

COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES
MINUTES
January 27, 2017
9:30 a.m.

Clark County Office of the
Coroner/Medical Examiner
1704 Pinto Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89016

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

Heather Shoop, MSW, CADC, WestCare, Co-Chair
Marlyn Scholl, LCSW, Veterans Health
Administration, Sierra Nevada Health Care System,
Reno, Co-Chair
Mike Bernstein, M. Ed., representative of injury
prevention, NV Coalition for Suicide Prevention
Lesley Dickson, MD, Nevada Psychiatric Association
Kathy Ingelse, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, FNP-BC,
representative of providers of health care
Sheila Leslie, MA, Behavioral Health
Program Coordinator, Washoe County Social
Services
Gregory Cowper, Director of Business
Development, Montevista Hospital
Sergeant John Harney, Las Vegas Metropolitan
Police Department
David Mills, Coroner Investigative Forensic
Supervisor on behalf of John Fudenberg, Clark
County Coroner

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Carolyn DeTierra, MFT, Director, Washoe
Tribal Healing Center

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 Community Wellness, Office of Suicide Prevention (DPBH-CFCW-OSP)
Richard Egan, Suicide Prevention Training and Outreach Facilitator, DPBH-CFCW-OSP
Angela Friedman, Administrative Assistant, DPBH-CFCW-OSP

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF PRESENT BY PHONE

Beth Handler, MPH, Bureau Chief, CFCW

OTHERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS

Sharon Benson, Senior Deputy Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
Brooke Wanser, Metro Intern, Las Vegas Review Journal

OTHERS PRESENT BY PHONE

Fran Maldonado, Tribal Liaison, Division of Child and Family Services

Heather Shoop called the meeting of the Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities (CRSF) to order at 9:55 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

Heather Shoop introduced Brooke Wanser. Ms. Wanser will be attending the open portion of the meeting. Ms. Wanser noted her interest and desire to write a longer term story about the Committee and suicide in Nevada. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 29, 2016

Sheila Leslie requested she not be referred to as Senator in the minutes.

HEATHER SHOOP ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 29, 2016 MEETING WITH THE PROPOSED CORRECTIONS. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MIKE BERNSTEIN. GREGORY COWPER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

Heather Shoop asked for additional public comment. None was heard.

3. UPDATE ON AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MOU BETWEEN THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION AND THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES

Marlyn Scholl is hoping to hear back from Lisa Howard, Director of the Veterans Administration Hospital, who is researching precedence set by similar MOUs. A new Privacy Officer has been assigned. Ms. Scholl is continuing her efforts.

Richard Egan noted cases are being held pending the MOU.

Heather Shoop asked for public comment. None was heard.

4. UPDATE ON, DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE SHORTAGE OF MEDICAID BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS.

Lesley Dickson noted no improvement in the Medicaid Behavioral Health Provider shortage. She discussed the mayors of Clark County are concerned with the very low Medicaid reimbursement rate, and the difficulty recruiting Medicaid providers and retaining medical graduates. The mayors desire to push for change. Only pediatric surgeons and podiatrists received an increase in rates.

Dr. Dickson discussed Nevada's reliance on Medicaid Expansion funds and effects on mental health care due to possible changes in the Affordable Care Act. She noted the addition in July of two Managed Medicaid plans to the two current plans which may not have an effect on the shortage of providers.

Beth Handler offered to share the meeting minutes and concerns with the new Medicaid Provider Relations staff person, Sheri Eggleston, to include in planning. Ms. Handler noted by sharing the Committee's concerns with Medicaid, the concerns are emphasized.

Gregory Cowper noted an open enrollment season from April to July will allow current Medicaid recipients to sign up with the new plans. Providers may not necessarily increase and the new plans will need to negotiate contracts with current providers. Dr. Dickson noted increased Graduate

Medical Education state funding for the new Las Vegas medical school is increasing psychiatry residents. The state is doing well keeping the graduates, but many psychiatrists are retiring.

Richard Egan noted the difficulty of community providers receiving approval to provide care to veterans. Dr. Dickson noted the providers are not being paid by the Veterans Administration and their salaries are very behind the national average.

Heather Shoop asked for public comment. None was heard.

5. REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE DOCUMENT TO BE RELEASED BY THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RELATED TO THE LGBT COMMUNITY AND SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS.

Misty Allen received the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance (YRBS) report and will distribute it to the members. She noted the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual (LGB) Community youth statistics were either double or triple the percentages of non-LGB. The report was more statistical and youth focused. Heather Shoop noted the report was not surprising.

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

6. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING LEGISLATION BEING HEARD DURING THE 79TH (2017) SESSION OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE

Lesley Dickson presented and discussed the list of bill draft requests (BDR) which seem to apply to mental health. The list is prepared by the lobbyists for the Nevada Psychiatric Association. The list included a bill seeking to revise the definition of the term "mental illness" in the statutes; a bill concerning advance directives for patients in psychiatric care; and a bill concerning police officers accessing the criminal data base to confirm if a person "acting strange" should have firearms. John Harney noted his concern with police officers having the ability to intrude on a person's right to privacy. Heather Shoop noted the conflict with the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) efforts. Dr. Dickson discussed the steps toward court commitment and indicated only court committed persons are on the criminal database.

Dr. Dickson noted a BDR related to suicide and veterans. Misty Allen said the bill attempts to expand mandated training to healthcare providers. Richard Egan mentioned hearing a discussion related to expanding the training to staff in non-profits working with veterans. Ms. Allen commented many legislators are interested in veteran suicide and she expects to see more bills on this issue.

