

COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES
OPEN MEETING MINUTES
March 2, 2020
9:15 AM

Nye County Sheriff's Department
Southern Area Command
1520 East Basin Avenue, Squad Room
Pahrump, Nevada 89060

TELECONFERENCE:
Dial-In Toll-free Number 1-866-434-5269
Participants Code# 7501044

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN PAHRUMP

Mike Bernstein, M. Ed., Nevada Coalition for Suicide Prevention, Co-Chair
Marlyn Scholl, LCSW, Veterans Health Administration, Sierra Nevada Health Care System, Reno, Co-Chair
Lesley Dickson, MD, Nevada Psychiatric Association
John Harney, Sergeant, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Terry Kerns, Substance Abuse Law Enforcement Coordinator, Nevada Attorney General's Office
Fran Maldonado, Tribal Liaison, Division of Child and Family Services
Jamie Elizabeth Ross, Executive Director, PACT Coalition for Safe and Drug-Free Communities

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Gregory Cowper, Director of Business Development, Montevista Hospital
John Fudenberg, D-ABMDI, Coroner, Clark County Coroner/Medical Examiner's Office
Sheila Leslie, MA, Retired, Washoe County Social Services, Consultant, Sagepine Strategies

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF PRESENT IN PAHRUMP

Misty Vaughan Allen, Nevada Statewide 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, Training and Outreach Facilitator, DPBH-BCFCW-OSP
Angela Friedman, Administrative Assistant IV, DPBH-BCFCW-OSP
Larry Hamm, Practicum Student, DPBH-BCFCW-OSP

OTHERS PRESENT IN PAHRUMP

Albert Bass, NyE Communities Coalition, Nye County School District
Sharon Benson, Senior Deputy Attorney General, NV Attorney General's Office
David Boruchowitz, Undersheriff, Nye County Sheriff's Office
Annie Brucato, NyE Communities Coalition
Stacy Burns, Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator, NyE Communities Coalition
Kevin Clickner, Pahrump Valley Fire and Rescue Services
Michael Eisenloffel, Undersheriff, Nye County Sheriff's Office
Jennifer Fanning, Pahrump Valley Fire and Rescue Services
Karen Holley, Coordinator of Federal & State Programs, Nye County School District
Scott Lewis, Pahrump Valley Fire and Rescue Services
Kathie McKenna, NV Outreach Training Organization & Pioneer Territory, CASA, Inc.
Hank Melton, Nye County Public Health Officer, Nye County
Sharon Wehrly, Sheriff, Nye County Sheriff's Office

OTHERS PRESENT VIA PHONE

Laura Knight, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner, Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office (WCRMEO)

Kelli Oxborrow, D-ABMDI, Medicolegal Death Investigator/Technician Supervisor, WCRMEO

Mike Bernstein called the meeting of the Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities (CRSF) to order at 9:15 AM. Due to technical difficulties, the meeting started late. 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

All attendees, including members, introduced themselves. A quorum was present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Bernstein asked for public comment. None was heard.

3. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 27, 2020 OPEN AND CLOSED MEETING MINUTES.

MIKE BERNSTEIN ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE OPEN AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2020 MEETING. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY LESLEY DICKSON. JAMIE ROSS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

Mr. Bernstein asked for public comment. None was heard.

4. MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS, PURSUANT TO NRS 439.5106 FOR CHANGES IN ANY LAW, POLICY OR PRACTICE THAT MAY ASSIST THE COMMITTEE IN PREVENTING SUICIDE FATALITIES IN THIS STATE OR RELATED SERIOUS OCCURRENCES, TO BE PRESENTED IN THE REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

Misty Allen explained the purpose the Committee and the reason to hold the meetings at rural community locations which is to promote prevention, awareness and communication among community members regarding suicide prevention. She talked about the Humboldt County meeting, the report developed from the meeting, and how the data can help communities. She spoke of the need to capture and access real time data. Sharon Benson encouraged the community Saying real time reporting such as the Attorney General's Office conducts regarding overdose victims would be implemented for suicide data. Ms. Allen noted a meeting was occurring to discuss mandating reporting in real time. Terry Kerns noted mandated reporting is in effect.

