

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance  
Community Awareness Workgroup  
*Approved October 9, 2014*

Thursday, August 14, 2014

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

**Introductions**

Chuck Johnson	Blessing Hospital/Illinois Hospital Association
Heidi Dahnke	Human Resource Center of Edgar and Clark Counties
Jennifer Martin	Illinois Department of Public Health
Libby Bair	Illinois Department of Public Health
Mariann Blacconiere	Hines VA
Mary Ratliff	Illinois Criminal Justice Authority
Stan Lewy	Suicide Prevention Association

**Minutes from June 12, 2014--**

Mr. Johnson motioned for the approval of the minutes with a second from Ms. Bair, all in favor, motion carried.

**Announcements**

Mr. Johnson he reported he shared the link to a national blog, which Ms. Martin forwarded to Illinois stakeholders, on talking about suicide and Robin Williams' death. He also took part in television and radio interviews in the Quincy area in response to this event.

**Update on the "It Only Takes One" (IOTO) campaign--**

**a. Update from Mental Health America Illinois (MHAI)**

Ms. Martin gave up update in MHAI's absence. Recently, the marketing firm (MarketM) held a webinar to outline the newly redesigned IOTO website. While Market M did have to re-record the webinar to compress it to a size to upload it online, the new version is now available on YouTube and linked to the IOTO site. MarketM and Ms. Martin received several positive comments in response to the webinar. Courtney Hill of Market M, moderator of the webinar, mentioned the Education and Training workgroup was instrumental to the IOTO campaign as a whole.

Katie Mason of MHAI was invited to speak on a Chicago radio station in response to the death of Robin Williams, and Market M reported an increase of hits to the website after the interview. As part of our year 3 goals, the marketing firm is looking forward to increasing traffic to the website in the coming year.

**Overview of Issue Papers**

**a. Discuss dissemination the First Responders Issue paper**

Ms. Martin reported the paper was sent to colleagues working in the field, passed on to other agencies through our members. She sent the paper to the Department's Division of Emergency Medical Services and Highway Safety with a request to forward to their contacts. Also, Ms. Martin and Ms. Bair requested a meeting with a stakeholder in fire service to brainstorm on other avenues to share the paper.

**b. Update on peer review status and review draft copies of the following issue papers:**

**i. Service Members, Veterans, their Families and Suicide**

Ms. Bair reported this issue paper was reviewed during the June workgroup call, where Ms. Blacconiere recommended replacing any ACE content with Operation S.A.V.E. content. Ms. Bair followed Ms. Blacconiere's recommendations and forwarded the edited draft back to her for another review.

Subsequently, the edited issue paper draft was also reviewed by Jordan Litvak from the Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Mental Health (DMH) and David Gilleland of the Illinois Army National Guard. Mr. Litvak provided some minor edits, which Ms. Bair made to the draft.

Mr. Lewy motioned to present the current draft of the issue paper to the full alliance on Monday for approval. Ms. Blacconiere seconded the motion.

**ii. Suicide and the Juvenile Justice System**

Ms. Bair reported this issue paper was sent to Patricia Reedy to forward to DMH contacts who work within Juvenile Justice. Both Ms. Reedy and Dr. Sharon Coleman, Director for Mental Health Juvenile Justice, reviewed the paper. Ms. Reedy expressed some concerns regarding the paper content, as she and Dr. Coleman were having difficulty determining who the paper was targeted to, etc. Ms. Reedy also forwarded a number of comments on her copy of the paper back to Ms. Bair, who edited the draft accordingly.

To stress this issue paper is mainly intended to be a broad overview of the issue, Ms. Martin moved some language around in the paper to better introduce the topic at the start of the issue paper. She also expanded the risk and protective factors within the paper as well as added other pieces of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention.

Mr. Lewy noted there is a mention of the “National Alliance” in the paper that should be corrected to “National Action Alliance.”

Mr. Johnson recommended adding content stressing all cells should be camera monitored, as well as the fact someone should always be watching the cameras for those on suicide watch. He also suggested adding there should be searched conducted on children who are deemed at-risk.

Mr. Lewy commented there wasn’t a list of tools and resources for screening and assessment methods, to which Ms. Bair reported they were removed in the interest of space. Ms. Martin suggested adding a link to the National Alliance report with that list somewhere in the Resources section of the issue paper.

Mr. Johnson recommended adding there needs to be designated personnel at detention centers that can screen those deemed at-risk for suicide. According to Mr. Johnson, most of these centers have contracts with local mental health centers, which have employees who could do the screenings.

Ms. Martin also added we will include all 12 recommendations on page 4 (under Strategies for State, City, and Local Government Entities), not just some of the 12 listed now.

This issue paper will not be presented to the alliance on Monday, rather, it will undergo some more edits and go through another review process following. It will be sent back to subject matter experts for another review.

