

Coalition Worksheet for Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force

Please complete as much as possible and submit to Crystal.Moe@ag.ks.gov

Name of your organization:	Tom Karlin Foundation
Best Contact Information to be Publically Shared:	Name: Joe Karlin Email: joekarlin@me.com Website: talklistenact.org Phone: 913-909-0793
Purpose of your organization:	The mission of the Tom Karlin Foundation (TKF) is to improve the quality of teens' lives and reduce teen suicides through education and awareness of depression, suicide prevention and mental wellness. We do so by being teen-led, teen-focused, and involving teens in all aspects of our planning, execution and messaging.
What efforts have proven to be successful in your purpose to address youth suicide:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Developing teen-focused, teen-led, and teen-involved education programs (in schools and churches) and fun/positive events (for youth to participate in) 2) Developing a broad-reaching social media presence, primarily in the KC metro area, relating to teen suicide prevention and teen mental wellness 3) Developing a strong “brand” as a go-to resource for teen suicide prevention and teen mental wellness
What hurdles have you experienced and/or lessons learned through your efforts:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) There is significant duplication of efforts and lack of communication between schools, organizations, agencies as to efforts being undertaken, resources, etc 2) Shortage of time and money; Our efforts to develop solutions (such as our anonymous reporting smartphone app and accompanying education program) are stifled by our lack of time and money 3) Progress on programs and solutions are excruciatingly slow when its being done in one’s “spare time” competing with work, family, etc
Recommendations or suggestions for the task force to consider:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To the greatest extent possible, solutions should be positive; focus not only on suicide prevention, but also mental wellness, depression help, etc. Too much focus on just depression is a narrow, dark focus 2) Solutions need to be pervasive and recurring. For example, a suicide prevention week or month is insufficient; the efforts need to be a year-around campaign that frequently drives home unified messaging 3) Solutions need to address all aspects along the continuum. For example, a suicide reporting app for teens is not nearly as useful as when that app is coupled with focused and ongoing education and communication

Thank you!