



Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities
MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, January 25th, 2022
3:00 p.m. - Adjournment

Meeting Locations:

Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention
4600 Kietzke Lane, B-114
Reno, NV 89502

Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention
3811 West Charleston Blvd., Suite 210
Las Vegas, NV 89102

Zoom Meeting Log-In:

<https://zoom.us/j/9935357369?pwd=cE0rNFNkamhmWk1VR0oxbWFmSkJQQT09>

Dial-In:

+1 669 900 9128 US (Pacific Time Zone)

Meeting ID: 993 535 7369

Passcode: 158354

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Lesley Dickson, MD, Nevada Psychiatric Association

Dr. Laura Knight, Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner, Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner'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

Sheila L. Leslie, MA, Retired, Washoe County Social Services, Consultant, Sagepine Strategies

Allison Zednick, CEO, Desert Parkway, Interim CEO for Reno Behavioral Hospital

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mike Bernstein, M. Ed., Nevada Coalition for Suicide Prevention, Co-Chair

Sergeant Chris Kennedy, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Homicide Section

Terry Kerns, Substance Abuse Law Enforcement Coordinator, Nevada Attorney General's Office

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF PRESENT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

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

Nick Christie, Administrative Assistant, DPBH-BCFCW-OSP

OTHERS PRESENT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Linda Anderson, Public Health Policy Analyst, Nevada Public Health Foundation

Sharon Benson, Deputy Attorney General

Jennifer Conrad, Magellan Health

Richard Gent, Washoe County Sheriff's Rail Auxiliary Team

Dr. Jan Gorniak, Coroner Medical Examiner, Clark County Medical Examiner's Office

Kathryn Hooper, Community Resource & Resiliency Center, City of Henderson

Elyse Monroy, Program Manager, Overdose Data To Action

Senator Pat Spearman, Nevada State Senate

1. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Misty Vaughan Allen called meeting to order at 3:09pm. All attendees, including members, introduced themselves. A quorum was present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Misty Vaughan Allen asked for public comment.

Richard Gent from the Washoe County Sheriff's Rail Auxiliary Team. Mr. Gent described his organization's work as being the eyes and ears of various law enforcement agencies specifically related to the railroad infrastructure. Part of their work relates to preventing suicide activities on railroads. Mr. Gent offered his thanks to Ms. Allen and this group for providing him and his team with training on suicide prevention and intervention strategies. Due to this training, his team was able to help prevent two attempted suicides during the past year.

No other public comment was heard.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 26, 2021 CLOSED MEETING MINUTES AND THE JUNE 28, 2021 OPEN MEETING MINUTES.

MISTY VAUGHAN ALLEN ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 26, 2021 CLOSED MEETING. A MOTION TO APPROVE THE OPEN MINUTES WAS MADE BY SHEILA LESLIE. DR. LESLEY DICKSON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

MS. ALLEN ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 28, 2021 OPEN MEETING. Dr. Jan Gorniak noted a correction to her name. Dr. Laura Knight noted a correction to the name of her office. A MOTION TO APPROVE THE OPEN MINUTES WITH CORRECTIONS WAS MADE BY JAMIE ROSS. ALLISON ZEDNICEK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

4. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A CO-CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES

Misty Vaughan Allen reviewed the committee by-laws for the committee chair, and described the role of helping to run the Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities meetings, with a term expiration date of September 30, 2023. Dr. Laura Knight volunteered to become Co-Chair.

JAMIE ROSS MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE DR. KNIGHT AS CO-CHAIR. SHEILA LESLIE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

5. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE VACANT MEMBER POSITION AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VETERANS

Misty Vaughan Allen updated the Committee on the application for Stacy Holybee, suicide prevention specialist for the Department of Veterans Affairs, which is still ongoing. Senator Pat Spearman expressed enthusiasm for having a female in this position.

6. PRESENTATION BY ELYSE MONROY, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVERSITY ADVISOR, OPIOID PROGRAM LEAD. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO OPIOID FATALITY REVIEW AND FUNDING.

PowerPoint Presentation on Zoom. Posted by Nick Christie after the meeting.

