

**COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES**  
**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 16, 2018**  
**9:00 a.m.**

Washoe County Complex  
Building C, Room #135  
Adult Services Conference Room  
1001 East Ninth Street, near Wells Street  
Reno, NV 89512

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN RENO**

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  
Gregory Cowper, Director of Business Development, Montevista Hospital  
Jamie Elizabeth Ross, Executive Director, PACT Coalition for Safe and Drug-Free Communities  
Lesley Dickson, MD, Nevada Psychiatric Association

**BOARD MEMBER PRESENT BY PHONE**

John Fudenberg, D-ABMDI, Clark County Coroner

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Sergeant John Harney, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department  
Kathy Ingelse, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, FNP-BC, representative of providers of health care

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (DPBH) STAFF PRESENT IN RENO**

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)  
Richard Egan, Suicide Prevention Training and Outreach Facilitator, DPBH-BCFCW-OSP  
Angela Friedman, Administrative Assistant IV, DPBH-BCFCW-OSP

**OTHERS PRESENT IN RENO**

Laura Knight, Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner, Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office  
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 9:05 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. The members introduced themselves. A quorum was present. Others in attendance introduced themselves.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 4, 2018 MEETING MINUTES**

Marlyn Scholl decided to hear this agenda item after the arrival of Mike Bernstein.

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

Marlyn Scholl will share information on a veteran's case in the closed portion of this meeting. Richard Egan has submitted a request for information letter to the Veterans Administration in Las Vegas. He has not been met with opposition.

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 a proposal to change the Medicaid Service Manual to require prior authorization of all psychotherapy. She reported many community members attended the Medicaid hearing to oppose the proposed change. The topic will be on the agenda at a future hearing. Dr. Dickson said a Medicaid representative could not explain who would be responsible for the authorization of psychotherapy. Marlyn Scholl questioned how the proposal effects a recent law on parity. The members discussed parity in respect to behavioral health care compared to medical health care, and how lack of parity hinders attempts to keep Medicaid providers in Nevada.

Mike Bernstein and Fran Maldonado arrived at 9:15 a.m.

Dr. Dickson spoke about the inaccuracy of the provider network lists provided by Medicaid and private insurance companies. She experienced a change in an Anthem Insurance policy effecting Medicaid prescribers and causing pharmacies to deny patients prescriptions.

Dr. Dickson noted the number of University of Nevada School of Psychiatry graduates and the number staying to practice in Nevada. She believes psychiatry graduates may be slightly increasing.

Misty Allen remarked the Statewide Epidemiological Workgroup report shows a drop in 2016 of hospital admissions for those with suicide ideation. The members discussed the possible reasons for the decrease, the number of hospital readmissions, and the increase in the 2017 admissions.

Dr. Dickson clarified how a Legal 2000 determination can be discontinued. Gregory Cowper described how a facility's high readmission rate effects Medicaid reimbursement rates. He noted patients use the system to be readmitted, and he explained how the uncertainty of reimbursement effects Medicaid providers and private hospitals.

Dr. Dickson mentioned an article stating California is very short of healthcare providers.

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

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 4, 2018 MEETING MINUTES**

Marlyn Scholl asked for corrections or additions to the May 4, 2018 meeting minutes. No changes were suggested.

**MARLYN SCHOLL ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 4, 2018 MEETING AS PRESENTED. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY JAMIE ROSS. MIKE BERNSTEIN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

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**

Fran Maldonado described her attempts to find a recommendation to fill the member position. She has submitted her application to the Office of Suicide Prevention to fill the position until another applicant can be found. Misty Allen suggested continued promotion to recruit for the position.

Marlyn 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 CULTURE**

Misty Allen discussed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report noting Nevada as the only state without an increase in its suicide rate. The report created media contact in the Office of Suicide Prevention and attention to Nevada. Richard Egan said data reporting of suicide deaths in the state has been changing toward consistency but work needs to continue. Mike Bernstein questioned if other states using the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) helped the states clarify and uncover suicides increasing their rates. Ms. Allen noted Nevada's data has been entered into the NVDRS. She shared recent Nevada suicide data, and explained the focus of the University of Nevada, School of Public Health interns working with the Office of Suicide Prevention. Laura Knight stated she will work with an intern to review deaths not referred to the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office. Ms. Allen noted a volunteer is working with Mr. Egan, and will coordinate with the interns to be consistent in data reporting and analysis.

Marlyn Scholl asked for public comment. None was heard.

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

Misty Allen shared the work to bring the Zero Suicide Initiative to Nevada. She discussed building regional committees in both Northern and Southern Nevada, the four year support system, and developing academies to further support the Initiative.

