

New form submission

[YSPTF Testimony Form](#)

Submitted on 02 November 2018, via IP 216.147.227.226 by Anonymous

NOTE: All testimony submitted is subject to public disclosure under the Kansas Open Records Act and will become a part of the official record of the Task Force.

Full Name	Cherrie Ann Lindsey
Organization	Rock Creek Yellow Ribbon
Email Address	lindseyc@rockcreekschools.org
Phone Number	7852022063
Website URL	
Meeting at which you wish to testify:	Dec. 10, Topeka
What hurdles have you experienced and/or lessons learned through your efforts?	I am a chapter sponsor we have seven to nine students who would like to attend and give testimony. They feel the need to be heard. They would like to come on December 10th, if that is not possible they are willing to travel the 4 hours to Dodge City. I am hoping that someone can respond quickly so that we can begin making proper plans for the trip. I feel your task force hearing from the kids first hand will be more impactful for both you and our students. We if things do not work out for us to attend a meeting we will submit testimony via this site.
What efforts have proven to be successful in your purpose to address youth suicide?	
Recommendations or suggestions for the task force to consider:	
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Submitted on 05 December 2018, via IP 216.147.227.226 by Anonymous

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Full Name	Kalea Nippert
Organization	Rock Creek Yellow Ribbon Group
Email Address	kalea_nippert@rockcreekstudents.org
Phone Number	785-340-2276
Website URL	
Meeting at which you wish to testify:	Dec. 10, Topeka
What hurdles have you experienced and/or lessons learned through your efforts?	1. A major hurdle I have experienced would be the task of destigmatizing the word suicide. Turning it from this unspeakable thing to letting kids talk freely about how they feel and what they are going through. This allows us to get people help as soon as possible instead of not knowing, or finding out too late. Through these efforts I have not only learned how to help people, but also help myself. I suffer with severe anxiety, and was on the verge of being suicidal as a younger child. This group has helped me to learn the signs and how to help others and myself. I would not be the person I am today without this group.
What efforts have proven to be successful in your purpose to address youth suicide?	2. The effort we have made that was the most effective in addressing youth suicide was that us students went in front of the teachers in our district and gave the suicide awareness presentation required for all teachers in accordance with the Jason Flatt Act. By doing this I believe the teachers took it much more seriously, since the kids they taught and are currently teaching were talking about this epidemic that was plaguing the younger generation. The teachers knew who we were and so we had an actual impact on their presentation, instead of some random person that no one knows coming to talk for an hour. They heard our stories, our concern, and our voice.
Recommendations or suggestions for the task force to consider:	3. Recommendations I have for the task force is that when someone is talking about suicide, always put a game or fun break in between topics, so that it doesn't get too heavy. Also, try and have people who know people who are being taught about suicide give the presentation because it makes it so much more meaningful.
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1. One of the toughest things to handle with our mission is the buy in from others. We as a group have bought in to what we are doing, but sometimes people outside of our group do not see our true goal at times. However, it seems with time, people slowly begin to come around and see what you are trying to accomplish. This has been one of the biggest lessons to me, not only with Yellow Ribbon, but also with my life. Most things in life, especially what Yellow Ribbon is doing, takes a lot of time and work, and if you can get more people engaged and committed to your goal, then you will ultimately have a larger impact on society.

2. One of the easiest and most affective things we have done with Yellow Ribbon has been to get our name out into the community as much as possible. When we first started our chapter, no one really knew who we were or what we were trying to accomplish. After holding several events, members of the community saw the good we were doing and the difference we strive to make, and because of that they were willing to assist us in many ways. Because we are such a new group, we can take all the help we can get, and a lot of what we do and have done could not be done without support from the community. Another thing we have done that has been equally important is similar to what I stated in the first statement, that is, to engage with students themselves. Our goal is to let kids know that they are not alone and that they can find help if needed. Us getting our name out into the community and the school has ultimately allowed us to become a group that people know wants to help and be there for people.

