

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance (ISPA)  
Data Workgroup  
Draft

**Monday, February 9, 2015**

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

**Introductions**

Jennifer Martin	Illinois Dept of Public Health
Libby Bair	Illinois Dept of Public Health
Peter Mulhall (chair)	Center for Prevention Research and Development
Steve Moore	American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

**Minutes from December 8, 2014**

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

**Announcements**

Ms. Martin announced Mr. Ben Arbise accepted a position in a different department. She also noted there is another data person assigned to the workgroup, however her time is currently limited.

Dr. Mulhall reported his attendance last week at a meeting in Chicago regarding the IL Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS). Lurie Children's Hospital has received funding to expand the IVDRS, and this meeting brought together individuals who will be working collaboratively on this project. He noted navigating the coroner system will be a hurdle for the project. Ms. Martin noted she will be adding the IVDRS advisory group to the ISPA standing agenda during the data workgroup update.

**Discuss any newly released suicide-related data**

Ms. Martin reported Lurie Children's Hospital drafted data regarding circumstances surrounding adolescent and young adult suicide.

Ms. Martin is also working on the data to be included in the annual report. Mr. Arbise followed up on a data request to update the county data maps before he left his position.

**Identify other workgroup activities**

**Discussion around why Illinois has a lower suicide rate than other states in the region**

In a handout attached to the Outlook invitation for the meeting, Ms. Martin shared varying perspectives as to why the Illinois rate is lower than other rates in the region. The general consensus among various workgroup members is that it would take a research project to fully determine such reasons. Ms. Martin also reached out to the Injury Control Research Center for Suicide (ICRC-S); currently, they are limited in resources to provide technical assistance to examine this issue. Ms. Martin added upcoming IVDRS data may shed some light on this issue.

Ms. Martin inquired with the workgroup as to whether more should be done with the newest update of Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS\_ data (besides simply notifying stakeholders the data is available). Mr. Moore suggested offering our assistance in using the website if anyone needs it. Ms. Martin is contemplating the benefits of giving some sort of presentation or walkthrough to the WISQARS system.

There was discussion of the life loss potential of suicide and how that sort of information might be valuable to share to stakeholders—Mr. Moore noted he uses this data in presentations and it tends to be effective in getting participants' attention.

Ms. Martin noted the WISQARS data is mainly for planning purposes, rather than for social media. This is due to the idea that data in social media may lead others to viewing suicide in epic proportion. Mr. Moore added WISQARS has its own rule set regarding data usage, as some data sets are small enough individuals may be discernible.

Dr. Mulhall recommended workgroup members take a look at data sources and take note of those that would be willing to share. Mr. Moore recommended presenting a roundup of sources to the ISPA for them to do with what they like.

#### **Update on progress to address recommendations from the Youth Suicide Prevention Consensus Building Meeting**

##### **Gather data/information (data matrix)**

Ms. Martin will draft an email to be sent to prevention programs to determine what they are doing that is related to the indicators on the matrix.

Ms. Martin also spoke with Mr. Arbise regarding suicide data appearing on iQuery. The data included there is raw data, not necessarily similar to the projects the workgroup has been working on. What the workgroup needs is a central location to house completed data reports. Ms. Martin is awaiting a response from Mr. Tom Spyrka about this matter and will speak with him regarding suicide raw data as well.

#### **New business**

Dr. Mulhall reported his team has started to publicize data regarding the Kognito gatekeeper training. Ms. Martin added the data is featured on the Illinois SPRC page and is set to be included on the impending suicide prevention page on the Department website as well as the landing page for the gatekeeper training. Within the next few months Dr. Mulhall's team will be working on the smaller, special populations.

The ISPA will be meeting on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.