Richard Egan discussed the Good Samaritan Law is missing language regarding helping those with suicidal ideation.

Jamie Ross and Ms. Allen discussed the committee focusing on future community-based prevention, attempt data and upstream prevention. Mr. Egan suggested a focus on determining if efforts in the decedents' past could have prevented the suicides. The members discussed the barriers to mental health care: expansive differences in insurance coverage, high deductibles, and accessibility and availability to behavioral health services. Lesley Dickson stated the Mental Health Parity Law is not being enforced. She recounted a situation with a Managed Care Provider and noted it will take great effort to enforce the law. Hank Melton asked about the different insurance coverage plans for mental health. Ms. Ross noted in Clark County a significant number of families have insurance and are unable to afford the care. Dr. Dickson discussed the renegotiating of the insurance plans between employers and insurance providers. Ms. Ross suggested a focus on determining the decedent's barrier to mental health care. Mike Bernstein spoke of a family member's experience of

searching for insurance coverage. Dr. Dickson noted the Affordable Care Act requires a mental health coverage, but the coverage varies greatly. Mr. Bernstein expressed the need to reduce the amount of stigma related to mental health. Dr. Kerns said 2018 data on substance abuse treatment reported 10% of the services were paid by private insurance and the rest were paid by self-pay, private pay or government funded programs. Annie Burcato agreed with the earlier comments and expressed the need for suicide prevention speakers and activists to address the public. Ms. Allen said collecting information on the decedent's access to health care and insurance coverage will have to come from interviews with family members which is difficult. Mr. Melton commented on the insurance coverage disparity related to mental health. Dr. Dickson said most persons in Nevada are covered by ERISA (Employee Retirement Income Security Act) plans over which the state government has no control. She discussed the difficulties with Medicaid and Managed Care. Albert Bass was encouraged by a conference he attended last year at which a White House staff discussed in depth the need for change in the accessibility of care.

Mr. Egan and Kathie McKenna discussed the role and importance of the Insurance Navigator. Ms. McKenna explained her office visits the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) office to help clients who have lost their Medicaid insurance.

Sheriff Sharon Wehrly, Marlyn Scholl and Dr. Dickson discussed the great difficulty of inmates losing their Veterans Administration (VA) and Medicaid benefits creating a lapse of coverage after they are released. Ms. Scholl will investigate the problem related to VA and Pahrump residents. Sheriff Wehrly said she approached both the federal and state governments regarding this issue. Mr. Bass noted Nye Community Coalition is working to resolve this issue as well and hired a case manager to help reinstate coverage. Sheriff Wehrly detailed a situation in 2013 involving a mentally ill inmate and how after over five months of work to reinstate his coverage it was resolved. She stated her jails have medical and mental services at all hours, but she recognized other communities are suffering. Ms. Scholl will work with Sheriff Wehrly to address the issues with VA coverage. David Boruchowitz acknowledged the concern related to insurance benefits and those incarcerated. Annie Brucato explained a process exists to reinstate coverage, but it does take time. Sheriff Wehrly commented the lapse effects a person with a chronic illness.

5. DISCUSS, REVIEW AND APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AS DEVELOPED AFTER THE REVIEW OF WINNEMUCCA SUICIDE FATALITY CASES.

Mike Bernstein noted a need for changes on page 3 to the report. Misty Allen said she found some minor errors. Lesley Dickson asked to number the pages. Ms. Allen remarked many of the suggestions in the report were upstream recommendations. Albert Bass noted the need to implement some of the suggestions in Nye County. Ms. Allen explained how the suggestions came about, how the data was discussed in the report, and the need for approval process within the state department before the report could be released.

MIKE BERNSTEIN ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WITH CORRECTIONS AS DISCUSSED. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY LESLEY DICKSON. JAMIE ROSS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

Ms. Allen will submit the report for approval to her supervisor and route for approval as needed.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The open portion of the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.