

Frederick County Suicide Prevention Coalition Meeting Friday,
September 20, 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)

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

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

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

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

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

Gigi Bankole, Blue Star Families

Jason Barth, Executive Director, The Ranch

Kitty Devilbiss, Division of Aging and Independence

Danielle Haskin, Director, Equity Office, FCHD

Patty Buckmaster, Nursing Director of Behavioral Health, FHH

Karim Martin, Coordinator of Special Programs, Equity Office, FCHD

Summer McClellan, Workgroup Coordinator, Coalition for a Healthier Frederick

Monica Kirkpatrick, Patient Services Manager for Outpatient Services, Mountain Manor

Kaili van Waveren, Executive Director, Thorpewood

Suzi Borg, Director of Crisis Services, MHA

Emily Tex, Coordinator of Psychological Services, FCPS

Sandra Wastler, Senior Services Advisory Board

Dionne Bowie, Office of Suicide Prevention and Problem Gambling, MDH, Behavioral Health Administration

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

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

Reverend, Doctor Sakima Romero-Chandler

Lindsay Barnhart, State's Attorney's Office

Agenda

1. Introductions (Name, Agency, How your role intersects death by suicide)
2. Review/Approval of Minutes
3. Announcements
 - Out of the Darkness Walk
 - ERPO Grant Submission
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. Amanda Adams 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. Stephanie Shapiro provided details about upcoming Out of the Darkness Walk and invited SPC members to attend and be at the table.
- b. Andrea Walker shared information about the ERPO grant that was recently submitted. Highlighted data supporting the need for violence prevention in the Frederick community.
- c. Jay Hessler reported about the efforts of a local VFW for Suicide Prevention Month. Members of the local VFW created cards expressing that veterans are valued and appreciated and handed them out to veterans wherever they encountered them. Potential idea for Outreach Subcommittee to collaborate with next year.

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*: Andrea Walker reported that the subcommittee reviewed the progress made on the creation of the PSA with Channel Communication, reviewed relevant local events, and placed revisiting the topic of liability for safe storage options on the agenda for the next subcommittee meeting.
- b. *Education/Outreach*: Stephanie Shapiro reported that the subcommittee is progressing in work towards holding focus groups with seniors, discussed the concerns of seniors, discussed that there is a wide age range for seniors and thus a wide range of ways to connect, and reported that younger seniors can act as “ambassadors” to older seniors.
- c. *Postvention / Outreach*: Kaili van Waveren reported that work continues on creating a comprehensive postvention program, and they are refining language to use from a best practices perspective.
- d. *Veterans*: Amanda Adams reported that the “VA Saves training occurring last week was well attended (40). Maryland’s Commitment to Veterans will be partnering with Psych Armor to hold a training on military cultural competence on January 13th, 2025 from 1-2:30pm. Details and flyer to be available soon. Amanda also reported that the subcommittee discussed ways to provide caring contacts for Veteran’s Day in November.

6. Announcements from BHA Office of Suicide Prevention

Enjoli Gomez reported about the ongoing efforts of the Office of Suicide Prevention including the release of the Maryland Department of Health’s Maryland Action Plan to Prevent Suicide in Schools Toolkit, the Connecting to Hope Suicide Prevention Month Toolkit, and the Office of Suicide Prevention’s Monthly Newsletter. Enjoli also encouraged SPC members to visit their link tree for other resources: <https://linktr.ee/mdhsuicideprevention>.

Next meeting – 10/18/24, 11am-12:30pm

7. Adjourn