

COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES
MINUTES
June 19, 2015
9:30 a.m.

West Neighborhood Care Center (DCFS)
6171 W. Charleston Blvd., #8, Room A
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Toll-Free Dial Number
(866) 434-5269
Conference Code
7501044

Division of Child and Family Services
No. Nevada Child and Adolescent Services
2655 Enterprise Road
Reno, NV 89512

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS

Heather Shoop (WestCare), Co-Chair
Mike Bernstein, M. Ed. (Southern Nevada Health District)
Dr. Melissa Piasecki, University of Nevada, School of Medicine
Dr. Lesley Dickson (Nevada Psychiatric Association)
Joanne Libertelli (Spring Mountain Treatment Center)

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Senator Debbie Smith (District 13 – Sparks)

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT IN RENO

Dr. Melissa Piasecki, University of Nevada, School of Medicine

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS

Misty Allen, State Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health-Child Family and Committee Wellness-Office of Suicide Prevention (DPBH-CFCW-OSP)
Richard Egan, Suicide Prevention Training and Outreach Facilitator, DPBH-CFCW-OSP
Angela Friedman, AAIV, DPBH-CFCW-OSP

OTHERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS

Sharon Benson, Senior Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
Marlyn Scholl, LCSW, Veterans Administration Sierra Nevada Health Care System, Reno
John Fudenberg, Clark County Coroner
Scott Lautzenheiser, Clark County Office of the Coroner, Medical Examiner

Heather Shoop called the meeting of the Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities (CRSF) to order at 9:32 a.m. The meeting was properly posted at the locations listed on the agenda in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law (OML).

1. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Roll call was taken by Heather Shoop. It was determined a quorum of the Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities was present.

2. VOTE TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 1, 2015 MEETING

No corrections, deletions or additions were made to the May 1, 2015 minutes as presented.

HEATHER SHOOP ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 1, 2015 MEETING. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MIKE BERNSTEIN. JOANNE LIBERTELLI SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

3. UPDATE ON AND SOLICITATIONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES, THE VETERANS, AND THE CORONER FOR THE THREE VACANT COMMITTEE POSITIONS FOR APPOINTMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE NV DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Misty Allen introduced John Fudenberg, Clark County Coroner, whose application for appointment as a committee member is in process at the Division of Public and Behavioral Health Administration office. Coroner Fudenberg and Richard Egan discussed the sensitivity of the case notes. Coroner Fudenberg will bring and read case notes at future meetings. He introduced Scott Lautzenheiser, an ex-teacher and current investigator with Clark County. Coroner Fudenberg explained Mr. Lautzenheiser will be supporting the committee during the rest of the meeting as Coroner Fudenberg had to leave.

Sharon Benson suggested the committee was allowed to invite a representative of education to join in the meetings as a non-member if they wanted. The members discussed information collected by the Child Death Review board and their reports, including the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey and the Nevada Institute of Children's Research and Policy which are available to the public. Dr. Lesley Dickson expressed her interest in child fatalities and expressed she would like to share the information at the psychiatrists' monthly meeting.

Ms. Shoop asked for public comment. None was heard.

4. UPDATE ON THE MOU BETWEEN THE VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION AND THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES (CRSF)

Marlyn Scholl shared the MOU has been approved as is without any need for changes by her supervisor and the Chief of Mental Health. The MOU is moving forward.

Ms. Benson clarified even as a member of the Committee the police reports and other reports provided to this committee may not be used by another agency even if it is in regard to suicide prevention work. She encouraged Ms. Scholl to go directly to law enforcement agencies to collect data to be used by the Veterans Administration. Mr. Egan will share his contacts with Ms. Scholl.

Ms. Shoop asked for public comment. None was heard.

5. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE SCRIPT FOR CORONER INVESTIGATORS

Members discussed the purpose of the script is to ensure consistency across the state among investigators interviewing family members of decedents years after a suicide. The reason for the second interview is to discover the reason why the suicide occurred, a psychological autopsy, as

opposed to cause and manner of death as collected in the first immediate interviews after the death.

Ms. Shoop asked for public comment. None was heard.

6. UPDATE ON THE RECENT LEGISLATIVE DECISIONS THAT MAY AFFECT THE COMMITTEE AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

The following bills were discussed by the members and support staff to the committee.

AB 93: This bill passed requiring suicide prevention education to mental health and behavioral health specialists, including licensed alcohol, drug and gambling counselors, and encouraging psychiatric licensing boards to promote suicide prevention training. AB 93 is set to sunset on June 30, 2026.

