

**COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES
MINUTES
November 27, 2017
1:00 p.m.**

Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)
Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness
(BCFCW)
Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP)
4150 Technology Way, Room 153
Reno, Nevada 89521

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

DPBH-BCFCW-OSP
3811 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 210
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

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

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

John Fudenberg, D-ABMDI, Clark County
Coroner

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (DPBH) STAFF PRESENT IN CARSON CITY

Misty Vaughan Allen, Nevada State Suicide Prevention Coordinator, DPBH-BCFCW-OSP
Angela Friedman, Administrative Assistant IV, DPBH-BCFCW-OSP

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (DPBH) STAFF PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS

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

OTHERS PRESENT BY PHONE

Sharon Benson, Senior Deputy Attorney General, Nevada Attorney General's Office

Marlyn Scholl called the meeting of the Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities (CRSF) to order at 1:00 p.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

Marlyn Scholl introduced herself. Angela Friedman called the roll. A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 21, 2017 OPEN AND CLOSED MEETINGS

Marlyn Scholl asked for corrections or additions to the July 21, 2017 open and closed meeting minutes. No changes were suggested.

MARLYN SCHOLL ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE OPEN AND CLOSED MINUTES OF THE JULY 21, 2017 MEETING AS PRESENTED. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY KATHY INGELSE. SHEILA LESLIE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

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

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

Marlyn Scholl reported the Reno Veterans Administration's (VA) privacy officer approved the sharing of redacted suicide fatality cases obtained by Ms. Scholl's office. She will meet on November 28, 2017 with the VA legal staff to discuss the use of non-redacted case information. Sharon Benson offered her help at the meeting with the VA. Ms. Scholl noted the slow movement of the Memorandum of Understand (MOU) is due to the change in personnel and the lack of precedents in this matter. Ms. Scholl noted Richard Egan will look into obtaining information from the VA in Las Vegas. Ms. Scholl thanked Ms. Benson for her help with the MOU.

Lesley Dickson and John Harney joined the call.

Ms. Scholl 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 Jonathon Wirjo's group, Focus Mental Health Solutions, has been providing psychiatry consult at emergency rooms, medical surgical units and inpatient offices at Seven Hills Hospital and Rawson Neal Psychiatric hospital. Seven Hills Hospital recently broke ground on an 80 bed psychiatric hospital as part of the Sunrise Group, HCA Healthcare group. Dr. Dickson is helping Dr. Wirjo's group work to obtain psychiatry residency. A site visit by Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) will occur on November 28, 2017 and if approved will provide four new residencies. Dr. Dickson noted an increase in University of Nevada, Reno and University of Nevada, Las Vegas residency students.

Dr. Dickson commented the Nevada Psychiatric Association was informed by nurse practitioners they intend to put forward a bill to make mental health and family medicine services provided by nurse practitioners and physician assistants reimbursable at the same rate as the same services provided by physicians. The bill will also prevent lowering the rates for physician services. Dr. Dickson discussed the difficulty providers have opening outpatient practices due to the low Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance reimbursement rates.

Dr. Dickson noted the Governor's new committee on mental health providers will meet December 5, 2017 to address mental health education from high school to opening a practice.

Kathy Ingelse and Dr. Dickson discussed whether the nurse practitioners' bill would affect salaries or just reimbursement rates. Dr. Dickson noted the bill draft request was based on a bill passed in Oregon. She noted reimbursement rates are not easy to legislate. Sheila Leslie discussed the process and difficulty of changing Medicaid rates to encourage the increase in certain providers within Nevada. Ms. Ingelse talked of her experience in Oregon as a Medicaid provider and her understanding for having parity of the rates. Dr. Dickson discussed providers' hourly rates used with Medicaid reimbursements.

Marlyn Scholl asked for public comment. None was heard.

5. MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPOINT A CO-CHAIR TO FILL THE VACANT CO-CHAIR POSITION

Misty Allen noted the Co-Chair needs to be a member from Las Vegas. She reminded the members Mike Bernstein was nominated at the July 21, 2017 meeting. Mr. Bernstein accepted the nomination. The members unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Bernstein as the Co-Chair.