**c. Review updated issue papers**

Ms. Martin informed the group three older issue paper drafts were forwarded to subject matter experts to see if there were any components that may be outdated. Ms. Martin and Ms. Bair also updated the formatting on these papers to reflect the current header and font styles.

**i. Suicide and College Students**

Ms. Bair reported this issue paper was forwarded to Dr. Eric Davidson of the Illinois Higher Education Center. His biggest recommendation was to update the statistics to reflect newer numbers, as well add more resources that are current. From an academic standpoint, many of the existing citations were quite outdated. Ms. Bair updated the previous statistics with numbers from comparable, newer reports.

Ms. Martin also added information to reflect the Jed Foundation's collaboration with the Clinton Foundation. She also added components of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention, including recommendations regarding creating a campus task force.

Mr. Johnson motioned to present this issue paper draft to the full alliance on Monday. Mr. Lewy seconded the motion.

**ii. Suicide and Older Adults**

Ms. Bair reported this issue paper was forwarded to Ms. Mary Mayes of the Illinois Department of Aging for review. Ms. Mayes recommended checking the data for newer numbers, but all-around did not see any big concerns with the content. Ms. Bair ran reports from CDC's WISQARS™ (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System) to update the data as presented.

Ms. Martin added some items from the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention throughout the draft, including adding "disconnect" to reducing social isolation, treatment of mood disorders to governmental strategies, etc. She also inquired as to whether these strategies should be in a different order—she and Ms. Bair will revisit this before forwarding a final rough draft onto the alliance.

Mr. Lewy added the link for the National Strategy wasn't working, which Ms. Bair will correct.

Mr. Lewy motioned to present the draft (with the proposed edits) to the alliance on Monday. Ms. Ratliff seconded the motion.

**iii. Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Youth Suicide**

Ms. Bair reported this issue paper draft was forwarded to the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, however, she or Ms. Martin did not receive any feedback before the time of the meeting.

Ms. Bair added language addressing the up and coming LGBTQ2-S (lesbian, gay , bisexual, transgender, questions and two-spirit) terminology. Ms. Martin added some information from the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention, including information about resilience, culturally appropriate suicide prevention programs, and contagion from media coverage being a risk factor for suicide.

This issue paper will be forwarded on to more subject matter experts before being presented to the alliance. Even though Illinois Safe Schools Alliance (a current subject matter expert) wrote the paper, the workgroup would like it to be reviewed solely because of the time that has passed since its original release.

Mr. Lewy also suggested sending the draft to the Center on Halsted.

**d. Discuss issue paper topic survey summary and select topics for next issue papers**

Ms. Martin reported Ms. Bair constructed a survey to send to stakeholders regarding which topics would be most relevant for our next group of issue papers. She then made a summary of the survey responses, which was included as a handout for the meeting.

One survey respondent shared they could provided information to develop an issue paper on Cultural Issues Impacting Suicide (Asian Americans.) The committee discussed the benefits/concerns to having one issue paper addresses cultural issues as a whole versus separate papers on each culture. In terms of data collection, Mr. Lewy expressed concern Illinois numbers would not accurately portray the burden of suicide for many racial groups. Ms. Martin agreed, as the Department's data unit has expressed the limitation to analyzing race/ethnicity data due to the small numbers.

Ms. Martin asked the workgroup if there were any topics that stood out to them for the next issue papers. Ms. Ratliff noted rural suicide prevention as well as domestic violence-related suicide. Ms. Martin added Ms. Gall may be of assistance to the latter ~ Ms. Gall now is the executive director of a domestic violence shelter and is looking for opportunities to include suicide prevention in the domestic violence world. Ms. Ratliff also added she would be willing to research the topic with Ms. Gall after she is settled in her new job position.

Ms. Martin suggested prescription drugs/poisonings as another potential topic, as prescription drug misuse has skyrocketed and is an emerging issue in the field of suicide prevention. Ms. Blacconiere added the VA would be able to weigh in on this issue, as it is a big problem for them.

Next papers to work on:

1. Rural Suicide Prevention and Access to Care
2. Domestic Violence Related Suicide
3. Prescription drugs/poisonings' correlation to suicide
4. (needs further discussion) Cultural Issues Impacting Suicide

**Update on the draft suicide prevention webpage**

Due to lack of time, this topic was not addressed.

**Recommendations from the Youth Suicide Prevention Consensus Building Meeting**

Due to lack of time, this topic was not addressed. Looking at new initiatives will be tabled.

**Discuss promotion ideas for National Suicide Prevention Week (Sept. 8-14, 2014)**

This topic was not addressed due to lack of time, however will be an agenda item at the full alliance meeting on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Reminder of FY15 meeting dates**

Dates for FY15 workgroup calls - second Thursday of the month at 2 pm.