

**COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES
OPEN MEETING MINUTES
September 6, 2019
2:10 PM**

Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)
Bureau of Child, Family and Community
Wellness (BCFCW)
Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP)
4600 Kietzke Lane, B-114
Reno, NV 89502

DPBH-BCFCW-OSP
3811 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 204
Las Vegas, NV 89102

TELECONFERENCE:

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT BY PHONE

Marlyn Scholl, LCSW, Veterans Health
Administration, Sierra Nevada Health Care
System, Reno, Co-Chair
Lesley Dickson, MD, Nevada Psychiatric
Association
Sheila Leslie, MA, Retired, Washoe County
Social Services, Consultant, Sagepine Strategies
Jamie Elizabeth Ross, Executive Director, PACT
Coalition for Safe and Drug-Free Communities
John Harney, Sergeant, Las Vegas Metropolitan
Police Department

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

John Fudenberg, D-ABMDI, Clark County
Coroner
Fran Maldonado, Tribal Liaison, Division of Child
and Family Services
Mike Bernstein, M. Ed., representative of injury
prevention, Nevada Coalition for Suicide
Prevention, Co-Chair
Gregory Cowper, Director of Business
Development, Montevista Hospital

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF PRESENT IN RENO

Misty Vaughan Allen, Nevada Statewide Suicide Prevention Coordinator, DPBH-BCFCW-OSP
Angela Friedman, Administrative Assistant IV, DPBH-BCFCW-OSP

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS

Richard Egan, Training and Outreach Facilitator, DPBH-BCFCW-OSP

OTHERS PRESENT

Laura D. Knight, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner, Washoe County Regional Medical
Examiner's Office
Senator Patricia Spearman, Co-Majority Whip, Nevada State Legislator, District 1

Marlyn Scholl called the meeting of the Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities (CRSF) to order at 2:10 PM. 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

Roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 23, 2019 OPEN AND CLOSED MEETING MINUTES.

Lesley Dickson noted the word "Sergeant" occurred after her title in both sets of minutes and should be removed.

MARLYN SCHOLL ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE OPEN AND CLOSED MINUTES OF THE JULY 23, 2019 MEETING WITH THE CORRECTION AS STATED. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY SHEILA LESLIE. LESLEY DICKSON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

Marlyn Scholl asked for public comment. None was heard. Ms. Scholl and Sheila Leslie discussed the need to ask for public comment after each agenda item. Ms. Scholl determined she would ask now and at the end of the meeting.

3. DISCUSS WINNEMUCCA FATALITY REVIEW TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY CORONER BASED ON THE CASES DISCUSSED ON JULY 23RD.

Misty Allen presented the demographics, recommendations and implementations related to the cases as noted in the closed minutes of the July 23rd meeting. She reported a prevalence of relationship issues, visits to healthcare systems, and diagnosed individuals not receiving care. She mentioned the need for healthcare safety planning, counseling for reducing access to lethal means, and training for the community to help them recognize risk of suicide in others. She noted Utah's report discussed three factors often occurring together were decedents having passed background checks or having conceal carry permits, alcohol abuse, and relationship issues. Marlyn Scholl believed Kelly Oxborrow was going to connect the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office with a first responder peer support program. Richard Egan discussed the Connectiveness Campaign and the Police Employee Assistance Program (PEAP). Ms. Allen and Ms. Scholl discussed the presence of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) in Humboldt County. Ms. Allen said she would research to what extent NAMI is present in Humboldt County. Ms. Scholl discussed the Warriors to Soul Mates intensive skill building program which strengthens couple relationships within the veteran community. She suggested a similar program is needed within the rural areas. She said the Crisis Line offers this program to the callers and pamphlets advertise the program. Ms. Scholl and Ms. Allen discussed the effect of relationships in suicides. Ms. Allen noted the MSNBC report about suicide, alcohol, firearms and relationship problems and the similar situations in the Humboldt County cases. Ms. Allen and Ms. Scholl discussed how to disseminate the availability if a similar program existed, funding for such a program, and reaching out to the suicide prevention task force in Winnemucca to support such a program.

Sheila Leslie suggested approaching the local coalition to promote a more intensive public education campaign about depression and getting help combined with skill-based workshops. She agreed presenting more concrete suggestions to the community would be beneficial. Ms. Leslie suggested asking the state to review the level and kind of rural mental health services available to the community. Ms. Scholl and Ms. Allen discussed the local task force's efforts to present gun locks, their supply of locks and safes, and creating a committee within the task force to focus on access to lethal means. Ms. Allen and Mr. Egan discussed Colorado's map showing locations willing to temporarily hold firearms for people at risk of suicide. Mr. Egan said Nevada's gun shops owners and other business owners are hesitant to hold firearms. He discussed the need for education regarding storing firearms, liability, government support, and background checks. Ms. Scholl stated gun owners fear losing their firearms if they seek out mental health treatment.

