



**Advisory Council Meeting
Metro Nashville Police Department Hermitage Precinct
3701 James Kay Lane, Hermitage
Wednesday, February 11, 2015
1:00 - 2:30 PM**

Minutes

Advisory Council Members Present

Tim Tatum, MA, LPC-MHSP, Director of Behavioral Health, Pine Ridge Treatment Center (Advisory Council Chair/Southeast Regional Chair)
Karyl Chastain Beal, M.Ed., Retired/Community Advocate (Advisory Council Co- Chair / South Central Regional Chair / Outreach Committee Chair)
Sabrina Anderson, Executive Director, Boys and Girls Clubs of Jackson-Madison County (Rural West Regional Chair)
Ursula Bailey, JD, MBA, Attorney, Private Practice
Kathy Benedetto, LPC, SPE, LMFT, Senior Vice-President, Tennessee Child and Youth Services, Frontier Health
Patsy Crockett, BSW, Case Manager IV, Tennessee Department of Children's Services
Kelly S. Haught, MA, LPC-MHSP, Division Director, Specialty Services, Frontier Health
Jennifer Harris, MS, Director, Senior Care Program, St. Thomas Hickman Hospital (Chair, Hickman-Perry Suicide Prevention Task Force)
Brenda Harper, Community Advocate/Retired
Cindy Johnson, Community Activist
Mike LaBonte, Executive Director, Memphis Crisis Center
Harold Leonard, MA, LPC-MHSP, Cognitive Behavioral Specialists of the Tri-Cities (Northeast Regional Chair)
Rita McNabb, Coordinated School Health Director, Cocke County Schools
Eve Nite, Business Development Specialist, Mental Health Cooperative of Chattanooga
Waring Porter, Pastor, All Saints Presbyterian Church
Stephanie Robb, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Initiatives, Inc.
Katie Rosas, Community Outreach Specialist, Focus Treatment Centers
Kim Rush, Ed.S., LPC-MHSP, Vice-President of Operations, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System
Anne Stamps, Center Director, Cumberland Mountain Mental Health Center/Dale Hollow Mental Health Center (Upper Cumberland Regional Chair)
Becky Stoll, Vice President of the Crisis and Disaster Management, Centerstone
Angie Thompson, Director of Behavioral Health, Metro Public Health Department (Chair, Davidson County Suicide Prevention Task Force)
Christen Thorpe, MS, CRC, CATSM, Child and Adolescent Therapist, Pastoral Counseling Centers of Tennessee (Mid-Cumberland Regional Chair)
Anne Young, MS, CAS, Program Director, Young Adult and Residential Relapse Recovery

Program, Cornerstone of Recovery (East Tennessee Regional Chair)

Intra-State Departmental Group Members Present

John Allen, Director of Behavioral Health Services, Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration
Jacquelyn S. Bruce, Planning and Grants Management Supervisor, Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability
Gwen Hamer, MA, Director, Education and Development, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Teresa Kimbro Culbreath, Litter Grant Program, Statewide Coordinator, Highway Beautification Office, Tennessee Department of Transportation
Terrence (Terry) Love, MS, CPC, Injury Prevention Manager, Division of Family Health and Wellness, Injury and Violence Prevention, Tennessee Department of Health (Intra-State Departmental Group Chair)
Sherlean Lybolt, M.A., Mental Health Programs Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Correction
Lori Paisley, Director of Special Projects, Tennessee Department of Education
Michelle Ramsey RN, State Public Health Nursing Director, Tennessee Department of Health
Melissa Sparks, MSN, RN, Director, Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention, Division of Mental Health Services, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Jacqueline Talley, Treatment Specialist, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Advisory Council Members Absent

John B. Averitt, Ph.D., Upper Cumberland Psychological Associates/Police Psychological Officer, Cookeville Police Department
Vickie Bilbrey, Volunteer Services Manager, Gentiva® Hospice
Renee Brown, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Memphis VA Medical Center (Advisory Council Co-Secretary / Memphis/Shelby County Regional Chair)
Lisa Daniel, Chief Executive Officer, Memphis Mental Health Institute
Emily Hill, Tennessee Career Center at Columbia
Debra K. Moore, Community Representative, Bradford Health Services
Christopher Morris, Ed.S, Assistant Principal, North Side High School
Kandi Shearer, Clinical Director, Youth Villages Specialized Crisis Services
Ellen Stowers, Assistant Director, Contact Lifeline

