

Frederick County Suicide Prevention Coalition Meeting Friday,  
February 16, 2024 – 11:00am to 12:30pm via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

*The mission of the Frederick County Suicide Prevention Coalition is to make Frederick County free of suicide through community collaboration rooted in suicide prevention best practices for safe and responsible gun storage, eliminating stigma surrounding suicide, and support for anyone thinking of or impacted by suicide.*

[Suicide Prevention Coalition website](#)

**Attendance**

Andrea Baiocchi Walker, MPH, MA, CPRP, Director, Behavioral Health Services, Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) and Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA)

Jay Hessler, LCPC, Assistant Director, Behavioral Health Services, FCHD

Jessica Ellis, Harm Reduction/Diversion Manager, Behavioral Health Services, FCHD

Ramiyah Barbour, Office of Suicide Prevention, MDH, Behavioral Health Administration

Richard Sedlak, MD MPH, COL (ret.) US Army

Rachel Mandel, MD, Trauma Responsive Frederick, Veteran

Shannon Parkin, Peer Recovery Specialist, On Our Own Frederick, Suicide Attempt Survivor

Stephanie Shapiro, OFRT Coordinator, Behavioral Health Services, FCHD

Jennifer Kelley, Community Engagement & Partnership Coordinator, Martinsburg VA Med. Center

Amy Coldren, Frederick Community College, Director of Veteran and Military Services

Elaine Scott, Sheppard Pratt

Mallary Lass, Easter Seals

Reverend, Doctor Sakima Romero-Chandler

Jamel Freeman, Suicide Loss Survivor

Shannon Jones, Crisis Services Director, Heartly House Inc.

William Scott, Easter Seals

Christy Butler, Western Maryland Engagement Officer, Comptroller's Office of Maryland

Michael Moore, State's Attorney's Office

Savannah Gerben, Easter Seals

Lindsay Barnhart, State's Attorney's Office

Kelly Huggins, Covid Health and Wellness Liaison, Frederick County Health Department

### **Agenda**

1. Introductions (Name, Agency, How your role intersects death by suicide)
2. Review/Approval of Minutes
3. Announcements
  - MHA Data Presentation
  - MH LHIP Art Campaign
  - YRBS Data: Pilar Olivo
4. FCC Request – Emily Gebhart
5. Breakouts by Subcommittee
  - a. Responsible Gun Ownership
  - b. Education/Outreach
  - c. Postvention/Support Services
  - d. Veterans
6. Subcommittee Report Out
7. Announcements from BHA Office of Suicide Prevention
8. Adjourn

### **1. Introductions**

- a. Jay Hessler convened the meeting and introductions of meeting attendees occurred.

### **2. Review/Approval of Minutes**

- a. Minutes were reviewed and no corrections were noted.

### **3. Announcements**

- a. Andrea Walker presented data collected by the Mental Health Association regarding their walk-in center services.
- b. Andrea Walker shared information about some of the work being done by the Mental Health Local Health Improvement Process Workgroup. “From

the Heart” is a transformative arts project designed to reduce stigma surrounding mental health in an inclusive way. The most recent event is “Voices of Color” on 2/16/24.

- c. Pilar Olivo (lead of the ACEs Workgroup from LHIP) presented data analysis from them most recent Youth Risk Behavior Survey, highlighting the intersection with suicide prevention.

#### 4. FCC Request (Emily Gebhart)

- a. Emily Gebhart provided information to the coalition about FCC’s “Courageous Conversations” program. Emily is seeking volunteers that would be willing to talk to FCC students about suicide. Courageous Conversations encourages open, honest discussions about topics that can be polarizing in a setting devoid of judgement.

#### 5. Breakouts by Subcommittee

- a. *Responsible Gun Ownership*
- b. *Education/Outreach*
- c. *Postvention/Support Services following death by suicide*
- d. *Veterans*

#### 6. Subcommittee Report Out

- a. *Responsible Gun Ownership*: Focused efforts on identifying locations to drop-off pamphlets about SP for gun owners strategically. Subcommittee members will divide and deliver them to firearm vendors. The subcommittee is gathering information about safe storage facilities. Dr. Richard Sedlak is researching the master drivers (policy / procedure) for establishing a safe storage facility.
- a. *Education/Outreach*: The subcommittee discussed an FCC panel that Jamel Freeman is having. The subcommittee spoke more about using YRBS data to highlight the need for youth to talk to peers about MH and suicide. Their thinking is that youth are more likely to go to each other, but that youth may feel unprepared with what to say to each other. Question posed about what FCPS does for suicide prevention education for students. Amy Coldren reported that FCC offers MH First Aid for free for their students.
- b. *Postvention / Outreach*: no members of the subcommittee were available to report out.
- c. *Veterans*: The survey about Asking the Question was sent out twice, but this yielded only 11 responses. The subcommittee is trying to get a larger number of providers to send the survey out to with a goal of enhancing the number of responses.

#### 7. Announcements from BHA Office of Suicide Prevention

Ramiyah Barbour discussed the upcoming event “Taking Care of Us:” A celebration of Black Trailblazers in Mental Health. The discussion will highlight how Black Americans have been leaders, visionaries, and influencers in the mental health field. Ramiyah also encouraged SPC members to visit their link tree for other resources:

<https://linktr.ee/mdhsuicideprevention>.

***Next meeting – 3/15/24, 11am-12:30pm***

**8. Adjourn**