

Minutes of Suicide Prevention Council  
January 26, 2009

Present: Tom Andrew (OCME), Paul Deignan (DOS), Nicole Duclos (CFS), Elizabeth Fenner-Lukaitis (DBHS, DHHS), Kim Firth (EFH), Elaine Frank (IPC, DHMC), Marie Gagnon (Survivor), Molly Gosline (DOE), Alicia L'Esperance (DPHS, DHHS), James MacKay (Comm on Mental Health), Robert MacLoed (DOC), Aviva Meyers (New Futures), Jo Moncher (BCR, DHHS), Ken Norton (NAMI NH), Rev. Angelo Pappas, Sebrina Posey (Manchester VA) Maggie Pritchard (NHCBHA), Nancy Rollins (DCBCS, DHHS), Rep. Trinka Russell, Rhonda Siegel (DPHS, DHHS), Catrina Watson (NHMS), Betty Welch (Elliott), Rep Roger Wells, Al Wright (Rockingham County Corrections), Connie Young (Service Link)

Jo Moncher welcomed everyone to the meeting. All present introduced themselves.

Chairman Jim MacKay shared his idea for a Recognition Event that would recognize the efforts of those who are associated with the Suicide Prevention Council and bring some attention to the Council's work. It was suggested that this event also serve another purpose to justify the time commitment for people traveling a distance to attend. A small work group was established to work on this following further discussion by the Leadership Group.

**Suicide Statistics and Quarterly Case Review**

Elizabeth Fenner-Lukaitis presented the statistical summary  
Since 11/17/08, there were a total of 29 rulings of suicide death (1 finalized, 28 new)  
24 males and 5 females; the ages ranged from 14 to 88 years old  
13 firearms – 12 males, 1 female  
11 hanging - 8 males, 3 females  
2 CO - both males  
1 each asphyxiation, overdose and multiple incisions

The total for 2008 was 172 suicide deaths.

At each meeting, we will present a case to illustrate significant or emerging issues. Due to confidentiality concerns, the details will not be included in the minutes.

**Leadership Meeting Review**

Jo Moncher led a discussion of the Leadership Meeting that took place in December. Among topics discussed was the need to identify a Fiscal Agent for the Suicide Prevention Council. One organization has agreed to serve for a fee of 10% of the funds received. Further exploration was suggested to see if a lower cost could be found.

**State Suicide Prevention Conference**

Elaine Frank and Elizabeth Fenner-Lukaitis spoke about the annual Suicide Prevention Conference which has been organized for the past five years by YSPA – the Youth Suicide Prevention Assembly. It has, however, been broadened to address suicide issues across the lifespan. In order to more accurately reflect this perspective and widen the audience, it has been suggested that the Suicide Prevention Council be more prominently

involved. In addition, this year, the Geriatric Education Center at DHMC is interested in being a co-sponsor in order to increase the attention given to suicide issues among the elderly. The Council agreed to be the Lead Agency for the Conference with YSPA continuing its role as organizer.

### **Mission Statement Review**

Maggie Pritchard presented a number of proposed mission statements to replace the current one. After much discussion, the group voted to accept the following:

*The mission of the State Suicide Prevention Council is to reduce the incidence of suicide by raising the awareness of NH residents and addressing the policy and service needs of those affected by suicide.*

### **State Plan Review**

In the few remaining minutes, Elaine Frank discussed the need – after five years – to update the State Suicide Prevention Plan. Since it was originally developed, the Plan has been redesigned to match the (still evolving) sub-committee structure.

She indicated two objectives:

- to demonstrate what has and has not been accomplished to date
- to serve as a Work Plan going forward

Each of the sub-committees was asked to begin to review its portions of the State Plan and to:

- review of what has been accomplished
- indicate what should be dropped and what should be kept, and
- prioritize a few short and longer term objectives on which to focus efforts

Further discussions will take place at the Leadership Meeting and at the next full Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Frank