This presentation serves as a follow up from a previous presentation at the last meeting in June 2021. Overview of Overdose To Action (OD2A) components; Surveillance and Prevention. Ms. Monroy had requested at the June meeting for consideration of a pilot program for overdose fatality review, to help shape policy direction and possible legislation. OD2A will find available data regarding the intersection of suicide and overdose. Overdose statistics were discussed: 13% of suicides in 2018 had an immediate cause of death of drug intoxication. Of those, 39.8% of suicide victims left a suicide note or other documentation. Ms. Monroy discussed the difference between ‘active intent’ and ‘passive intent’ to die by suicide when taking opioids, but acknowledged there is a degree of nuance when determining this. Dr. Laura Knight and Richard Egan discussed how ‘passive intent’ can often be hard to determine; for example, an elderly person may decide to stop taking medication and then technically die by suicide, but would officially be considered to have died by natural causes. Consistency in determining clear intent is difficult. Dr. Knight suggested exploring ‘undetermined intent’ cases, and Ms. Monroy offered to look into where these cases might be reported. Ms. Monroy proposed a case definition for review; deaths investigated in Clark County’s jurisdiction; manner of death was suicide; primary/underlying cause of death includes opioids as a contributing cause; and manner type was poisoning, drug-related, or drug/alcohol-related. Senator Pat Spearman asked about pain medication follow ups, particularly among senior citizens, to see if they are screened after prescription for signs of suicidal ideation. Ms. Monroy responded this is an area which does need to be explored further, and offered to follow up with Senator Spearman on senior citizen opioid issues. Jamie Ross asked what will be the desired outcome of this pilot fatality review. Ms. Monroy responded the purpose is an evaluation of the system as a way to determine where the gaps are. Ms. Ross also asked if, given the rapidly changing trends in opioid abuse over the last 12-24 months, will the cases being

reviewed be recent enough to address these trends. Dr. Knight agreed the more recent the cases the better, and also 90% of her autopsy reports are resolved within 60 days. Mr. Egan clarified the only recent cases which would not be able to be reviewed are those in ongoing litigation. Further discussion took place regarding the OD2A's funding for a report on the cases being reviewed at the next meeting. There were no further comments.

7. DISCUSS AND MAKE PLANS FOR TWO-DAY FACE-TO-FACE REVIEW TO INCLUDE FOCUS ON PHYSICIAN SUICIDE AND OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS

Misty Vaughan Allen and Richard Egan proposed for the two days; one day would be spent focusing on opioid overdoses, and the other would focus on physician suicides. Mr. Egan suggested the meeting take place at the Clark County Coroners Office in order to have the records be readily accessible. Two consecutive dates in early June will be selected by the committee after this meeting.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Misty Vaughan Allen asked for public comment.

Sheila Leslie asked for an update on the regulation process for AB181. Ms. Allen stated due to staff turnover in the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, this process has not yet begun.

Richard Egan shared with the committee the preliminary data for 2020 from the Center for Disease Control shows Nevada suicide rates have gone down, and as a state we now rank 12th or 13th in the nation for suicides. However, the data also indicates an age shift towards the youth, with increases in suicides among 18-24 year olds and 17 year old and under, while 25-64 have decreased substantially, and seniors aged 65+ are increasing slightly.

Elyse Monroy shared information on an upcoming townhall event for the Nevada Coalition for Minority Health and Equity.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

A motion to adjourn at 4:28pm was made and accepted.

The agenda may be viewed on the Internet at the [Nevada State Office of Suicide Prevention website](#), and the [Nevada Public Notice website](#). Written comments in excess of one (1) typed page on any agenda item requiring a vote are respectfully requested to be submitted to the Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities (CRSF) at the below address prior to the meeting to ensure adequate consideration is given to the material.

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who have a disability and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements are necessary, please notify Nick Christie, staff to the CRSF in writing by email at n.christie@health.nv.gov, by mail at



Nevada State Office of Suicide Prevention, 4600 Kietzke Lane, B-114, Reno, NV 89502 or by calling (775) 684-2237 before the meeting date.

If you need supporting documents for this meeting, please notify Nick Christie, Nevada State Office of Suicide Prevention at (775) 684-2237 or by email at n.christie@health.nv.gov. Supporting materials are available for the public on the [Nevada State Office of Suicide Prevention website](#) and at the following locations:

4600 Kietzke Lane, B-114, Reno, NV 89502

3811 West Charleston Blvd., Suite 210, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102