Intra-State Departmental Group Members Absent

Jackie Berg, Training Specialist and Worker's Compensation Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Wendell Cheek, Deputy Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs
Shannon Hall, MA, Grants & Special Projects Director, Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security
1st Lt. Noel Riley-Philpo, Risk Reduction, Resilience and Suicide Prevention Manager, Joint Force Headquarters, Tennessee National Guard
Delora Ruffin, MA, Program Specialist, Division of Child Health, Tennessee Department of Children's Services

TSPN Advisory Council Emeritus Group Members

Jodi Bartlett, Ed.S, LPC-MHSP, MCRT Director, Northern Region, Volunteer Behavioral Health
Sam Bernard, Ph.D., the PAR Foundation

Clark Flatt, President/CEO, the Jason Foundation, Inc.

TSPN Staff Present

Amy Dolinky, BA, TSPN East Tennessee Regional Coordinator
Vladimir Enlow, MTS, TSPN Executive Assistant
Samantha Nadler, TSPN Middle Tennessee Regional Coordinator
Scott Payne, M.Div, TSPN West Tennessee Regional Coordinator
Scott Ridgway, MS, TSPN Executive Director

Guests

Jonathan Driver, Middle Tennessee State University
Jennifer Lockman, Program Evaluator, Centerstone Research Institute
Chuck Lambert, founder of V13ION
Sejal West, Assistant Commissioner for Mental Health Services, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Welcome and Introductions

- Tatum called the meeting to order at 12:49 PM, welcoming new members.
- He acknowledged the presence of Lambert, acknowledging his efforts and those of Nite in helping to organize V13ION thus far.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Advisory Council Meeting

- **Bartlett motioned for approval of the September minutes as transmitted earlier, Robb seconded, and the motion carried without objection.**

Regional Reports

Northeast Region

- Leonard reported that members are already volunteering to operate exhibits at local Harley-Davidson dealerships during V13ION.
- The Tri-Cities Survivors of Suicide continues to draw in a regular crowd; Leonard acknowledged Heather Barnett's facilitation of the group while regular facilitator Linda Phipps Harold is in Florida.
- "Saving Lives in Northeast Tennessee" was held on September 26.
 - Guests were highly receptive to the faith-based panel and the three clergymen who spoke as part of it.
- Benedetto and Frontier Health are working on implementing the Zero Suicides Initiative at that facility. There are about 1,200 employees who will receive QPR training some time during this year.
- The regional group will work with Payne this year to focus on the connection between substance abuse and suicide, as substance abuse is a major issue in this part of Tennessee. Leonard cited a recent report that found Sullivan County had the state's highest rate of neonatal abstinence syndrome due to opiate withdrawal.

East Tennessee Region

- Young began this report with details about "Keeping More than Dreams Alive: Teen Suicide Awareness", held at Second Presbyterian Church in Knoxville on September 17. TSPN partnered with the East Tennessee Council on Children and Youth, Village Behavioral

Health, The Jason Foundation, and NASW (Tennessee) for Clark Flatt's presentation. The 150 people present filled the space to capacity. The event included presentation of the new regional quilt.

- Local survivor Nancy McGlasson was the primary speaker at the East Tennessee Suicide Prevention Awareness Month event held September 29. About 75 people were in attendance.
 - Cornerstone of Recovery both hosted and sponsored the event, which included the formal dedication of the new regional quilt.
 - The *Maryville Daily Times* ran an article profiling Regional Suicide Prevention Award winner Freida Herron.
- The region is planning to hold a conference on religion and suicide, including a panel discussion feature local faith leaders. This event is patterned on a similar event in Nashville last year, and they plan to solicit the central office regarding logistics.
- Suicide Prevention Awareness Month proclamations were procured from all counties except Scott County—20 proclamations in all from county and city governments.
- The SA Knoxville group has been successfully launched, with meetings held monthly at Cornerstone of Recovery. Payne is helping facilitate these sessions and can provide details as needed.
- In regards to the Blount County Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Alliance, six new QPR trainers have been certified in this county
 - Members of the Alliance provided training to 495 community members in 2014.
- CHI has received a \$2,500 grant from United Way of Blount County for the expansion of the Feeling Blue program to Pellissippi State.
 - This project, originally developed by the University of Memphis, has already been replicated by several local colleges. These institutions have taken what began as a weeklong project and made it into a month-long observance with a strong social media component.
 - Members of the Alliance have met with representatives from the college to discuss implementation of the program, which may also be incorporated into nursing education at Lincoln Memorial University.

