

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance
State Agency Review and Support Subcommittee
Approved August 11, 2014

Monday, June 16, 2014

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Conference call)

Introductions

Libby Bair	Illinois Dept of Public Health
Jennifer Martin	Illinois Dept of Public Health
Mary Mayes	Illinois Department on Aging
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

Minutes from April 14, 2014

Ms. Reedy motioned for approval of the minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Announcements

Ms. Martin reported she, Ms. Reedy, and Dr. Peter Mulhall represented the Illinois youth suicide team at the grantee meeting in Washington D.C. last week. They gained insight into the direction of the field, and will officially reflect upon their experiences at the first FY15 Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance (ISPA) meeting.

Ms. Reedy reported DMH has applied for the Healthy Transitions grant and is considering applying for the Adult Suicide Prevention grant; the only eligible applicant for the latter is the state mental health authority. This will depend on how many people can be recruited for this project, and a decision on community partners will likely be made by the end of the week.

Update on State Agency Projects

Ms. Martin reported the data team from the department plans to draft a suicide prevention data brief to be released in September. Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago is completing their application for the National Violent Death Reporting System funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Ms. Martin and Ms. Bair are working to schedule one-on-one meetings with each ISPA appointed member. These conversations will serve as an opportunity to discuss how the alliance can help them reach their affiliation's suicide prevention goals, ideas for new activities, etc. Around half of the ISPA appointed members have scheduled their calls.

Ms. Reedy posed whether subcommittee members should be considering inviting others from their agency to become involved in suicide prevention and join subcommittee meetings. Ms. Martin stated this could be discussed during the one-on-one calls she will have with the appointed members.

Updates on opportunities to increase professional competency

Ms. Reedy indicated that during the last workgroup meeting, it was discussed DMH made a recommendation for NAMI to take the lead on this project. Ms. Thomas and Ms. Reedy met twice since the last meeting, and have set a goal to meet with the Illinois chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Ms. Thomas and Ms. Reedy will work further on this item report during the August call.

Old business

Update on plans to conduct a meeting with substance abuse treatment professionals to enhance their capacity to implement suicide prevention strategies

Ms. Martin reported the survey draft was converted to Inquisite software by the Department data team. The survey, along with a draft email for dissemination, has been shared with her division chief to review.

Ms. Martin briefly touched on the counselor and administrator split approach to both the survey and potential meeting. She also reported there was a keynote session regarding Zero Suicide during the grantee meeting. While at the meeting, Ms. Martin inquired about speaker ideas (preferably someone from the national level.) Ms. Martin will continue looking into potential speakers.

Ms. Reedy noted there is some resistance to the Zero Suicide approach because of its name; she believes a federal/national-level speaker would help promote excitement of this approach in the mental health field in Illinois. She inquired as to whether other fields (other than mental health) see any resistance to this initiative—others on the call found it to be a relatively new approach.

Ms. Martin suggested having a second day of Zero Suicide training open to all (after the substance abuse treatment training day). Ms. Reedy suggested having a Zero Suicide overview given at an ISPA meeting.

Ideally, the meeting would be completed before the end of the project period (end of July). Ms. Martin indicated there is a possibility we may have to ask for an extension on this project.

New business

Review recommendations from the final report from the Youth Suicide Prevention Consensus Building Meeting, which were assigned to this workgroup

1. *Develop a standardized referral process and/or network for organizations can identify appropriate resources for referrals.*

- Ms. Martin reported she pulled together representatives from the school system to collaborate in a call to discuss this particular recommendation, among others.
- The general consensus of those on the call was that this recommendation would be a very big project to tackle; each community is different and catering all would be very difficult. Thus, those on the call suggested focusing our attention on increasing awareness on the resources that are currently available (SASS program, etc.). This approach would be more tangible for the workgroup and the Department.
- Ms. Martin envisions holding webinars about the various programs in the state related to suicide prevention to act as a “State Resource Web Series.” She plans on taking this idea to her division chief. She reminded group members some of the recommendations in the report were at the individual level and do not necessarily represent a consensus of any time. Because of this, some recommendations may be revised or not moved forward based on the alliance’s feedback.

2. *Mandate suicide prevention and intervention programming in schools in IL. After losing many kids to suicide in one year we still don’t have anything in place*

- Ms. Martin reported those on the call feel “mandate” and “require” are words that automatically indicate a challenge in completing a task.
- Ms. Simpson added mandates often make school personnel feel intruded upon; perhaps “promote” would be a better word for this recommendation as we move forward. Ms. Thomas also added mandated programs are often unfunded.
- Ms. Mayes suggested referring to this as a mandate to get it to the forefront as an issue. Ms. Simpson noted people might be put-off by a mandate, which may have a negative effect toward the cause.

3. *Mandate that all staff be trained annually on ways to assist at risk youth, including college age students.*

- This recommendation would involve expanding the current School Code to college-age faculty and staff. Ms. Martin indicated an outside source would have to proceed with this recommendation.
- Ms. Reedy suggested continuing the “mandate” discussion during the next meeting. Ms. Martin added Ms. Gerdes might be a valuable addition to the discussion.

Set FY15 meeting dates –

The group agreed to keep the standing meeting date and time: 2nd Monday every other month at 3pm.

Submitted by Libby Bair, reviewed by Jennifer Martin