3. I am not certain on what problems the task force can actually address, however, there are a few things regarding suicide prevention and awareness that concern me. Number one is that many students do not have the support they need from adults and administration to start a group like ours. I know a girl from a local school that has tried desperately for years to begin a Yellow Ribbon Chapter in her own school, but is continually being turned down by her school's

administration and school board. Even when schools do create the chapter, it is difficult to know how to take the next step. I know we have been approached by other schools that have asked for assistance in starting up their own program. If there were a larger, more available and professional service available to schools, a bigger difference could be made. Finally, as far as I know, the state of Kansas requires all public school staff to receive one hour of training each year on suicide prevention. While I do believe this is a crucial step in helping fix the problem suicide, one hour a year is not nearly enough time. Staff should be required to be trained for more hours, and more often.

1. There have not been a large amount of hurdles that we have faced at Rock Creek but there still has been a major one at the beginning of the Yellow Ribbon Chapter. When this group was started, a dear friend and peer was lost to suicide. This was devastating to the school and the community, and there is not much that anyone can do to help the grief that we are all feeling. The topic of suicide is not easily talked about and many people do not feel comfortable with addressing this issue that is a major problem in the United States. The one major hurdle that this group has faced was that of addressing the growing issue of suicide and joining together as a group and as a school to make sure that no one feels alone or unwanted. We have learned that involving ourselves in the community puts our faces out in the public and shows that we are people that anyone can trust and approach if they are feeling depressed or unwanted.
2. Community efforts have proven to be successful in addressing youth suicide. As I said in the response before, community efforts allow the chapter member's faces to be seen by the public and give others the opportunity to approach us with their feelings and allow us to help. An example of community involvement that this group has been successful with is a booth that was set up at a local farmer's market. During this time, one of our members visited with a bus driver of a neighboring school district. The bus driver now would like the chapter members to train the district's bus drivers on recognizing signs of suicide and how to address a situation.
3. The one recommendation that I would make to the task force is to show that they are there to help the community and they can be trusted. Once the task force is very involved in the community, then people will start to realize that suicide is a major issue that needs

Karter Carlson

to be addressed and hopefully that will push others to be involved with organizations
such as the task force.

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Full Name	Nathan Williams
Organization	Rock Creek Yellow Ribbon
Email Address	natejw0802@gmail.com
Phone Number	7854771222
Website URL	
Meeting at which you wish to testify:	Dec. 10, Topeka
What hurdles have you experienced and/or lessons learned through your efforts?	One of the toughest things to handle with our mission is the buy-in from others. We as a group have bought into what were are doing, but sometimes people outside of our group do not see our true goal at times. However, it seems with time, people slowly begin to come around and see what you are trying to accomplish. This has been one of the biggest lessons to me, not only with Yellow Ribbon but also with my life. Most things in life, especially what Yellow Ribbon is doing, take a lot of time and work, and if you can get more people engaged and committed to your goal, then you will ultimately have a larger impact on society.

<p>What efforts have proven to be successful in your purpose to address youth suicide?</p>	<p>One of the easiest and most effective things we have done with Yellow Ribbon has been to get our name out into the community as much as possible. When we first started our chapter, no one really knew who we were or what we were trying to accomplish. After holding several events, members of the community saw the good we were doing and the difference we strive to make, and because of that, they were willing to assist us in many ways. Because we are such a new group, we can take all the help we can get, and a lot of what we do and have done could not be done without support from the community. Another thing we have done that has been equally important is similar to what I stated in the first statement, that is, to engage with students themselves. Our goal is to let kids know that they are not alone and that they can find help if needed. Us getting our name out into the community and the school has ultimately allowed us to become a group that people know wants to help and be there for people.</p>
<p>Recommendations or suggestions for the task force to consider:</p>	<p>I am not certain what problems the task force can actually address, however, there are a few things regarding suicide prevention and awareness that concern me. Number one is that many students do not have the support they need from adults and administration to start a group like ours. I know a girl from a local school that has tried desperately for years to begin a Yellow Ribbon Chapter in her own school, but is continually being turned down by her school's administration and school board. Even when schools do create the chapter, it is difficult to know how to take the next step. I know we have been approached by other schools that have asked for assistance in starting up their own program. If there were a larger, more available and professional service available to schools, a bigger difference could be made. Finally, as far as I know, the state of Kansas requires all public school staff to receive one hour of training each year on suicide prevention. While I do believe this is a crucial step in helping fix the problem suicide, one hour a year is not nearly enough time. Staff should be required to be trained for more hours, and more often.</p>
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<p>Captcha</p>	<p>False</p>