children's Hospital is applying for national funding of their violent death reporting system with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- In response to one of the consensus recommendations – if anyone plans to look a state standardized referral process then the data workgroup would be interested in tracking how referrals are made and where they are made.
- The Center for Prevention Resource and Development is continuing to analyze the Kognito evaluation data as it rolls in
- Mr. Mulhall suggested adding a demonstration of the training to a future ISPA meeting

Ms. Martin added year 1 and 2 goals for Kognito were surpassed and over 4,000 people have taken at least one of the training modules. Mr. Moore suggested adding a question to the survey specifically pertaining to how participants heard about the training.

Select campuses have mandated the training, and University of Illinois currently has a task force in the process of launching the training in the fall. Many universities and colleges have the training directly linked to their main websites or counseling center pages.

#### **d. State Agency Support and Review Subcommittee**

Ms. Diedrich reported on the following items:

- A current trend in the field is looking at how substance use disorders are affecting suicide in Illinois and nationally. There is a large problem with heroin use—arguably at epic proportion.
- Cook County Care does not pay for residential treatment, which is leading to many being turned away from the services they need.

Ms. Martin reported on the following items:

- As briefly covered during the Education and Training update, there is to be a webinar addressing substance use disorder professionals and suicide prevention.
- An action item identified by the workgroup from the consensus recommendations was to reconnect with those who attended the consensus meeting.
- The workgroup is also looking to work with appointed members from state agencies to seek involvement from their colleagues
- The workgroup is looking to pull together a group of educational professionals to talk further as well

#### **Set FY15 Meeting Dates**

Ms. Ratliff reviewed when the traditional months for meetings are (August, November, February, and May). Ms. Ratliff also noted webinars are an option for future meetings. Ms. Martin added incorporating webinars would require revision of the current bylaws.

From discussion generated, it was decided to continue the current meeting types through FY15 (videoconferencing at multiple locations) rather than switching to webinar-style presentation. The following week ranges were identified as ideal for the FY meeting dates:

- Week of August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014
- Week of November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014
- Week of February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- Week of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

#### **Announcements**

Mr. Lewy is working with Patrick Corrigan, a Distinguished Professor of Psychology at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Their project is related to “stigma busting,” and they are looking specifically for higher African American representation in the process. Mr. Lewy is asking for referrals to Chicago residents who might be interested in participating.

Ms. Blaconiere noted the VA crisis line is seeing a large number of calls coming in due to its switch from strictly a hotline to a crisis line that which includes a wide range of issues.

*Adjourn at 2:32*