

Frederick County Suicide Prevention Coalition Meeting Friday,  
January 19, 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

Suzi Borg, Director of Crisis Services, Mental Health Association

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

Lieutenant Timothy Grove, Frederick County Sheriff's Office

Elaine Scott, Sheppard Pratt

Reed Preece, Frederick Police Department

Mallory Lass, Easter Seals

Patricia Buckmaster, Frederick Health

Jason Marshall, Every Mind

Emily Gebhart, Frederick Community College, Office of Counseling and Wellness

Christian Isanogle, The Ranch

Reverend, Doctor Sakima Romero-Chandler

Jamel Freeman, Suicide Loss Survivor

Kaili van Waveren, Executive Director, Thorpewood

Shannon Jones, Crisis Services Director, Heartly House Inc.

**Agenda**

1. Introductions (Name, Agency, How your role intersects death by suicide)
2. Review/Approval of Minutes
3. Announcements
  - Suicide Prevention PSA Update
  - Responsible Gun Ownership PSA Update
  - Veterans Subcommittee Re-Organization
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. Jay Hessler provided an update on the Suicide Prevention PSA created in conjunction with Channel Communications. The PSA is currently airing on TV and is widely cast across social media.
- b. Dr. Rachel Mandel provided an update on the PSA created by the Responsible Gun Ownership subcommittee. It is currently running in Westview Movie theaters. Data about the reach of the PSA will be available at the conclusion of the PSA's run.
- c. Andrea Walker announced the Frederick County Health Department secured funding to support the creation of a PSA more closely emphasizing the connection between responsible gun ownership and suicide prevention. The creation of this PSA will be a collaboration between the Responsible Gun Ownership subcommittee, the Local Behavioral Health Authority, and Channel Communications.
- d. Jay Hessler provided an update on the re-organization of the Veteran's subcommittee. The Veteran's subcommittee will join the standing SPC meeting time in lieu of a completely separate meeting. This will promote better understanding and communication among the Coalition as a whole.

#### **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*: Dr. Rachel Mandel provided the report out. The group is working on a plan for disseminating a SP pamphlet identified by Bill Kelly, and magnets and stickers created by the FCHD. General discussion about the PSA to be created in conjunction with the LBHA and Channel Communications.
- b. *Education/Outreach*: Stephanie Shapiro provided the report out. Ms. Shapiro reported that members of the subcommittee had further discussion about the Living Works program and potential for implementation in Frederick. Plans to reach out to several sources for more information regarding funding opportunities.
- c. *Postvention/Support Services following completed/attempted suicide*: Kaili van Waveren reported that a low number of subcommittee members were present on this occasion. This allowed for discussion of local resources and connections.
- d. *Veterans*: Jennifer Kelley provided the report-out. Summary of current areas of concentration provided. Jennifer described the "Ask the Question" survey that went out recently from this subcommittee, and potential actions that could come from it.

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

- a. The Behavioral Health Administration's Office of Suicide Prevention is kicking off February with African American Trailblazers, a digital media campaign that provides an insightful experience shedding light on the African American leaders, influencers, and contributors to the mental health field. Join us as we recognize the trailblazers who have paved the way in psychology and sociology. Follow our Stories all month long on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

[Watch and Share our Black Trailblazers in Mental Health PSA](#)

***Next meeting – 2/16/24, 11am-12:30pm***

**1. Adjourn**