

# COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES DRAFT OPEN MEETING MINUTES

May 4, 2018

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  
Carson City, Nevada 89706

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  
Sheila Leslie, MA, Behavioral Health Program  
Coordinator, Washoe County Social Services  
Kathy Ingelse, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC,  
FNP-BC, representative of providers of health care  
Gregory Cowper, Director of Business  
Development, Montevista Hospital  
Jamie Elizabeth Ross, Executive Director, PACT  
Coalition for Safe and Drug-Free Communities  
David Mills, F-ABMDI Coroner Investigative  
Forensic Supervisor, as proxy for John Fudenberg,  
Clark County Coroner

## **BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Lesley Dickson, MD, Nevada Psychiatric  
Association  
John Fudenberg, D-ABMDI, Clark County  
Coroner  
Sergeant John Harney, Las Vegas Metropolitan  
Police Department

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

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

## **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 TELEPHONE CONFERENCE**

Sharon Benson, Senior Deputy Attorney General, Nevada Attorney General's Office  
Fran Maldonado, Tribal Liaison, Division of Child and Family Services

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. Others in attendance introduced themselves.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 8, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

Marlyn Scholl asked for corrections or additions to the January 8, 2018 meeting minutes. No changes were suggested.

**MARLYN SCHOLL ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2018 MEETING AS PRESENTED. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY SHEILA LESLIE. MIKE BERNSTEIN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Mr. Bernstein suggested the Committee use Zoom Video Communications for future meetings. Ms. Allen and Ms. Friedman will continue to look into Zoom Video Communications as an option.

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**

Ms. Scholl discussed how the standing letter was progressing. Ms. Scholl and Mr. Egan will discuss in a separate meeting how to share the information in a secure way from the Reno Veterans Administration (VA) to Mr. Egan in Las Vegas. Mr. Egan has a meeting with the VA leadership in Southern Nevada to discuss using the standing letter. Mr. Egan, Ms. Scholl, and Sharon Benson were thanked for their years of work to develop and progress the letter. Ms. Scholl thanked Lisa Howard, Director, VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System, for her support.

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

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

Ms. Leslie noted the lack of facilities, beds, and providers has been an ongoing problem for years and questioned what this committee could do to help the situation. Ms. Scholl noted the new facility in Washoe County. Ms. Leslie discussed the new facility is working to become accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) and should eventually have 120 beds. Ms. Leslie, Mr. Egan, Ms. Scholl, and Ms. Allen discussed the intent and need for this agenda item. Mr. Egan, Gregory Cowper and Ms. Scholl discussed families taking children to other states for services, the need for in-state specialized treatment, and Medicaid and insurance reimbursement rates impacting mental health services available in Nevada. Ms. Leslie suggested keeping the item on the agenda item for informational purposes and consulting with Dr. Lesley Dickson as to whether she wants to remove this topic from future agendas.

Jamie Ross noted Dr. Sarah Hunt, psychologist at North Vista Hospital, can address Southern Nevada workforce issues. Ms. Ross will connect with Mr. Egan after the meeting.

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

**5. UPDATE ON AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE POSSIBLE APPOINTMENTS TO FILL THE VACANT COMMITTEE POSITION: A PERSON WHO REPRESENTS NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES**

Ms. Allen noted Ms. Ross is attending the meeting as an official member of the Committee. Ms. Allen discussed her difficulty finding a person to represent Native American tribes. Fran Maldonado noted the high turnover of tribal representatives. Ms. Maldonado suggested Ms. Allen work with the Department of Health and Human Services' Tribal Liaisons. Ms. Benson acknowledged Ms. Maldonado's experience and connections with the tribes. Ms. Allen and Ms. Maldonado will discuss Ms. Maldonado applying for the vacant position.

Ms. Allen and Ms. Maldonado will attend an upcoming monthly meeting of the Inter-Tribal Health Directors. Ms. Scholl and Ms. Maldonado will be in contact regarding the VA outreach at the upcoming Stewart Father's Day Pow Wow.