Ms. Allen noted Undersheriff Malone's invitation to ride-a-longs might help support the need for increased mental health services. Ms. Leslie would like the Committee to follow through to show support to the Humboldt County area. Ms. Scholl and Mr. Egan discussed barriers to law enforcement asking about firearms in the home as a way to present gun owners with locks, and the

fear the firearm will be taken away. Ms. Scholl suggested asking the Sheriff's Office if they would give out gun locks.

Ms. Allen noted Jamie Ross suggested at the last meeting the Columbia Suicide Severity Screen can be used to determine the need to counsel on removing access to lethal means. Ms. Allen suggested the Committee create a protocol for the Sheriff's Office regarding suicide screening and provide the Sheriff's Office with locks and safes. Mr. Egan said 10 safes will be delivered to Reno from Las Vegas. Ms. Allen will notify Undersheriff Malone the recommendations are being worked on. She let the committee know a draft will be sent out to them. Due to Open Meeting Law, the members will need to respond separately to Ms. Allen.

Ms. Scholl invited the members to participate in the Spotlight on Suicide Prevention: Rural Veteran Suicide Prevention free webinar presented by the Veterans Administration on September 9th. Anyone can participate. Angela Friedman will send out the webinar link to the members.

Senator Patricia Spearman suggested contacting the Nevada Department of Veteran Services and the Commander of the Nevada National Guard to help distribute the safes and gun locks. Ms. Allen will follow up with her contacts at the Nevada National Air Guard and National Army Guard regarding safes and gun locks.

Ms. Allen would like the report to objectively and cautiously address the videos and letters to the editor to support the Sheriff's Office. She requested the members help with the wording of the report.

Laura Knight suggested making a formal recommendation to use the information on how to fully investigate a suicide which was presented by Kelly Oxborrow at the July 23rd meeting, including using the suicide assessment tool, and having a qualified forensic pathologist examine all suicide cases. Dr. Knight has already spoken with Undersheriff Malone about the limitations of manpower. She suggested making the recommendation of outsourcing the transportation of the bodies to Reno. Ms. Allen thanked Dr. Knight for Ms. Oxborrow's time.

4. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UPCOMING FACE TO FACE MEETINGS, TO INCLUDE LOCATIONS, FREQUENCY AND FUNDING.

Misty Allen supported holding meetings at other rural areas and acknowledged the travel difficulties. Marlyn Scholl recommended holding a third meeting in the rural area to help build relationships. Lesley Dickson supported being a presence in the rural communities. Sheila Leslie agreed it is important to request additional funds to accomplish the extra trip. Ms. Leslie thanked Laura Knight for Ms. Oxborrow's time. Dr. Knight said if she were not available for meetings with her rural county partners, she would send one of her staff.

Ms. Scholl, Ms. Leslie and Dr. Dickson agreed the third meeting would be helpful. Ms. Allen said she would look into costs for a third meeting. Dr. Dickson recommended a trip to Pahrump. Ms. Scholl suggested holding two meetings at the same time, one being in the rural area. Since Las Vegas is scheduled for the next face to face meeting, Pahrump would be a good rural area to visit.

MARLYN SCHOLL ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO MAKE THE NEXT FACE TO FACE MEETING A TRIP TO LAS VEGAS AND PAHRUMP, AND THEN BASED ON THE TRIP, LOOK AT WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH THREE (3) SEPARATE MEETINGS THE

FOLLOWING FISCAL YEAR. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY LESLEY DICKSON. SHEILA LESLIE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Misty Allen asked the committee for agenda items for future meetings. Sheila Leslie requested an update on senior suicides. Ms. Allen noted Renown Medical Center, Washoe County Health District and the Heath Communities Consortium completed an application for the Robert Wood Foundation grant, The Build Challenge. The grant application which proposed reduction in loneliness with an outcome for reduced senior suicide. She will update on the grant at the next meeting.

Marlyn Scholl requested possible dates for the meeting from the committee. Angela Friedman will send out a Doodle request to poll members if January 27th to 28th, or February 3rd to 4th will work for the Las Vegas and Pahrump meetings.

Ms. Allen noted a brief call before the face to face meeting will need to occur to approve the final report to the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office.

Senator Patricia Spearman reported SB204 passed which will help schools develop a plan of action for suicide prevention and intervention and hoped the committee was involved. Ms. Allen explained the Office of Suicide Prevention and the Department of Education are involved but this committee focuses mainly on adult suicides. Richard Egan noted the Child Death Review Committee is involved with assisting to make recommendations to implement SB204 as well. He shared detail on youth suicide data noting isolation is shown as a driver of the suicides. He noted the agencies involved in writing the report on youth suicides.

Ms. Scholl thanked Senator Spearman for her participation in the call.

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

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM