

**COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES
OPEN MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2018
9:00 a.m.**

Attorney General's Office
Grant Sawyer Building
555 East Washington Boulevard
Conference Room 4500
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

Marlyn Scholl, LCSW, Veterans Health Administration, Sierra Nevada Health Care System, Reno, 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
Mike Bernstein, M. Ed., representative of injury prevention, Nevada Coalition for Suicide Prevention, Co-Chair

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (DPBH) STAFF PRESENT

Misty Vaughan Allen, Nevada State Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (BCFCW), Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP)
Angela Friedman, Administrative Assistant IV, DPBH-BCFCW-OSP
Richard Egan, Suicide Prevention Training and Outreach Facilitator, DPBH-BCFCW-OSP

OTHERS PRESENT

Sharon Benson, Senior Deputy Attorney General, Nevada Attorney General's Office
Jamie Ross, Executive Director, PACT Coalition

OTHERS PRESENT BY PHONE

Nicole O'Banion, Domestic Violence Ombudsman, Nevada Attorney General's Office

Marlyn Scholl called the meeting of the Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities (CRSF) to order at 9:00 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

Marlyn Scholl introduced herself. Angela Friedman called the roll and those at the meeting introduced themselves. A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 27, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Marlyn Scholl asked for corrections or additions to the November 27, 2017 meeting minutes. No changes were suggested.

MARLYN SCHOLL ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 27, 2017 MEETING AS PRESENTED. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY DAVID MILLS. JOHN HARNEY 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, Sharon Benson and Misty Allen discussed the process to finalize the standing letter between the Veterans Administration (VA) and the Committee. The letter once approved will be used to request data from the Northern Nevada VA. Once established the letter will be offered to the VA's privacy officer in Southern Nevada.

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 spoke of the lack of state leadership discussion about Medicaid reimbursement and salaries, the difficulty of keeping providers if Nevada's pay rate is not competitive with other states, and the lack of deeply rooted families to keep providers tied to Nevada.

Marlyn Scholl asked for public comment. None was heard.

5. REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE SUICIDE PREVENTION RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Misty Allen and Richard Egan discussed the discrepancy between state and federal suicide data for Nevada. They will work with the State Biostatistician and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data to determine the cause. The committee discussed if the difference was due to visitor death included with Nevada residents' deaths. Ms. Allen will update the recommendation report and send it to the Committee for review and approval. Ms. Allen noted the Northern Nevada Medical Examiner Coroner's Office is working on a report to be released to the public based on the intern's study of Washoe County data.

6. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO SUICIDE RATES AND PREVENTION OF DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS, GENDERS AND CULTURES

Misty Allen shared highlights of the 2016 American Association of Suicidology (AAS) fact sheet, discussed Washoe County data and compared state to state data related to age groups, gender and culture. Most 2016 Nevada statistics were worse than prior years, although youth rates improved. Suicide rates for women has increased. Elder suicides remain nearly the same. The Nevada firearm rate of suicide for 2016 decreased. Richard Egan and Sheila Leslie discussed possible differences in

recognizing suicide death by medical examiners. Ms. Allen noted a significant increase in African American deaths in 2016. David Mills discussed two deaths which occurred within the last 48 hours in Clark County. Ms. Allen and Mr. Mills discussed death report statistics for Washoe County and the rural areas. Ms. Leslie expressed concern with the deaths of persons recently released from a hospital.

The members talked about jumping prevention at large structures, signage within the public structures, and impulsivity due to chemical influence. Lesley Dickson mentioned prevention efforts at the George Washington Bridge which include sensing devices. Mr. Egan explained costs, use and monitoring of a sensing device which could be used in hospitals, jails and structures. Dr. Dickson and Gregory Cowper spoke about Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) surveying hospitals in Las Vegas for hanging opportunities. Mr. Cowper remarked on hospitals' hesitancy to use the sensing devices as they look at investment versus benefit and patient privacy.

