

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance  
Education and Training Workgroup  
*Approved October 10, 2014*

Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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

**Introductions**

Eric Davidson	Eastern Illinois University
Gail Simpson	Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Jennifer Martin	Illinois Department of Public Health
Libby Bair	Illinois Department of Public Health
Lyndsey Hawkins	Bradley University
Mariann Blacconiere	Hines VA

**Minutes from June 13, 2014**

Dr. Davidson motioned for the approval of the minutes with a second from Ms. Hawkins, all in favor, motion carried.

**Announcements**

Ms. Martin reported she and Ms. Bair have been meeting with ISPA members to have general discussions centered on the ISPA. These discussions including wielding members' interest in collaboration and seeing what their own agencies are doing in suicide prevention. Ms. Martin added each meeting has generated at least one idea for follow-up. As these calls begin to wrap-up, Ms. Martin will review her notes and share Education and Training related items in a future meeting.

**Update on trainings conducted by workgroup members**

Dr. Davidson reported a suicide prevention conference at EIU is being planned for October 29<sup>th</sup> with a focus on a higher education audience. The conference is made possible by an endowment fund developed by a family of an EIU student who died by suicide a few years ago. Ms. Martin spoke with the counselors planning the conference, and added they are still brainstorming as to if the conference will be geared more toward students or faculty, etc. Overall, the conference will be about getting the suicide prevention conversation started.

Ms. Martin also reported she was invited to talk to Peoria school district guidance counselors and social workers during an in-service day. She will give the presentation in November.

**Review a list of training opportunities in Illinois and identify opportunities to collaborate**

No new updates.

**Reports from ad hoc committees**

**a. Update on planning for the 2015 statewide conference**

Ms. Bair provided an overview of the conference proposal prepared by the ad-hoc planning committee. The proposal was fashioned off the 2014 proposal, with changes, additions and deletions made according to 2014 evaluations, recommendations, and discussion within the ad-hoc committee. Specific items pointed out include:

- The history section of the proposal still contains language about the 2004 conference as to emphasize the feat of holding the 2014 conference followed by another the next year.
- After initial review by the ad-hoc committee, a specific focus on programs recognized as best practices was added to the proposal. The committee has discussed the possibility of a keynote addressing this topic as well as a possible breakout track.

- Because youth is an emerging topic for SAMHSA, the committee is looking to include youth and young adults in the conference audience. Within the intended audience section, this group is specified as “youth and young adults who are active leaders in the field of suicide prevention.”
- Because of evaluation feedback looking for more basic knowledge, the committee added warning signs as a specific goal for increased knowledge within the conference purpose.
- The committee is looking into holding the conference somewhere in the Bloomington-Normal area and planning to hold the conference a month or so earlier than the 2014 conference.
- Taking into account feedback from the FY14 evaluations, the committee is proposing extending breaks during the conference and holding two breakout sessions rather than three. Scheduling wise, this will also allow for final remarks to be held immediately following the plenary session.
- Addressing Goal 8 of the national plan, the committee is proposing holding a Zero Suicide training as a pre-conference event.
- The budget figures presented were based on some 2014 figures and estimates; when a venue is identified as well as a caterer, etc., the figures are expected to change.

#### **Review conference proposal draft**

After Ms. Bair overviewed the draft (with additions by Ms. Martin) Dr. Davidson motioned to approve the proposal draft. Ms. Simpson seconded. The approved draft will be presented to the full alliance at the August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **b. Update on planning for a webinar to train substance abuse prevention specialists**

Ms. Martin reported she connected with Ms. Fornero from DHS as well as a representative from Prevention First. Ms. Fornero gave the go-ahead to proceed with planning the webinar; they are holding a grantee meeting in September and would like for the webinar to be on their calendar to promote by then.

A speaker from SPRC is interested in doing the majority of presenting for the webinar. Prevention First will handle the webinar set-up and promotion, and would like a couple of months to both promote the webinar as well as set up CEUs for the presentation. Prevention First will also put the webinar on their training center website so new employees can watch. The webinar is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> from 10-11:30 am.

Ms. Fornero would like the webinar to have a heavy emphasis on substance use disorders; the SPRC speaker will tweak previous presentations to accommodate and focus on the impact of substance use on suicidal ideation.

#### **c. Update on planning for a webinar to train healthcare professionals (e.g, emergency departments, hospitals with pediatrics, emergency service system coordinators and school nurses)**

Ms. Martin reported planning for this webinar is on hold while she is focusing on required grant deliverables. The project will be revisited within the next month or two.

#### **Other projects**

##### **Continued communication with participants from the meeting for higher education campuses to enhance their capacity to implement suicide prevention strategies**

##### **i. Draft survey to benchmark what suicide prevention strategies campuses are Implementing**

Ms. Martin reported Dr. Davidson shared a survey for measuring campus alcohol abuse prevention efforts—Ms. Bair has been working to tweak this survey to serve as benchmarking survey for campus suicide prevention efforts. She has been working to incorporate the Campus MHAP into this draft as well. The shell of the survey is complete. Ms. Martin added the next step is to tweak some remaining response options to bit suicide prevention rather than alcohol abuse, then share with the workgroup.

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

Ms. Martin outlined the recommendations assigned to the particular workgroup. There are three separate groups of recommendations, the first based on consensus meeting evaluations and the evaluators' interpretations of those evaluations., the second from a response to a survey given by the evaluators, and the third based on individual attendee comments.

The recommendations suggest the workgroups go back and revisit the themes generated from the evaluation process. The Education and Training Workgroup was assigned Theme #6, which is looking at leadership in professional development. This theme looks at what systems oversee professional development, who are our audience members, and who we can reach out to. Ms. Martin noted this list doesn't give specific recommendations besides looking at the opportunities listed.

The first group of recommendations looks at the act of revisiting the themes and issues brought to light by the recommendations. One recommendation specifically addressing this is to convene web conversations to explore the themes more fully. Ms. Martin and Ms. Bair will look into the feasibility of holding a webinar for the 7 themes.

The group moved to discussing the third group of recommendations. There was some concern regarding the term "mandate" being included in the first recommendation of the group. Including higher education in this recommendation was discussed, and Dr. Davidson expressed similar concerns for mandates at the higher ed level, as unfunded mandates without strong consequences for not following them aren't likely to be met. Ms. Martin commented another workgroup changed the word mandate to "increase awareness" to address the recommendation.

Recommendations two and three of the group are regarding gatekeeper training for parents and others in the community. The group decided to table the second section of recommendations until the next workgroup call.

**Reminder of FY15 meeting dates**

Ms. Martin reminded those on the call the workgroup plans to meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 2 pm of every other month. Ms. Martin will resend the FY15 meeting dates with email meeting reminders.

**Set agenda items for next meeting**

Continue with the same agenda items.

Submitted by Libby Bair, reviewed by Jennifer Martin.