Upper Cumberland Region

- Stamps discussed outcomes from the "Light of Hope" event held September 18. The event received excellent publicity courtesy of the *Cookeville Herald-Citizen*.
 - The *Citizen-Herald* recently contacted Nadler and Mike Seal for an additional story on suicide prevention.
- The Daniel Seal Walk for Suicide Prevention is set for Saturday, April 11; the event has been moved to Cookeville High School. The next two planning meetings are February 11 and March 11 at 12 PM. Organizers are seeking sponsors for this event; more information will be available closer to the event date.
- Stamps reported attending the most recent Zero Suicide meeting; she attended as a representative from VBHCS. So far there have been two face-to-face meetings and one conference call.
- Bartlett and Ridgway met with representatives of Covenant Health in Lebanon on February 9 to consider intensive suicide prevention trainings.
- The January meeting served as a strategic planning session for the new year:

- Members are planning intensified outreach to Cookeville-area gun shops regarding the Gun Safety Project.
- Plans have been made to check with local schools as to what schools currently are doing in this area (training, protocol, prevention), or getting on the agenda for local school board meetings. Members will also check as to whether local schools are using JFI's "Promise for Tomorrow" curriculum.
- Members are also planning to intensify GLBTQ outreach in this area via contacts within PFLAG, TTU, and Cookeville Pride.
- A debriefing was held for the Macon County EMS after a member died by suicide on January 9.
- Finally, members are ready and willing to participate in any V13ION-related events associated with the Harley-Davidson dealership in Cookeville.

Southeast Region

- Nite and other regional members had observed that the conferences and training sessions previously offered to regional members were essentially a "buckshot" approach that was not affecting local suicide numbers.
- Nite reported that for the record, this part of Tennessee has a suicide rate approximately 30% higher than the state at large and 60% higher than the national average. Working-age adults in the Southeast Region report experiencing five poor mental health days a month, which equates into one full workweek of compromised productivity.
- In the attempt to renew and refocus the Southeast Region's efforts, the region held a planning committee meeting attended by roughly 25 people, including regular members as well as delegates from local TDOH offices, police departments, schools, and mental health agencies. The meeting focused on what populations in this area TSPN needed to reach and why the region has not made more progress in suicide rate reduction.
- Meeting participants put forth the concept of incorporating suicide prevention projects into what community partners are already doing in terms of public health and social service, so it would not seem like an added responsibility.
- The problem of stigma also remains a barrier. Recent research shows that only one out of three people who need mental health services actually consult a professional, and in Tennessee that proportion is one out of five.
- Meanwhile, the region must consider the population group which is most affected by suicide in this area—namely, white males in the 35-64 age range. White males are the decedents in 80% of all suicides in Tennessee, and in the Southeast Region whites accounted for 93.6% of the suicide deaths last year.
- Previous studies have demonstrated that white males at suicide risk are often on what Nite called "the cusp of society"; they are not integrated into the social mainstream and they are prone to risk-taking behavior. Hence the V13ION project, based out of and oriented towards biker culture, represents the perfect opportunity for suicide prevention outreach.
- The continued outreach to firearm retailers and firing ranges by way of the Gun Shop Project is also helping to break through mental health stigma.
- Future projects include mental health professionals, local scheduling of the A&D training sessions, and outreach to local emergency departments.
 - Last year, 2,000 people in the Southeast Region who came to local EDs reporting suicidal ideation were either dismissed shortly after arrival or turned away outright.

- Nite is also encouraging regional members to approach local medical examiners for real-time suicide data.
- Thus far the regional members have anecdotal evidence that the change in focus is working, but Nite would like to see hard evidence.
- Nite closed by observing that in an addendum to the 2011 Tennessee Behavioral Risk survey, 50% of respondents who experienced a mental health emergency did not think any around them was sympathetic or cared about them during their moment of crisis. It is the duty of regional members to help demonstrate that this is not the case.

