

**COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES
MINUTES
November 16, 2015
9:00 a.m.**

Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)
Child Family and Community Wellness (CFCW)
Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP)
445 Apple Street, Suite 104
Reno, NV 89502

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

DPBH-CFCW
Office of Suicide Prevention
3811 W. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 210
Las Vegas, NV 89102

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE
CONFERENCE**

Mike Bernstein, M. Ed. (Southern Nevada Health
District)
Dr. Lesley Dickson, MD (Nevada Psychiatric
Association)
Marlyn Scholl, LCSW, Veterans Administration
Sierra Nevada Health Care System, Reno
Heather Shoop, CADC (WestCare)
Senator Debbie Smith (District 13 – Sparks)
Sergeant John Harney, Las Vegas Metropolitan
Police Department

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

John Fudenberg, Clark County Coroner
Joanne Libertelli, RN MS(Spring Mountain
Treatment Center)

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS

Richard Egan, Suicide Prevention Training and Outreach Facilitator, DPBH-CFCW-OSP

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF PRESENT IN RENO

Misty Allen, State Suicide Prevention Coordinator, DPBH-CFCW-OSP
Daniel Mackie, NV State Epidemiologist, DPBH
Angela Friedman, Administrative Assistant, DPBH-CFCW-OSP

OTHERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

Julieta Mendoza, Tribal Liaison, Department of Health and Human Services, Director's Office
Sharon Benson, Senior Deputy Attorney General, Attorney General's Office

Heather Shoop called the meeting of the Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities (CRSF) to order at 9:09 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**

Attendees made their introductions and Ms. Shoop determined a quorum of the Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities was not present.

While Lesley Dickson and Misty Allen discussed the need for Dr. Dickson's presence, Senator Debbie Smith joined the group. Ms. Shoop determined a quorum was present. Richard Egan noted Sergeant John Harney was attempting to call in.

2. **VOTE TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2015 MEETING**

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

HEATHER SHOOP ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2015 MEETING AS PRESENTED. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY LESLEY DICKSON. MIKE BERNSTEIN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

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

3. **UPDATE ON AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) AND THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES (CRSF)**

Marlyn Scholl stated that the MOU was still with the legal division. She has repeatedly inquired but will continue to inquire what may be holding up the process.

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

4. **UPDATE ON AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES, HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR THE THREE VACANT POSITIONS FOR APPOINTMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Ms. Allen reported Sergeant Harney has been appointed to fill the position representing law enforcement. Sergeant Harney introduced himself to the committee. Ms. Allen noted the correct committee role for Dr. Dickson is as a representative of the organizations having expertise in suicide prevention and Dr. Piasecki's role was as a representative of providers of health care. Ms. Allen stated the paperwork for an applicant from Orvis School of Nursing at University of Nevada-Reno to fill Dr. Piasecki's position is being processed. Ms. Allen has approached Veronica Gephart, Director of Behavioral Health at the Reno Sparks Tribal Health Center to consider the committee membership.

Ms. Allen addressed Ms. Shoop's concern regarding a better method to note the membership changes in the report to the Director. Ms. Allen asked for any other recommendations for recruitment.

Julieta Mendoza stated she presented the opportunity to the Health Directors meeting for tribal health clinics. Sharon Benson will share the opportunity to the tribal conference attendees at which she is presenting. Ms. Shoop thanked those helping to recruit for the open positions.

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

5. REVIEW AND APPROVE THE DRAFT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Ms. Allen shared that Dr. Tracey Green, Nevada's Chief Medical Officer has tasked the Office of Suicide Prevention to create an immediate plan to address suicides as a public health emergency. Recommendations in the report could possibly be implemented immediately by DPBH with the help of Daniel Mackie, Dr. Green, and DPBH Administrator, Cody Phinney.

Mike Bernstein addressed the past instances of suicide as a public health emergency and the lack of resources to address the problem. He suggested forming a committee to create a 10 year plan to counteract the problem on an ongoing basis.

Ms. Allen noted immediate resources may possibly be used toward the recommendation of ensuring notification and data collection within the rural communities, and exchanging of data between law enforcement, Coroners' offices and the State to enable immediate awareness of suicide deaths and potential suicide deaths. Ms. Shoop acknowledged health care resources are limited to address all communities immediately and suggested making the recommendation to subcontract with providers who would practice telehealth services in the rural communities. She suggested the recommendation to provide certified education units to the pharmacy technicians and pharmacists could be implemented more quickly than some other recommendations. Mr. Bernstein noted the State is making efforts to require that pharmacists take training related to awareness of the opioid problem and that this could be an opportunity to include suicide awareness training as a requirement. Ms. Allen asked if she needs to put more rationale and research behind these recommendations. Ms. Shoop noted the importance of follow up with suicidal patients which is supported by the research. She noted the importance of keeping an ongoing focus on the problem, not reacting to suicides as they arise. She agreed a 10 year plan would be helpful to the efforts.

Mr. Egan shared he received comments from a pharmacist and technicians who see great benefit in adding suicide prevention training to their license requirements. Mr. Bernstein noted SB459 discusses the requirement of those in the pharmaceutical field to take opioid and prescription drug overdose prevention training. Ms. Allen noted the recommendation is also in the Service Members and Veterans strategy for suicide prevention and substance use disorders. Ms. Allen will pull research from SB459. Ms. Allen noted a meeting with DPBH staff will occur that day to discuss the resources toward the immediate strategies to address the issues. She and her supervisor discussed a possible public awareness campaign that would go along with the Governor's Council on Behavioral Health and Wellness.

Mr. Bernstein noted because at a May conference suggestions were made for public and provider awareness efforts regarding drug overdose prevention, and because a report to the Governor is pending approval for the end of year with next steps forthcoming, partnering with those involved in the drug overdose prevention efforts would be beneficial to suicide prevention.

Ms. Allen and Mr. Bernstein discussed the need to include risk factors with an emphasis that the data is preliminary.

Ms. Shoop asked if feedback from the members with a short December meeting to approve the report was an option. Ms. Shoop requested the members send Ms. Allen background information or statistics to substantiate the report recommendations within two weeks by November 30, 2015.

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

6. DISCUSS AND RECOMMEND NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS AND DATE

The members discussed the feasibility of meeting on January 14, 2016 from 9 AM to 3 PM for the Face to Face meeting in Las Vegas. Mr. Egan noted he may not have all 23 cases, but will do his best to get as many as possible. The approval of the final report will be voted on at this meeting.

Ms. Shoop suggested an agenda item to discuss membership vacancies. Ms. Allen suggested an agenda item to discuss Public and Behavioral Health planning. Ms. Scholl suggested an agenda item related to her discussion with the Veterans Benefits Administration regarding families pressuring to put a mental health diagnosis on death certificates.

Mr. Egan suggested that with Mr. Mackie's assistance Mr. Egan could present data from 2011, 2012, and 2013 related to prescribed medication overdose and suicide by prescribed medication overdose as an agenda item.

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

Ms. Shoop thanked the members for all their commitment, heart, hard work, and time.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.