

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance
Community Awareness Workgroup
Approved December 11, 2014

Thursday, October 9th, 2014

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

Introductions

Carol Gall	Sarah's Inn
Chuck Johnson	Blessing Hospital/Illinois Hospital Association
Jennifer Martin	Illinois Department of Public Health
Libby Bair	Illinois Department of Public Health
Marjory Lewe-Brady	West Chicago Elementary School District 33
Stan Lewy	Suicide Prevention Association

Minutes from August 14, 2014--

Ms. Bair pointed out a small correction to be made to the draft. Mr. Johnson motioned for the approval of the corrected minutes with a second from Ms. Gall, all in favor, motion carried.

Announcements

No announcements.

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

a. Update from Mental Health America Illinois (MHAI)

Ms. Martin noted the marketing firm provided data regarding the website visits, which was shared with our federal project officers. Most links to the site were not through social media. One thing they recommended was to look at what people are viewing once they get to the IOTO site, in the same fashion of stopbullying.gov, who pulled such information out and to the homepage to make it more accessible. Ms. Martin has put in a request for data regarding how people spend their time on the site.

Mr. Johnson projected the website to a large screen to show those at a volunteer fair how to navigate the site. He said this went over well, and he also provided print-outs of information from the site he thought would be especially interesting to attendees.

Ms. Martin noted the funding that went to IOTO decreased by \$1,000, so Market M had to look at the line items proposed and determine what to eliminate—which was partner communications. Ms. Martin believes that strategy is crucial and would like for the CA workgroup to pick up this task. One task this strategy included was the development of a resource guide to show stakeholders how to best use the website. Partner communications as a whole should be added to the workgroup agenda.

Overview of Issue Papers

a. Update on peer review status and review draft copies of the following papers:

Ms. Martin pointed the workgroup to the purpose and intended audience document that was included as an attachment in the meeting invitation. This document was created in response to ISPA discussion where some were concerned the issue papers did not have defined audiences.

Ms. Bair reviewed the following changes that affect all of the issue papers as a whole:

- Any mention of "suicides" was changed to "died by suicide" or other more sensitive language.

- There was an additional piece added to the “Looking for Help” section of each paper clearing up the issue regarding when a person should stay with someone who they are concerned about. This now reads “Call 9-1-1 or seek immediate help from a mental health provider, as well as stay with the person while they wait for assistance...”
- Links/guidance to resources were added to each issue paper to support readers in fulfilling the suggested strategies.

i. Service Members, Veterans, their Families and Suicide

Ms. Martin reported she has information from the SAMHSA Implementation Academy that would be useful to add to the document. She also pointed out the current language is army-centered, so that may need changed so those affiliated with other parts of the military find the issue paper general enough to relate to.

This issue paper is awaiting edits from Tom Miller of Illinois Joining Forces; the paper was not up for approval from the workgroup at the time of the meeting.

ii. Suicide and the Juvenile Justice System

Ms. Bair reported this issue paper was reviewed by two subject matter experts: Erica Hughes of ICJIA, and Dr. Sharon Coleman of DMH.

Ms. Martin made changes to the document, including adding new information she received during ad-hoc calls with the juvenile justice meeting planning committee. This new information includes additional information as to why juvenile justice youth are at risk for suicide, what the national center is saying about this topic, information about promoting awareness, and also changing the State, City, and Local Government Entities section to include 10 overarching priorities rather than specific strategies.

Ms. Martin suggested taking out many mentions of several references (National Action Alliance, etc.) and possibly using numbers to link readers to a list later in the document. This would save space, as the document is currently lengthier than desired. Mr. Lewy suggested using a system where the reference is shortened and put in parenthesis to notate it after its first mention in the document (Action Alliance).

Ms. Martin also suggested separating policy recommendations for each juvenile justice profession, similar to how each occupation is separated in the occupational training section.

Ms. Martin and Ms. Bair will make changes to this document and forward it to the workgroup for review (without an official meeting). This review will take place before the next ISPA meeting. They will give the workgroup at least a week to look over the changes made. The changes will be presented to the ISPA at their November meeting.

b. Review updated issue papers

i. Suicide and College Students

Ms. Lewe-Brady recommended adding a statement taking firearms out of the home around those showing warning signs (similar to the statement in the Older Adults issue paper) since most college students are over 18 and many of them do not live on campus.

ii. Suicide and Older Adults

In the response to ISPA discussion, the group agreed to keep the statement promoting removing firearms from the home when a family member is at risk for suicide. This approach honors the public health perspective of restricting means access.

iii. Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Youth Suicide

Ms. Martin reported she forwarded this draft onto department senior staff, but was not sure if they forwarded the paper on to Center on Halsted yet. The paper was forwarded to Illinois Safe Schools Alliance months ago, but edits were never received.

Ms. Gall volunteered to re-forward the issue paper to the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance on the workgroup's behalf.

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

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

Update on draft suicide prevention webpage

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

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

Due to lack of time, these items were not addressed.

a. Connect to existing initiatives

i. Develop a list of existing initiatives

b. Use technology more effectively and involve kids in that process

i. Discuss youth perspective in future alliance efforts

c. Help make stakeholders aware of resources in their area/county/city

Set agenda items for next meeting