Mid-Cumberland Region

- The Middle Tennessee Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Event on September 11 was highly successful; people especially appreciated the live entertainment. The “Love Never Dies” events and “Macon Memories” also had good turnout and Harper hopes to expand on these this year.
 - 18 Suicide Prevention Awareness Month proclamations were secured, representing 12 out of 13 counties.
- The most recent regional meeting included a strategic planning session; the Gun Safety Project, the THESPN college outreach project, and LGBTQ outreach were selected as primary emphases during 2015. There is also interest in setting up a support group for survivors of suicide attempts.
- TSPN facilitated two presentations at the NASCOD conference in October, reaching 85 conference participants. Also, Harper facilitated two workshops at the Connecting for Children’s Justice Conference in November.

South Central Region

- Chastain Beal reported that the Hickman-Perry County Suicide Prevention Task Force’s 4th Annual Awareness & Prevention Walk was held at the Jerry Dixon Walking Trail in Centerville on September 13. Approximately 70 persons attended.
- The Giles County Suicide Prevention Task Force had its annual 5K Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk (followed by a memorial service) the same day at the Pulaski Recreation Center; about 25 people attended, which was actually more than expected considering the rainy weather.
- Three articles about TSPN ran in the *Columbia Daily Herald* in September. The articles spotlighted the hotline number, signs to look for, places to go for help, and the TSPN support group that meets in Columbia.
- The local support group continues to meet once a month on the first Thursday of each month at Maury Regional Medical Center. It has changed names from Friends and Families of Suicides (FFOS) to Grief after Suicide Support Group (GRASS).
- 18 people from across the country attended Grief After Suicide Fall Retreat in Columbia on October 9 – 11. Chastain Beal and her husband Ronnie hosted. Ridgway attended Friday, distributing materials and discussing TSPN projects.
- Chastain Beal has created a form to for regional members to use to report suicide awareness, education and prevention activities to help document implementation of the suicide prevention strategies.

Rural West Region

- Anderson reported that a total of 22 Suicide Prevention Awareness Month proclamations were procured from cities and counties in the Rural West Region.
- The next regional conference is tentatively planned for the J. Walter Barnes Conference Center on the campus of Jackson-Madison County General Hospital on September 3. Lakeside Behavioral Health System has agreed to help cover facility rental costs.
- Regional member Kathy Strahan provided QPR to 45 employees of Professional Care Services during the month of November.
- NAMI Tennessee worked with Professional Care Services to stage “With Hope in Mind”, an eight-week course for family members with loved ones who have mental illness. The course started in January 5.
- The January meeting took the form of an open house and a meet-and-greet for Dolinky.

Memphis/Shelby County Region

- Porter announced that Lemoyne-Owen College is proceeding with a GLSMA grant with the assistance of the University of Memphis.
- Feedback from the “Suicide and Trauma” event held September 16 was positive and guests offered numerous recommendations for future programming on the evaluation forms. 200
- LaBonte continues to facilitate QPR training sessions for the community at large, with a focus on the Memphis Police Department and associated entities.
- Several TSPN members were part of the speaker’s panel for Memphis City Schools’s Second Annual Suicide Prevention Rally on October 25. TSPN also had an exhibit at this event.
- AFSP held its annual Out of the Darkness Walk/Run on October 11 at the Memphis Botanical Garden, with live music and an appearance by Mayor Wharton. Turnout for the event was excellent, helped by good weather. TSPN had a booth at this event and is interested in further partnership with AFSP Memphis.
- The January meeting included a meet-and-greet session with Dolinky.
- Several regional members attended the Living Well Network’s Mental Health Breakfast on February 5; former U.S. Senator Patrick Kennedy was the featured speaker and provided powerful remarks.
- Porter, along with Lamar Frizzell from Delta Medical Center, taped a segment promoting TSPN and suicide prevention for the local PBS station’s health awareness program. It is set to air about ten times a week during the months of January and February.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

- Tatum reported that MHAMT President/CEO Tom Starling and MHAMT Board of Directors John McCauley spoke to the Executive Committee regarding their agency’s pending move. They also spoke about possible clarifications to the wording on the vendor contract/relationship between TSPN, MHAMT and TDMHSAS.

Advocacy Committee

- During today’s Committee meeting, Porter reported on members’ review of the updated professional licensure legislation, to be presented for the General Assembly’s

consideration. They also reviewed this year's Suicide Prevention Awareness Month proclamation document.