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

7. UPDATE ON AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE POSSIBLE APPOINTMENTS TO FILL THE TWO VACANT COMMITTEE POSITIONS: A PERSON WHO REPRESENTS ORGANIZATIONS HAVING EXPERTISE IN THE TREATMENT OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND PREVENTION, AND A PERSON WHO REPRESENTS NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

Misty Allen explained Jamie Ross is being considered to fill the vacancy of a member representing substance abuse treatment and prevention. Ms. Ross introduced herself and gave information on her work with substance abuse. Ms. Allen is still trying to find a representative for the Native American community.

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

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

Sheila Leslie explained final appointments to the regional mental health boards were made and meetings are being established. Some meetings will be occurring in late January and February. Misty Allen discussed partnering with coordinators to develop a pathway to care based on the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS). Ms. Allen will contact the coordinator of the January 29, 2018 meeting of the Committee to Study the Needs Related to the Behavioral and Cognitive Care of Older Persons to offer representation of suicide prevention.

Marlyn Scholl asked for public comment. None was heard.

9. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF SUICIDE FATALITY CASES

Richard Egan discussed data obtained on the first 50 cases the committee has reviewed. He encouraged the members to suggest cases of interest for future review. He noted the trends in the data.

The committee discussed methods of preventing a person in crisis from accessing firearms, including attempted legislation, retaliation against hospitals and therapists, and public misguidance regarding federal law and those diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). They discussed

voluntary removal or holding of firearms by police departments, family and friends. Mr. Egan noted the majority of gun owners agree certain persons should be restricted from firearm access. Lesley Dickson and Sheila Leslie talked about suicides occurring after recent release from hospitals. The committee discussed reviewing the cases in which decedents recently released from emergency rooms or mental health facilities died by suicide. They discussed difficulty recognizing a person still experiencing suicidal ideation after the person is no longer under chemical influence, the training levels of emergency medical and police staff, the lack of warm handoff just after release, and early release of patients placed on a Legal 2000 hold. Ms. Scholl would like to review emergency room release follow up.

Mr. Egan played a demonstration of the monitoring system as noted in Agenda Item #6 and provided information on the system. The committee discussed persons in charge of structures or locations with the highest risk of jumpers be made aware of the technology, and encouraged public awareness of the technology. The committee discussed even though the surveillance system has a lower cost, it may not be as beneficial as netting on a bridge to prevent suicide. David Mills suggested researching the use of preventative fencing on structures. The committee discussed the liability related to the monitoring system. John Harney discussed the use of the system in the jails and the similar legal liabilities found with access to firearms.

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

10. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCHEDULING OF UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES

The committee determined the next all-day in-person meeting will be held in Reno on June 22, 2018. Two teleconferenced meetings will be tentatively held on March 2, 2018 and May 4, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to adjournment.

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

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Misty Allen shared funds from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health's Mental Health Block Grant will be used to help implement Zero Suicide across the state, including community health centers, community entities, and state clinics. A program called REACH will be used in the rural areas. A coordinator will be hired to help implement the program.

The Office of Suicide Prevention was invited to a Governor's Association regional suicide prevention meeting in Denver in March as a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) initiative to help better enhance the state plans.

Dr. Quinn Pauly, Northern Nevada Physician Wellness Coalition called Ms. Allen to discuss starting the first physician suicide prevention hotline and behavioral wellness for physicians program among the hospitals in Northern Nevada. He is expecting hundreds to attend the kick off of his efforts. Richard Egan suggested including behavioral health professionals to the talks.

Lesley Dickson reported the Medical Board confirmed doctors will not lose their license for asking for help for a mental illness, unless the illness greatly impacts their practice.

Dr. Dickson asked about the physician who recently died by suicide. Jamie Ross and Dr. Dickson discussed the upcoming physician wellness events coordinated with Clark County Medical Society on January 23, 2018 covering suicide prevention, physician burnout and self-care. Dr. Dickson noted obtaining voluntary attendance by physicians is difficult. She believes mandatory attendance within the medical schools would ensure exposure to the information.

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

12. CLOSED WORKGROUP SESSION PER NRS 439.5108 TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION DURING THE SUICIDE FATALITY CASE REVIEW PROCESS

Marlyn Scholl adjourned the open meeting at 10:45 a.m. to begin the closed session of the meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.