

Frederick County Suicide Prevention Coalition Meeting

Friday, August 16th, 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

Amanda Adams, Child and Adolescent Coordinator, Behavioral Health Services, FCHD

Jay Hessler, Assistant Director, Behavioral Health Services, FCHD

Jason Barth, Executive Director, The Ranch

Kevin Britt, Patrol Lieutenant, Frederick County Sheriffs Office

Lindsay Barnhart, States Attorney's Office

Michaela Browne, Division of Aging and Independence, Coordinator of Veterans Advisory Council

Erika Bishop, Employee Assistance and Suicide Prevention, Fort Detrick

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

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

Barbara van der Vossen, Supervisor, Kids Like Us

Shannon Jones, Director of Crisis Services, Heartly House

Stephanie Shapiro, OFRT Coordinator, Behavioral Health Services, FCHD

Kaili Van Waveren, Executive Director, Thorpewood

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

Anne Claggett, Office of Suicide Prevention and Problem Gambling, MDH, Behavioral Health Administration

Enjoli Gomez, Office of Suicide Prevention and Problem Gambling, MDH, Behavioral Health Administration

Sandra Wastler, Senior Services Advisory Board

Summer McClellan, Workgroup Coordinator, Coalition for a Healthier Frederick

Caitlyn Wilson, Social Worker, Frederick County Dept. of Social Services

Agenda

1. Introductions (Name, Agency, How your role intersects death by suicide)
2. Review/Approval of Minutes
3. Announcements
 - a. Report Out on “Be There to Care” PSA
 - b. PSA Kick-Off Meeting
 - c. Focus Group Invitation
4. Breakouts by Subcommittee
 - a. Responsible Gun Ownership
 - b. Education/Outreach
 - c. Postvention/Support Services
 - d. Veterans
5. Subcommittee Report Out
6. Announcements from BHA Office of Suicide Prevention
7. Adjourn

1. Introductions

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

2. Review/Approval of Minutes

Minutes were reviewed and no corrections were noted.

3. Announcements

1. Jay Hessler reviewed the “Be There to Care” PSA reach report from Channel Communications.
 - a. Social Media: Total Impressions: 1,160,874
Reach: 133,395
 - b. Cable: Total Impressions: 3,015,681
 - c. OTT/CTV: Total Impressions: 651,948
2. Jay Hessler announced PSA Kick-Off Meeting is today, 8/16/24 at 1pm with Channel Communications. If any coalition members still have interest in participating, please email jhessler@frederickcountymd.gov to receive the invite and any future invites.
3. Amanda Adams provided information about a focus group invitation the coalition received from NORC at the University of Chicago. NORC is partnering with the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, to develop resources to assist suicide prevention coalitions. The focus group date/time

are still pending. More information will be shared about the focus group and opportunities to participate, once further information is available.

4. Stephanie Shapiro provided information about Out of the Darkness Walk occurring Saturday, October 12th. The walk occurs at Baker Park in Frederick. This is the second year the coalition will be participating and is a great way to spread awareness of the coalition within the community. The coalition will have a table set up at the event. Coalition members are encouraged to participate, reach out to Stephanie (sshapiro@frederickcountymd.gov) with any questions or to sign up to participate: [SIGN UP HERE!](#)
5. Amanda Adams announced the Veterans subcommittee will be holding a VA SAVE training on 9/16/24 at 2pm. The flyer and link for the training will be sent out to the coalition. The training is free and can be shared with any interested parties.

4. Breakouts by Subcommittee

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

5. Subcommittee Report Out

- a. *Responsible Gun Ownership*: Jay Hessler provided the report out. The group discussed what to bring to the table for the PSA Kick-off meeting today. The group developed some great ideas and focus points to be thought about/incorporated into the development of the PSA.
- b. *Education/Outreach*: Stephanie Shapiro provided the report out. The group discussed the focus groups they will holding for senior citizens, which will total five. Logistics, communication barriers in discussing such topics, questions and preferred technology were all discussed. The group also discussed the environment and common language they want to create for the focus groups.
- c. *Postvention/Support Services following completed/attempted suicide*: Summer McClellan provided the report out. The group discussed the generic postvention plan that they are developing. The group discussed how the plan can be tailored to fit agency/school/etc. needs. Discussion was also held around important topics to include: immediate response, notification, long term support, and plan for sudden death/unknown suicide. The group continues to focus on developing appropriate language for the plan.
- d. *Veterans*: Amanda Adams provided the report out. The group discussed the upcoming VA SAVE training on 9/16/24 and picked January 2024 to schedule the military culture training with PsychArmor. The group brainstormed how to increase participation within the subcommittee and identified individuals to invite to participate.

6. Announcements from BHA Office of Suicide Prevention

Enjoli Gomez made announcements on behalf of the Office of Suicide Prevention:

- The Reference Guide – Maryland Action Plan to prevent Suicide in schools K-12 made in collaboration with Dr. Poland, is in the final stages and will be released soon.
- The Connecting to Hope Toolkit is being released again in September for Suicide Prevention Awareness Month
- The Suicide Prevention Conference will be held this year on 10/2/2024, further information and link for registration will be coming soon
- The Train the Trainer Pilot Program with the Trevor Project has closed applications and is in the process of reviewing applications. The program received a great response and will be having two training cohorts. All applicants will be notified and applicants who are selected to participate in the first round of the pilot program will participate in a two-day training event in Timonium, Maryland.
- [The Office of Suicide Prevention Website](#)
- [Facebook](#) @mdhsuicideprevention
- [Instagram](#) @mdhsuicideprevention
- [Twitter/X](#) @mdhsuicideprev
- [The Scoop Newsletter](#)
- [Linktr.ee](#)

Next meeting – 9/20/2024

7. Adjourn