Marlyn Scholl asked for public comment. None was heard.

6. REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE SUICIDE PREVENTION RECOMMENDATION REPORT, SUMMER 2017

Misty Allen will include in the report new data being made available after the first week of December. Ms. Allen noted the Committee's recommendations as compiled from the minutes over the last year and the recommendations from the Washoe County Medical Examiners' intern. She discussed the challenges and accomplishments of implementing the recommendations. The recommendations included: implementing comprehensive tracking of patients' records related to previous suicide attempts; beginning Suicide to Hope training for providers working with suicide attempters; enacting mandatory suicide awareness training for behavioral health and healthcare providers; establishing Narcan as part of Recommendation #10; investigating the use of public service announcements; reaching out to train suicide awareness in all work environments through human resource departments; creating postvention response teams in rural areas; supporting security staff in casinos; focusing on African American and Hispanic outreach; encouraging self-care for mental health and emergency response professionals; and establishing as part of the prevention to access to lethal means continue to promote securing law enforcement officers' firearms and securing helium tanks.

Ms. Allen and Richard Egan discussed the difficulty of funding the Suicide to Hope training and the difficulty of working with the casino industry.

Mr. Egan, Ms. Allen, Lesley Dickson and Marlyn Scholl discussed the stigma related to self-reporting and peer reporting by mental health or other health professionals seeking crisis intervention. Dr. Dickson reassured the Committee self-reporting or peer reporting would not be detrimental to the professional's license as long as the professional's patient services were not grossly impaired, and the professional is receiving necessary treatment.

Dr. Dickson noted a town hall meeting on December 5, 2017 to discuss the 2017 Assembly Bill 474 (AB474), regarding opioid treatment. She said licensing board members will be at the meeting and she will address the issue of licensure and self-reporting.

Dr. Dickson discussed working to help the medical professionals and hospital staff obtain suicide prevention Certified Medical Education Units (CMEs) as directed by Assembly Bill 105. She noted her two CME supported suicide prevention presentations which were sponsored by Saint Mary's hospital. She commented on the online presentations and the Psychiatric Association's upcoming conferences which provide CMEs.

Dr. Dickson spoke of research from Minnesota which noted 60% of suicide attempts were first time completers with no time for intervention from mental health professionals. Dr. Dickson, Ms. Allen, and Mr. Egan discussed possible reasons suicides occur more in the Western States.

Dr. Dickson and Mr. Egan discussed the challenge of obtaining CME accreditation for suicide prevention trainings, costs of CME accreditation, securing sponsorship of the trainings, and drawing attendance by the medical professionals.

Ms. Allen discussed the Committee vacancies which will be noted in the report. Dr. Dickson suggested Jamie Ross, Executive Director of PACT (Prevention, Advocacy, Choices, Teamwork) Coalition be approached to fill the position related to substance abuse prevention. Mr. Egan was asked to reach out to Ms. Ross. Sharon Benson and Ms. Allen discussed the resignation of Carolyn DeTierra. Ms. Allen stated she will reach out to the tribes with suicide prevention task forces and to the Fallon Tribe Community Coalition.

7. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO SUICIDE RATES AND PREVENTION OF DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS, GENDERS AND CULTURES. POSSIBLE PRESENTATION FROM OSP INTERN

Misty Allen discussed the intern's report using 2016 data from 172 cases. The report was presented at the Statewide Suicide Prevention Conference in October 2017. The cases were from all Nevada counties but Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine counties. The intern's recommendations support the need for more collection of data regarding circumstances prior to death. Ms. Allen and Marlyn Scholl discussed the Veteran's Administration's follow up with at risk patients. Ms. Allen will include in the report the progress of implementation of past recommendations. Ms. Allen will distribute the report and data from the intern's research.

Lesley Dickson, Ms. Scholl and Ms. Allen discussed primary care physicians requiring the use of the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) and the effectiveness of depression questioning.