Dr. Dickson discussed the State of Mental Health in America, 2017 report. Sheila Leslie noted Nevada ranked 51 overall in access to mental healthcare and available mental health professionals. Ms. Leslie explained the state has been trying to improve mental health citing the increase in Medicaid inpatient psychiatric fees resulting in more beds. She noticed sometimes the gap between 51 and 50 is huge as the other states are also improving. Mr. Egan stated in Nevada people are getting help sooner than in previous years. Ms. Shoop observed Nevada's rank has dropped out of the top 10 for suicide rates even though Nevada is still low in access to care. Ms. Allen noted a national discussion and debate around suicide ideation is not only due to a mental illness, but also includes environmental factors. Mr. Egan remarked early recognition occurring at Clark County

School District interventions indicate a lower number of students at high risk and an increase in the number of mid and low risk.

Mike Bernstein noted the crisis intervention with youth has helped in the North and the South. Ms. Allen and Mr. Egan discussed the United State Air Force's suicide prevention work in the 1990's dropped the suicide rate by 40%. They discussed how early identification helped with high risk interpersonal violence rates. Continuing the education and prevention efforts is important to prevent increased risk as occurred when Air Force efforts stopped. The members agreed much work still needs to occur even though Nevada has improved in some areas. Mr. Egan discussed the changes in the rates and rankings. Ms. Allen will share with the members the fact sheet she is preparing for the legislative session.

Ms. Allen and Mr. Egan discussed the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual (LGB) report. Ms. Allen will share the report with the members. Dr. Dickson will share the BDR list with the members.

Ms. Leslie mentioned an upcoming bill regarding regionalization of mental health in Nevada. The Legislative Council Bureau recently posted a report on this.

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

7. UPDATE ON AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FINALIZED DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE 12 RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED WITH THE YEAR 3 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

Misty Allen asked to combine agenda items #7 and #8. Heather Shoop approved.

Ms. Allen will add 2015 data and additional concepts from today's meeting to the annual report. The feedback she received regarding the implementation plan required changes to be made. She is seeking additional stake holder feedback. The Committee has met its obligation to create the plan. The next steps involve fine tuning the plan.

Lesley Dickson asked and Ms. Allen responded the Office of Suicide Prevention's budget is under the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health. She noted she was held to the five percent budget reduction when the budget was submitted and has not seen the approved budget.

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

8. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE UTILIZATION OF THE DIRECTOR'S 3RD ANNUAL REPORT DURING THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION

This agenda item was addressed in combination with Agenda Item #7 at the direction of the Chair.

9. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEXT TELECONFERENCE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS AND DATE.

The next face to face meeting was set for July 21, 2017 in Reno, NV. The next teleconference meeting will be on March 17, 2017 at 9:00 AM. The same agenda items will be discussed.

Sheila Leslie wished to discuss the senior rates and emergency room follow up. Richard Egan suggested an agenda item to discuss the status of different age groups. Heather Shoop suggested discussing ages, genders, and cultures.

Misty Allen would like to discuss the data collection, work group discussions, and the communication between the sources of information regarding suicides and attempts, and prevent inaccurate communication. Ms. Allen noted examples of communication issues in the rural communities. The agenda would be regarding surveillance systems. Kathy Ingelse mentioned Project ECHO at the University of Nevada, Reno use of nurses to support providers. Lesley Dickson noted the difficulty psychiatrists have scheduling services in the rural community. She mentioned an interest in the use of tele-psychiatry. Mr. Egan reminded the members may suggest specific cases for review. Ms. Allen may want to review the recent cases in Elko.

Dr. Dickson noted the Nevada Psychiatric Association's conference on February 15 – 18, 2017. The last two lectures will be on suicide and are approved for the suicide prevention Continued Medical Education (CME) requirement. Ms. Allen noted the Public Information Officer for the Board of Examiners has allowed other healthcare providers to exchange suicide prevention CMEs.

David Mills asked if anyone is explaining how the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Violent Death Reporting System works with local and state agencies collecting data efficiently and regularly, and how the data is reported nationally. Barbara Butcher will present to the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IACME) in July on identifying sexual orientation and gender identity while on the scene of violent deaths. Mr. Mills discussed the missed opportunities to clarify sexual orientation and gender identity suspicions while meeting with family members on scene. The most overlooked data can be gathered with family member questions. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is making efforts to collect thorough data. Las Vegas Metro Police Department is instituting a checklist to help ask the sensitive questions. He noted CDC has received funding to allow another 42 states to participate in the National Violent Death Reporting System. He discussed the possibility of death certificates listing sexual orientation. Ms. Allen announced an intern will be hired to collect data related to previous attempts, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ), escalation of means, and veterans and military. The intern will be housed in the Washoe County Coroner's office. Intern recruitment was announced for Clark County but no responses were received.

Ms. Allen has been working with the Nevada Nursing Association to help fulfill the training mandate. She said \$46,000 from a Maternal Child Health Block Grant and Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant has been provided to host a safeTALK trainer training to create 40 nurse and home visiting staff trainers across the state. The vision is to pair nurses with home visiting staff to train community members and possibly training those within the health field.

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

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

Heather Shoop adjourned the open meeting at 10:49 a.m. to begin the closed session of the meeting.

The teleconference line was opened. Ms. Shoop called the open meeting back on the record at 3:20 p.m. Separate minutes of the closed meeting have been prepared.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Heather Shoop asked for public comment. None was heard.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.