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

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

Ms. Allen discussed the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) reports from other states and Montana's cross comparisons within the YRBS related to attempted suicide. Nevada's 2017 YRBS data has not been released. Ms. Allen noted Heather Martin, an intern from the School of Community Health Sciences at the University of Nevada, Reno, will begin interviewing families, to continue the work as documented in the report by Cordelia Alexander-Leeder and the Washoe County Coroner's Office. Mr. Egan noted a retired physician and veteran would like to volunteer his time to work with Mr. Egan and David Mills to create a similar report for Clark, Nye, and Lincoln Counties. Mr. Mills suggested a meeting be set up between John Fudenberg, Mr. Mills, and Mr. Egan. Out of respect, Ms. Allen would like to speak with Ms. Martin and the University before beginning a report for Southern Nevada.

Mr. Egan shared data identifying the areas with the highest number of suicides in the last three years in Clark County, and noted a possible contagion among veterans in 2017 in the Sunrise Manor and Whitney townships. He discussed the need for VA outreach in these areas and discussed the discrepancy that decedents' connections to the military are being discovered but not noted on death certificates. Mr. Egan's goal is to use data from across the state to locate other high risk areas.

Mr. Bernstein asked what purpose is served by identifying the zip codes with the most suicides. Mr. Egan responded he wants to work with Clark County School District to help staff recognize the outreach needed to these areas.

Mr. Egan gave a brief update on the work related to the SAMHSA/VA Mayor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families. Mr. Egan noted the focus is community outreach to veterans not connected to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and to reach providers and caregivers with suicide prevention information.

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

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

Ms. Allen noted support from the mental health block grant to develop a three (3) to four (4) year strategy to implement the Zero Suicide Initiative. Social Entrepreneurs Incorporated will organize two (2) four (4) hour workshops in Reno and Las Vegas on August 29 and 30, 2018 to cultivate health care professionals willing to participate in the 2019 Zero Suicide Academy. The Academy will require healthcare leadership to assess their healthcare systems and commit to implementing the Zero Suicide Initiative at all levels. Ms. Allen thanked Kyle Devine, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Behavioral Health, Wellness and Prevention, DPBH, and Marco Erickson, Health Program Manager, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency, DPBH, for their support with the mental health block grant. Ms. Leslie asked and Ms. Allen confirmed the leadership of healthcare systems, such as hospitals, are the target participants. Ms. Scholl will contact Ms. Allen regarding the VA Director's possible involvement. Ms. Scholl noted the difficulty in dedicating resources to support the Initiative. Ms. Allen will send the members information on the Zero Suicide Initiative.

Ms. Scholl announced the Washoe County Continuity of Care for Suicidality Taskforce Workgroup will occur on May 14, 2018. Ms. Allen will send out an agenda. Ms. Allen is applying to the Renown Foundation which is offering a total of \$1,000,000 to fund community organizations. The workgroup is considering having the Crisis Call Center send postcards to patients after non-admittance to hospitals, hiring case managers and volunteers, and providing training on discharge planning for families and patients. Ms. Allen welcomed Ms. Leslie's guidance.

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**

Ms. Leslie reported all Regional Mental Health Boards are in place. The boards meet every month or every four (4) to six (6) weeks, depending on the board. Ms. Leslie teleconferenced with the chairpersons of the boards and learned they are hearing presentations from different entities, including Ms. Allen, and noted many of the board members had not known the seriousness of suicide in Nevada. The boards are not yet focused on the topics of their bill draft concepts, which need to be submitted by September 2018. Some of the concerns are triage centers, medical detox, crisis stabilization for psychiatric problems, Legal 2000 concerns, workforce development, and giving the boards more ability to advise the state on funding priorities. Constant communication is occurring between the boards to avoid bill draft duplication. Some community forums may occur. Ms. Leslie suggested Ms. Allen share with the boards suicide prevention concerns relevant to legislation.

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

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

Mr. Egan, Ms. Allen, and Ms. Mills discussed how to implement the use of the letters to survivors, including possibly reaching out to mortuaries, obtaining data from the Coroners' offices, working with other agencies, avoiding invalid addresses, family consent, and associated costs. Ms. Allen will send members information on the New Hampshire survivor packet.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Allen discussed the upcoming July 16, 2018 Face to Face meeting to be held in Northern Nevada and discussed options for the location of the meeting. A quorum was determined for the Face to Face meeting and travel information will be disseminated soon.

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

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

DRAFT