

Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force

Summary of meeting on Thursday, July 19 in Salina

Speakers/Resources Identified:

- Presentation from OAG on Reporting Options for Kansas Kids, Crystal Moe, Director
- Presentation from Tom Karlin Foundation, Joe and Mary Beth Karlin
- Presentation from Suicide Prevention Resource Center and ASIST Training, Monica Kurz

What Works:

- Governor's Task Force on Behavioral Health Services Planning Council Prevention Sub-Committee reviewing many on the prevention side.
- Peer-to-Peer contact/Teen Advocates/ "Source of Strength"/Teen led education programs.
- Broad outreach social media presence.
- Developing a strong brand as a go-to resource for teen suicide prevention and teen mental wellness.
- Keeping outreach positive and repetitive.
- Identifying ways to have peers report information confidentially or anonymously.

Hurdles Identified:

- Duplication of efforts and lack of communication between schools, organizations and agencies.
- Time shortages for those working on these issues.
- Funding inconsistencies and non-sustenance surrounding treatment, outreach, education, crisis intervention.
- Denial/lack of support from school administrators (don't want to acknowledge).
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Recommendations:

- Mental Health "physicals" prior to school enrollment.
- Wrap-around programming – year round awareness and discussions not limited to just a special week.
- Smartphone App available state-wide and less district based and age-limited. Include higher education.
- Sustained funding for crisis line (not currently able to answer all calls; funding only 2 months at a time)
- Review KS Suicide Prevention Plan from 2014 to identify what still needs to be addressed.
- Review network of suicide survivor support groups in the state to better understand the availability of post-vention services.
- School-based prevention programming should place emphasis on small groups or classrooms rather than school-wide assemblies.
- Determine if Children's Trust Fund (from tobacco settlement) is possible ongoing funding source.
- Utilize Tom Karlin Foundation for outreach/billboards/PSAs. Work with Kansas Association of School Boards for production options.
- Encourage all school districts to do what some are already doing: capturing referral data, sending it back to the school and sharing real-time data during training to enhance teacher/staff engagement.
- Focus on the educator cycle and work with state colleges that offer education degrees to share information with new teachers. Add curriculum to the Administrator Certification requirements.

Remaining Questions:

- Are we prepared to respond when there is a crisis? If not, what do we need to go to get prepared?
- Is there a way to map everything happening around the state and identify resources?
- What data is provided by school mental health professionals? Who do these professionals share this data with?