

Frederick County Suicide Prevention Coalition Meeting Friday,  
February 21, 2025 – 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 (BHS), Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) and Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA)

Jay Hessler, LCPC, Assistant Director, BHS, FCHD

Amanda Adams, Child & Adolescent Coordinator, BHS, FCHD

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

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

Stephanie Shapiro, OFRT Coordinator, Behavioral Health Services, FCHD

Lindsay Barnhart, State's Attorney's Office

Barbara van der Vossen, Supervisor, Kids Like Us

Michaela Browne, Coordinator, Frederick County Veteran's Advisory Council

Caitlyn Wilson, Frederick County Department of Social Services

Emily Gebhart, Frederick Community College

Heidi Murray, Mobile Crisis, Sheppard Pratt

Enjoli Gomez, Office of Suicide Prevention, MDH, Behavioral Health Administration

Ronni Velardo, Air Force Veteran

Summer McClellan, Workgroup Coordinator, Coalition for a Healthier Frederick

Sandy Wastler, Senior Citizens Advisory Board

Gigi Banks, Blue Star Families

Danielle Haskin, Director of the Equity Office, FCHD

Latisha Carr, Mental Health Association

Savannah Gerben, Easter Seals

Hillary Gross, Epidemiologist, BHS, FCHD

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

Jennifer Kelly, Community Partnership Coordinator, Suicide Prevention Team, Martinsburg VA

Elaine Scott, Health Navigator, Veteran Housing, Sheppard Pratt

Kailee van Wavern, Executive Director, Thorpewood

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

## **Agenda**

1. Introductions (Name, Agency, How your role intersects death by suicide)
2. Review/Approval of Minutes
3. Announcements
  - ERPO Liaison Update
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**

- a. Amanda Adams convened the meeting. Introductions of meeting attendees were waived.

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

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

### **3. Announcements**

- a. Jay Hessler provided an update on the progress of the ERPO Liaison. Candidate has been hired, and a start date is in the process of being finalized.

### **4. Subcommittee Report Out**

- a. *Responsible Gun Ownership*: Dr. Sedlak discussed (chat) issue of need for liability relief for safe gun storage site operators before NSSF can recommend such programs to NSSF membership. Exposure for site operators related to wide variety of potential bad

outcomes from guns released back to a person in crisis.

- b. *Postvention/Support Services following completed/attempted suicide:* Summer McClellan provided the report out. The group is in the final stages of reviewing their plan and plan on sharing it with a Suicide Prevention group for feedback. Group also discussed the need for community response after an attempted suicide, in addition to responding as a community when someone dies by suicide.
- c. *Veterans:* Amanda Adams provided the report out. The group went back to the Crisis Intercept Map that was previously completed for Frederick County and reviewed where to go next. Group decided the best place to focus efforts next is access to lethal means. Discussed the possibility of hosting a training on best practices for safe storage. Requested to join the Responsible Gun Ownership committee during next month's meeting.
- d. *Outreach / Education:* Stephanie Shapiro provided a report out. The group reviewed the success of the recent Kindness Fair event that SPC was represented at. Discussed staffing the upcoming Suicide Awareness event at FCC. Discussed moving away from the idea of conducting focus groups with seniors in favor of working collaboratively with the faith-based community and Meals on Wheels to spread information and resources to seniors.

## 5. Announcements from BHA Office of Suicide Prevention

Enjoli Gomez provided updates and share the link tree with links to all Suicide Prevention Resources: [New Taking Care of Us Webpage](#)

[Taking Care of Us Roundtable Event Registration Link \(Flier is attached\)](#)

Taking Care of Us Digital Background (see attached) [Trevor Project Train-the-trainer Application \(Invitation attached\)](#)

Enjoli highlighted the creation of the “Taking Care of Us” website and the upcoming webinar entitled the same on 2/27/25. Enjoli discussed a downloadable fact sheet that is available, and discussed two more trainings available in March.

Sleep and Suicide March 12th, 12-1:30 PM. (I will send the flier as soon as it is approved by MDH Leadership).

Gambling and Suicide March 26th, 10am-12pm. (I will send the flier as soon as it is approved by MDH Leadership)

***Next meeting – 3/21/25, 11am-12:30pm***

## 6. Adjourn