

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance
Community Awareness Workgroup
Approved August 14, 2014

Thursday, June 12, 2014

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Conference call)

Introductions

Chuck Johnson	Blessing Hospital/Illinois Hospital Association
Jennifer Martin	Illinois Department of Public Health
Libby Bair	Illinois Department of Public Health
Mariann Blacconiere	Hines VA

Minutes from April 10, 2014 – Mr. Johnson motioned for the approval of the minutes with a second from Ms. Blacconiere, all in favor, motion carried.

Announcements - No announcements

Update on the “It Only Takes One” (IOTO) campaign -

a. Update from Mental Health America Illinois - Ms. Bair indicated there was not a representative from Mental Health America of Illinois (MHA) on the call to give an update. However, she reported Ms. Martin, MHA, and the marketing firm have been communicating regarding the status of the grant agreement for year 3.

b. Update on adding youth specific information to the *It Only Takes One* public awareness campaign - Ms. Bair continued this part of the plan will be specifically incorporated into year 3 of the Market M contract by way of making the website more mobile-friendly, etc.

Overview of issue papers

a. Update on revisions -

Ms. Bair reported the alliance approved the First Responders issue paper at the May meeting. The approval was contingent on moving the list of sources to their own standalone page; Ms. Bair completed that update to the draft. The next step is to submit it to the Department for final approval.

Ms. Bair also reported she was tasked with seeking out a list of EMT/paramedic schools in the state of Illinois. Per recommendation by Ms. Martin, Ms. Bair contacted the Department’s Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Highway Safety. Staff was unaware of a list of this sort, but recommended presenting the question to the EMS system coordinators, in addition to forward the paper to them when it’s completed.

Mr. Johnson added Blessing Hospital had the list of coordinators as well, and was able to forward it to Ms. Bair and Ms. Martin during the call. Ms. Bair drafted an email to address the coordinators and ask for their assistance in passing along the paper as well as providing feedback on other avenues for dissemination. After Ms. Martin’s review, the email will be sent to her division chief for final approval.

b. Review draft issue paper

Service members, Veterans, Their Families, and Suicide

Ms. Martin forwarded this draft to the group prior to the meeting. Upon initial review, Mr. Johnson suggested eliminating the italicized headlines from the “Strategies for the Community” and “Strategies for State, City and Local Government Entities.”

As the VA representative serving on the ISPA, Ms. Blacconiere shared the following thoughts:

- There shouldn’t be any suggestion to remove access to means from a service member or veteran.
- If needed, calling 9-11 and/or taking one in need to the nearest hospital should be listed under prevention/intervention strategies as well as the “Looking for Help” section at the end of the issue paper.

- The Army ACE Suicide Intervention Program is focused on those who have been in combat, while being in combat at the specific point in time isn't necessarily the only risk factor for suicide. Considering this issue paper is addressing veterans as well, there needs to be an all-inclusive set of prevention strategies referenced in the paper.
 - Ms. Blaconiere suggested Operation SAVE and forwarded related information to the workgroup.
- Ms. Bair will incorporate Ms. Blaconiere's recommendations and share an updated draft with her to ensure correct interpretation of the Operation SAVE materials.

Suicide Prevention in the Juvenile Justice System - Ms. Martin forwarded this draft to the group prior to the meeting. Mr. Johnson suggested the following:

- Contacting local youth homes to inquire whether they have a checklist they reference if there is ever a suicidal child in their facility. Including a checklist with recommendations such as use camera monitoring and checking pockets of those housed would give clear guidelines to readers of the issue paper in addition to simply telling them how much training they should have
- Mr. Johnson also inquired about the specific numbers referenced in the training recommendations—Ms. Bair noted she believes the numbers were part of a publication released from the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention; she will check to confirm this.

Ms. Blaconiere suggested expanding upon the specific methods youth use for hanging, as many may not realize hanging isn't necessarily always related to higher places such as ceilings.

In the interest of space for the issue paper content, Ms. Bair suggested condensing the Screening and Assessment method lists; others suggested referencing the National Action for Suicide Prevention in this section and then adding the recommendations to the reference section of the paper (referring those reading the "Prevention/Intervention Strategies" section there).

Update on the draft suicide prevention webpage - Ms. Bair reported there are no new updates on this since the April workgroup meeting, as the Department is still going through a branding/logo transition phase and has put additional webpage development on hold. Ms. Martin confirmed this.

Mr. Johnson inquired as to whether the issue papers were visible on any specific webpage—since the Department page has not been developed, the only place they are linked from the Department web site is in the overall publications section. However, issue papers were linked to the IOTO web page closest related to their respective content.

Review recommendations from the final report from the Youth Suicide Prevention Consensus

Building Meeting, which were assigned to this workgroup - Ms. Martin reported there was much focus on continuum of care strategies at the grantee meeting in Washington D.C., which she believes was part of the recommendations assigned to this workgroup. Revisiting themes 1, 2 and 7 will be postponed until the next meeting due to technical difficulties.

Ms. Martin also reported she discussed Reachout.com with staff from Suicide Prevention Resource Center (connecting with Reachout.com was identified as an action item in the April meeting). Staff didn't believe this website was something SAMHSA was still actively promoting.

Furthering the discussion of youth outreach, Ms. Bair shared the topic of youth involvement in the Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance will be added to the August full alliance agenda. Also during this meeting, Ms. Martin, Ms. Reedy, and Mr. Mulhall will reflect upon their experiences at the grantee meeting.

Set FY15 meeting dates - Ms. Bair asked the group if they were content with the current meeting schedule structure. There was no opposition to keeping the meetings bimonthly and potentially on Thursdays as well. The first ISPA meeting for FY15 is Monday, August 18th, therefore the first workgroup meeting would ideally be held before then. Ms. Bair mentioned Thursday, August 14th as a tentative first meeting date for the Community Awareness workgroup, but she and Ms. Martin will schedule all dates and confirm this date along with all other dates.