

Juneau Community Suicide Prevention Task Force Steering Committee

Minutes for September 22nd, 2011

T&H Conference Room, ANB Hall

Present: Christopher Cairns (NAMI), Katie Chapman (NAMI), Jeri Museth (CCTHITA), Pam Watts (JAMHI), Doug Harris (JAMHI), Kris Sell (JPD), Ginny Hayes (BRH-MHU), Sondra Sexton-Jones, Kevin Ritchie, Hyla Wright (JSD), Tom McCabe (JYS), Bethany Burgess (JYS), Michelle Sobel (VA), Gus Marx (JYS), Michael Mennis (AWARE)

Introductions and Welcome to new participants –

Michael Mennis – Representing AWARE

Sondra Sexton-Jones – Private Practice Therapist/Certified Grief Counselor

NOT PRESENT:

Mariya Lovishchuk – Representing The Glory Hole

Rev. George Silides – Representing Holy Trinity

Update on prevention/early intervention grant- Hyla Wright, Gus Marx, Chris Cairns, Walter Majores are going to Anchorage 9/27-9/29 to attend a mandatory meeting for BHP grantees to learn prevention models and grant reporting requirements

School-Based Services Update-

Signs of Suicide (SOS) Update

Hyla reported that JDHS counselors will be out of town the week SOS was originally scheduled. Because of this SOS @ JDHS has been rescheduled for November 15th-16th. SOS @ TMHS will still occur on November 1st-2nd. A new updated version of the High-School SOS video has been purchased. JSD counselors have requested that during SOS follow-up screens, a JYS staff person be available to explain to parents what services are available and/or are being offered. SOS @ Floyd Dryden will tentatively occur at the end of October. DZ has already presented a round of SOS. Hyla has perceived a lot of resistance from facility to the idea of SOS screening at a middle school level and she suggested organizing a Dr. Baugher screening for facility to mitigate this.

Behavioral Health Specialists Update

Tom also reported a perceived resistance from the Middle School faculty regarding the SOS curriculum, specifically a worry that it will put the idea of suicide in the children's heads. Tom is worried that as a JYS employee and not a school district employee there may be potential legal issues in his clinical interaction with the students and would like to look into getting special permission slips from parents.

Bethany reported that Yaakoosge has primarily needed her to provide crisis counseling to address the deaths of several current and past students in the last few weeks and because of a higher than average homeless population this year. Bethany hopes to start student support groups with Hyla and Katie and knows of a gentleman named John Smith that has expressed interest in leading a male group at TMHS. Bethany will be stationed in The Teen Health Center and because of this if a student has a consent form with the THC, Bethany will be able to work with them. Unlike regular JYS clients, students self-referring to the THC do not require an intake assessment.

Training and Public Awareness Update

Chris & Katie reported that Chris is focusing on bringing the Dr. Baugher video to as many venues as possible. A summary of the previous months showings are as follows:

9/6 - monthly reoccurring @ United Way – 2 people

9/14 – Full-time Ministers Meeting of Dioceses of Southeast Alaska @ Saint Annes – 28 people

9/15 – Students Services Staff @ UAS – 7 people

9/24 – Disaster Expo @ Centennial Hall – 7 people

Postvention Update

Kris reported an unusual and alarming number of deaths this month. Since September 5th there have been: 8 deaths total, 2 were suicides, 4 by natural causes but only one of these four was expected and the other three were people between the ages of 18-54, 2 were accidents. In reaction to a Juneau Empire reporter claiming that he was requesting information from the JPD about a recent suicide on behest of the JSPTF, Pam reminded committee members that we are not to contact or share information with the media. Walter and Kris suggested that Chris see about placing a full-page insert in the Juneau Empire as a public outreach effort in response to this unfortunate spate of deaths.

Committee Sign-Up

Walter passed around sign-up sheets for the three JSPTF subcommittees: Postvention, Training and Public Awareness & School-based Services.

The following members signed-up for:

Postvention-

- Sondra Sexton-Jones
- Kris Sell/Paul Hatch
- Doug Harris
- Jerri Museth
- Pam Watts
- Chris Cairns

School-based Services-

- Tom McCabe
- Hyla Wright
- Bethany Burgess

Training and Public Awareness-

- Chris Cairns
- Ginny Hayes
- Katie Chapman
- Gus Marx

Partner Reports and Other Business

Veteran's Affairs- Michelle offered to provide the JSPTF with VA literature regarding veterans and suicidality for use in creating a veteran's brochure but she would be unable to officially endorse the completed product. Michelle also knows of a client that is a suicide survivor and has completed a lot of trauma therapy who is interested in public speaking opportunities

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday , OCT 19th @ 4:00PM - Location JAMHI