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

8. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EMERGENCY ROOM FOLLOW UP AFTER PATIENT ADMISSION FOR SUICIDE EVENTS

Maryln Scholl would like to research emergency room follow up after patient admission for suicide events within the Veterans Administration. She noted an intern on suicide prevention in Phoenix, Arizona said a blotter list is kept with names of patients entering the emergency rooms for suicide attempts or ideation during the past 24 hours. Ms. Scholl speculated a memorandum of understanding must exist permitting sharing of the data to allow for follow up. She said if veterans were recognized on such a list her office would definitely follow up. Misty Allen will confirm if Ohio

has a system in which the hotline keeps a blotter of available beds and a crisis team performs follow up. Ms. Scholl questioned if Nevada's Crisis Call Center would be able to make follow up calls. Ms. Allen noted the grant funding she applied for was not received. She said more grant funding opportunities related to health care, the National Strategy on Suicide Prevention, and youth suicide prevention are being made available. A Clark County task force was created to obtain better funding for youth suicide prevention.

Lesley Dickson mentioned Focus Mental Health Solutions opened an outpatient clinic to which emergency room patients may be referred. Consults are done by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Medical Center's Psychology Department and the School of Medicine's residents and faculty. Although, not enough clinics are available for the emergency room patients. She discussed the lowered risk associated with patients receiving referrals upon leaving the emergency room.

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

9. UPDATE ON, DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTING THE AB366 REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARDS

Sheila Leslie noted the Governor's appointments and the appointments from the Senate Majority Leader have been made. The appointments by the Speaker of the Assembly are still pending. Therefore, no meetings have been called. Ms. Leslie is the behavioral health coordinator for Washoe County. She stated no funding is available for the four behavioral health coordinators, who act as staff to the boards. The first meeting must occur within 60 days after the confirmation of all member appointments for each board. Because each board is allowed one bill draft request which needs to be submitted by the end of the summer of 2018, meetings will need to occur soon.

Marlyn Scholl asked for public comment. None was heard.

10. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE NEW HAMPSHIRE LETTERS TO SURVIVORS AND ASSESSMENTS

Misty Allen discussed New Hampshire's survivors of suicide packet could similarly be implemented by the Office of Suicide Prevention with the Nevada Coalition for Suicide Prevention and the Medical Examiners. The packet would initiate the contact with the families, and collect data on attempts using a contact card similar to New Hampshire's caring contact cards. She said she would send examples of New Hampshire's packet out to the members.

Marlyn Scholl asked for public comment. No further comments were heard.

11. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE JANUARY FACE TO FACE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES

Marlyn Scholl asked who might need travel documents to Las Vegas. Angela Friedman called roll for the January 8, 2018 Face to Face meeting. A quorum was confirmed to be attending. She will send out the travel paperwork within the next few days. She will confirm attendance from the Clark County Coroner's office.

Ms. Scholl asked for public comment. No further comments were heard.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Misty Allen discussed the International Suicide Research Conference. The conference was not very well attended considering the invitation went worldwide. Many of the presenters were doctoral students presenting great detail. Ms. Allen shared information she learned about the National Institute of Mental Health's Ask Suicide-Screening Questions (ASQ), a brief pediatric assessment. She discussed the inpatient and outpatient data which was collected from the use of the ASQ. The ASQ will be used with school nurses and a toolkit is being developed for primary care physicians. Research finds 45% to 78% of people have seen their primary care physicians within one month of their suicide. She will research pediatric screening. Zero to Suicide noted a behavioral health system saw 75% to 80% reduction of suicide across its system.

Ms. Allen mentioned the Committee's recommendations are in line with discussions at the conference. She commented all the hospitals in Northern Nevada are working with the Continuity of Care workgroup. The Clinical Pathway Toolkit was introduced at the conference. She mentioned much of the information at the conference covered topics decades away from implementation. She thanked Lesley Dickson for funding her trip to attend the conference.

Marlyn Scholl asked for public comment. No further comments were heard.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.