

**Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, June 24, 2024**

**I. Call to order, Roll Call and Introductions:**

Laura D. Knight called meeting to order at 9:10 AM

**Voting members were:**

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

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

Allison Zednicek, CEO of Behavioral Health services at Southern Hills Hospital in LV

Stacy Holybee, Suicide Prevention at the VA, Sierra Nevada in Reno

**Workgroup staff participants were:**

Misty Vaughan Allen, Nevada Statewide Suicide Prevention Coordinator, DHHS-DPBH-NOSP

Richard Egan, Training and Outreach Facilitator, DHHS-DPBH- NOSP

Elizabeth Willis, Administrative Assistant, DHHS-DPBH- NOSP

Sharon Benson, Deputy Attorney General

Amy Lucas, Management Analyst at the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Analytics

**Other workgroup participants were:**

Crystal Patterson, Support peer for North Las Vegas Police Department. Candace Brodie, Vision Suicide Prevention Lead, Sabrina Schnur, Las Vegas Review- Journal with Government Affairs, Nathan Schaller, Runswick pathologist at the Clark County Office of the corner (Medical Examiner), Margaritte Bouffard, NCIRP; Ryley Harris, Youth Move Nevada, Kathryn Martin Waldman DCFS, Carley Murry, Nevada PEP; Kary Wilder DCFS, Dominique Carter, DCFS, Heidi Laird, SNHD, Kyra Morgan, DCFS Office of Analytics, Vania Oronoz, Nevada PEP, and Alfonso Gibbs, Veteran's Administration.

**II. Public Comment**

- 1) Laura D. Knight asked for public comment.
- 2) No public comments were heard.

**III. Members Announcements of Upcoming Events**

- 1) No upcoming announcements

#### **IV. DISCUSS/ RECAP SUICIDE REVIEW ACADEMY**

- 1) Richard Egan gave a recap of the Suicide Review Academy: We held our pre-Academy site visit virtually in early February. We discussed where the Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities (CRSF) was in the process to prepare for the in-person Academy. The CRSF and others from across the state attended the March Suicide Morality Review Academy in Phoenix, AZ. While there, the CRSF reviewed supporting documentation and supporting efforts with CRSF. In June, the suicide Mortality Review Post Academy was held in-person in Las Vegas. The team discussed the NRS and where we can improve our processes, increasing the number of meetings we have as public meetings versus our death reviews which are closed meetings.
- 2) Laura D. Knight made a motion to make the meeting closed to the public to protect confidential information. Allison Zednicek seconded motion. Terry Kern and Stacy Holybee agreed.

#### **V. Review/Discuss Bylaws and NRS Governing this Committee**

- 1) The CRSF considered adding additional members, to make it easier to have a quorum. An increase in at large membership capability will enable the committee to increase participation of subject matter experts from the community. This would broaden participation across the state and make it easier to find a co-chair.
- 2) Terry Kerns made a comment to agree on expanded membership. We have good membership participation from our urban areas, but it would be nice as well to get maybe some of the rural.
- 3) Misty Allen mention we will need to find a sponsor to submit a BDR for this. It doesn't appear DPBH is able.
- 4) Dr. Laura Knight made a motion, to move forward with revisions to the NRS. Allison Zednicek seconded the motion. Terry Kerns and Stacy Holybee voted to approve.

#### **VI. REVIEW/DISCUSS AT-LARGE MEMBERSHIP. - CHAIR FOR POSSIBLE ACTION CRSF MEMBERSHIP, DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF AT LARGE MEMBERS IN THIS COMMITTEE.**

- 1) Laura D. Knight stated, any Changes to the Bylaws will be set on hold till further notice.

#### **VII. DISCUSS REVIEW/DISCUSS CASE SELECTION DOCUMENTS. – CHAIR FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

- 1) Richard Egan reviewed for possible updates.

- 2) Amy Lucas went over the changes made on the Method of Sampling Death Certificates for the Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities revised Ms. Lucas wanted to make the revision more general than the original documents. CRSF will review death cases as they see fit in Nevada, the cases will be broken down into two different groups (Group A and Group B) 50% North/ 50% South. CRSF will ascertain the deceased's address, county, and time of death, which will also show on the death certificate which the individual in groups A and B death by suicide. Consider the following demographics: age, gender, race, military service, state of residence, Nevada or expatriate status, and death. Laura D. Knight moved to accept the sampling method as our case selection criteria as proposed. Terry Kerns seconded the motion. Allison Zednicek and Stacy Holybee approve the motion.

#### **VIII. APPROVAL OF NEXT MEETING**

- 1) Elizabeth Willis will be sending out doodles to the CRSF Committee members to schedule the next review meeting which will be held in August. We will have 5 scheduled meetings for 90 minutes to progress.

#### **IX. Adjournment.**

- 1) Meeting adjourned at 10:07 AM.

**Chat Transcript** – Available upon request