SB338: Senator Smith's bill passed and is based on Colorado's "Safe to Tell" suicide and bullying preventative measures.

SB504: Governor Sandoval's bill requires the first incident of bullying to be reported that evening or the next day. Mr. Bernstein would have liked to see the bill emphasize prevention due to the effects of bullying lasting 10 -15 years, and the change of the culture including social media makes bullying more harmful. He would like to see prior generations change their thought processes. Ms. Allen explained "Safe To Tell" will fall under the newly established Office of Safe and Respectful Learning Environments, overseen by Vickie Blakeney whose expertise is social emotional learning and early intervention. Also mandates for training on bullying and suicide prevention were established. Ms. Libertelli noted the new bill may or may not have a positive effect depending on the school and that school's administration. The bill allows for students to be anonymous in their reporting. The Department of Education is extremely supportive of the bill.

AB148 (Campus Carry): This bill did not pass and died in the Senate.

SB15: Dr. Dickson noted this bill passed which requires a mental health professional work to admit a patient to a hospital if he or she threatens harm or death to another person, or the professional make an attempt to inform the person in harm's way. The mental health professional is not held responsible for the injury of others.

SB240: Dr. Dickson noted this bill passed and prevents persons with a history of domestic violence from having firearms.

SB459 (Good Samaritan): Mr. Bernstein noted this bill passed which requires locks on prescription drugs to prevent overdose. Other states have positive evidence related to similar laws.

AB375: Ms. Allen spoke about transgender identity and the bathroom use policy bill, and the testimony of students in Clark County. She noted suicide data shows thoughts and attempts double or triple among those with transgender identity over the age of 18. She believes the youth rate would be double that. This bill was written to mandate persons use the bathroom of their birth gender. The bill did not pass. The members discussed situations regarding persons identifying as transgender. Ms. Allen noted six suicides of transgender persons occurred within months prior to the vote on the bill.

AB167: Mr. Egan discussed this bill passed requiring foster parents who own firearms to have CCW training unless they are employed as a law enforcement officer.

Ms. Shoop asked for public comment. None was heard.

7. DISCUSSION ON THE PROTOCOLS, PROCEDURES, AND POLICIES RELATED TO THE REVIEW OF SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

Ms. Allen explained she intended two years ago to add within the NRS a provision to look at suicide attempts. She said there is no time now to make that change in the NRS. The state is beginning to improve data collection. The Committee discussed the data is hard to collect as not all who attempt suicide go to a facility and not all attempts are documented. Also discerning between firearm accidents and medication overdose versus suicide attempts is difficult. Possible situations could arise where hospitals wish to discharge a person who is physically ready but not mentally ready for discharge. Patients might rationalize, minimize, or deny the attempt, and dismiss inpatient and outpatient counseling. Hospital files may be missing mental health notes or the notes may get lost within an extensive medical file. As medical records are electronically documented, discovering peripheral codes related to suicide may be easier. The committee suggested the booklet, "Caring for the Adult Patient with Suicide Risk: A consensus guide for emergency departments" be encouraged as a resource in the ER community. They discussed whether the Affordable Care Act will help encourage better accountability of outcomes within hospitals. They also discussed the bill allowing social workers with psychiatric training to release Legal 2000 patients.

Ms. Shoop asked for public comment. None was heard.

8. CLOSED WORKGROUP SESSION PER NRS 439.5108 TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION DURING FATALITY REVIEW PROCESS

Heather Shoop adjourned the open meeting at 10:37 AM to begin the closed session of the meeting.

Heather Shoop called the meeting back on the record at 4:06 PM. Separate minutes of the closed meeting have been prepared.

9. DISCUSS AND RECOMMEND NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS AND DATE

The committee discussed the due date of the report to the Director. Ms. Shoop suggested the preliminary report be available to review at the end of August and the next meeting be in the beginning of September. The members suggested the report be simplistic with bullet points of the content from the reviews along with feedback from the division on what else is needed.

Ms. Benson said she invited the Attorney General's (AG) new domestic violence ombudsman to attend the meetings because of her interest and her experience as a therapist with the Step II program. Ms. Allen noted the AG's office hosted safeTALK trainings for all supervisors in the department with the intent to establish training protocols with safeTALK and ASIST trainings.

The members discussed the next agenda should include the approval of the minutes, review of the draft report, and review of the MOU with the Veterans Administration, if it is available.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 2nd as a teleconference from 1 PM to 3 PM.

The members discussed the next face to face meeting will be in Las Vegas in the spring.

Ms. Shoop asked for public comment. None was heard.

10. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Shoop asked for public comment. None was heard.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 PM