Lesley Dickson spoke on an article examining a very brief suicide intervention for emergency room staff. She announced a Psychological Association conference in February will include discussion on suicide. She mentioned a talk by a past president of the American Psychological Association on why people think about suicide. She said hospital emergency rooms are staffed by private practice therapists and the quality of service is not guaranteed. Ms. Allen reminded the committee behavioral health professionals are required to take suicide prevention training. Richard Egan is reaching behavioral health professionals with training.

Dr. Dickson gave an overview of the Eighth Judicial District Court presentation, "Mental Health and the Court System." The presentation reported on data related to patients entering the court system. Dr. Dickson clarified the process to establish a Legal 2000 and 72 hour hold. She noted very few patients are legally committed in Nevada. The members considered the process involving police,

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel and emergency room staff when bringing a person from their home to the hospital, and the difficulty of establishing an involuntary hospital admission. Ms. Allen shared her experience with a hospital discharge lacking discussion on suicide ideation. Dr. Dickson explained the purpose of the Court's mental health teams.

The members noted the difficulty of tracking Legal 2000 data in Southern Nevada due to the many possible systems collecting the data.

The members discussed concerns allowing EMS personnel to medically treat a patient and directly transfer the patient to a mental health hospital as proposed in a past state bill.

Mr. Egan shared the Community Health Improvement Program (CHIPs) is involved with mental health crises in Southern Nevada.

Marlyn 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**

Lesley Dickson reported all four regional boards continue to meet. The four bill draft requests are progressing and discussion is going well. Misty Allen noted recommendations from the rural areas are related to transportation, and the northern areas made recommendations related to crisis triage and drop in crisis centers. Jamie Ross shared discussions in the southern areas involve needing better data, increasing the capacity of the regional boards, and increasing access to mental health. Dr. Dickson said the consortiums want to keep children's issues separate from the regional boards. Ms. Allen stated only a few recommendations related to elder suicide have come from state committees on aging. Fran Maldonado offered her assistance in communicating with the Division of Child and Family Services.

Marlyn Scholl asked for public comment. None was heard.

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

Misty Allen offered no new information on this topic.

Marlyn Scholl asked for public comment. None was heard.

**10. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POSSIBLE PROMOTION OF LEGISLATION TO MANDATE THE SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE NUMBER IS LISTED ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG CONTAINERS**

Misty Allen explained the data prompting reason to include the suicide hotline number on the psychiatric prescription drug containers. Members discussed the positive aspects and hindrances of placing the number on the containers. Marlyn Scholl confirmed the Veterans Administration (VA) posts the number on their prescriptions. Members considered posting the number on bags and informational sheets. Ms. Scholl shared the VA partnered with Walgreens to facilitate a suicide prevention training. She will provide more information on the training at the next meeting. Ms. Allen recommended Jamie Ross discuss this topic with Liz Mac Menimin, Vice President of Government Affairs, Retail Association of Nevada. Ms. Allen suggested working with community members instead of mandating this recommendation. The members discussed working with local

non-corporate pharmacies such as Southern Nevada Health District's hospital, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health's hospital and Mojave Mental Health. The members shared the reasons this proposed mandate would not pass, such as cost and additional mandates for information on the labels.

The members considered the possibility of approaching Senator Dean Heller's and Senator Catherine Cortez Masto's representatives about this mandate because of the national rise in suicide. The members talked about the United States Congress working to provide a three digit suicide prevention number. Ms. Allen advocated contacting the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (Lifeline) representatives regarding the work to change the number.

Ms. Scholl questioned if having the Lifeline number on the container provides liability protection to the pharmaceutical companies.

Gregory Cowper shared his personal experience regarding marketing and the Lifeline number on pharmacy items. He is willing to have the number on the Montevista Hospital pharmacy items. Richard Egan noted having entities established with the Lifeline number on their pharmacy items will make it easier to pass a bill.

The members considered the benefit of having a three digit number and proposed numbers. Mr. Egan described the suicide prevention training occurring with the Nevada 211 Las Vegas staff.

Lesley Dickson and Ms. Allen proposed pharmacy outreach, such as decals at drive thru windows.

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

#### **11. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DATES OF UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS THROUGH JANUARY 2019**

The committee plans to hold a teleconferenced meeting on September 5, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. to discuss the report to the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services. Misty Allen will try to send the draft report to the committee by August 27, 2018 for their review before the meeting. The next teleconferenced meeting was tentatively set for November 6, 2018 at 1 p.m. to discuss the winter in-person meeting. The committee tentatively planned to hold an in-person meeting on January 17, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. John Fudenberg reserved a conference room at his office for the January meeting. Richard Egan noted having future in-person meetings at the Coroners' Offices makes access to case information more convenient.

Marlyn Scholl asked for public comment. None was heard.

#### **12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Marlyn Scholl asked for public comment. None was heard.

#### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 AM.