- Committee members noted some discrepancies between suicide figures listed in the legislation and in the proclamation, specifically regarding the estimated numbers of deaths per year and suicide's ranking among the state's leading causes of death. These will be amended within the proclamation document.
- **The Committee introduced a motion to accept the updated version professional licensure legislation. Bernard seconded and the motion passed without opposition.**
- Ridgway observed that during Mental Health Day on Capitol Hill, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention had 30 members on hand to promote the concept in order to rally support for the bill and recruit possible sponsors.
- The updated version of the bill includes the revised hours and timeframe proposed earlier: two hours of training every two years as opposed to six hours every six.
- Ridgway pointed out that ten other states across the country are considering legislation like this bill or a version of the Jason Flatt Act, suggesting broad public support for suicide prevention training.
 - There may be some resistance at first, but Ridgway expects these will be easily overcome by the point that even one suicide is one too many.
 - Ridgway recalled that many of the same professional organizations that initially objected to the professional licensure legislation also voiced opposition to the Jason Flatt Act, for very much the same reasons. They argued that the legislation created a "slippery slope" that would lead to their members being overwhelmed with mandated specialized training sessions.
- State Rep. Jeremy Faison, a proven advocate of suicide prevention within the General Assembly, will be approached as a potential sponsor. However, Ridgway made it clear that this bill and the effort to make it law is and shall be a non-partisan effort.
- Ken and Madge Tullis have expressed how humbled and appreciative they are that the bill will be named for them. Ridgway pointed out that usually these types of bills are named in memory of someone, rather than acknowledging someone still living.
 - For the benefit of new members, Ridgway explained that the Tullises co-founded TSPN in 2001 and remain leading figures within the Network.
- In terms of the proclamation document, the Committee recommended these edits:
 - The passage about leading cause of death should be reworded to state that suicide is the tenth-leading cause of death in the state of Tennessee.
 - The phrase "950 deaths each year" should be changed to "900 deaths each year".
 - The Committee took issue with the passage about 8-25 estimated suicide attempts for every death, considering this an unnecessarily wide range and wanting more information on where it was derived. The central office planned to fact-check this point.
 - The Committee recommended additional wording acknowledging the issue of veteran suicide. Specifically, they requested that after the second "whereas", the proclamation should include the following copy: "Whereas Tennessee veterans, active-duty military, and National Guard members are disproportionately affected by suicide as compared to the rest of Tennessee, with more Tennessee soldiers dying by suicide than in combat, and..."

- **The Committee introduced a motion to revise the Suicide Prevention Awareness Month proclamation as per the recommendations of said Committee outlined above. Stamps seconded and the motion passed without opposition.**
- Ridgway observed that in 2014, members were able to secure Suicide Prevention Awareness Month proclamations from 88 of Tennessee's 95 counties, compared to 87 the year before and 86 the year before that. He is optimistic that with the aid of the Regional Coordinators, the Network can obtain proclamations from all the counties.
 - TSPN actually received a total of 130 proclamations from both city and county mayors. Many of them were published in local newspapers.

Strategies/Outcomes/Evaluation Committee

- During today's meeting, Young provided the Committee with an updated on the Zero Suicide Initiative and led a discussion of next steps.
- She informed the group that several Advisory Council members are on the Zero Suicide Initiative Task Force and can answer other members' questions about it.
- The Committee wanted clarification on whether there would be a Zero Suicide Academy in Tennessee this year. Ridgway confirmed that there would be and promised to provide more information about this later on during the meeting.
- The Committee had reviewed and approved the Zero Suicide Initiative logo, which was included in the meeting packets.
 - **The Committee issued a motion for approval of the proposed Zero Suicide Initiative logo; Anderson seconded and there were no objections.**
- Ridgway expressed his thanks to the marketing team at Centerstone, which developed the logo, acknowledging the contributions of Mike Rivera in particular.
 - Ridgway pointed out that the logo was based on designs drafted by Task Force members during its most recent in-person meeting in November.
- Rollout of the Initiative, in the form of the associated Organizational and Work Force Surveys, is in progress at several behavioral health organizations represented on the Task Force.
- Stoll recounted how survey participants at Centerstone's Indiana offices received Zero candy bars and Coke Zeros as rewards for participating in the survey; she recommended using a similar reward program for partner agencies administering the surveys.
 - Ridgway recognized Stoll for championing the Zero Suicide Initiative within Centerstone and getting staff of that facility interested in and excited about the project.

Outreach Committee

- Nadler reported members' discussion about the proposed symposium in July as well as Suicide Prevention Awareness Day in September.
- The event is scheduled to take place on July 29-30 (Wednesday and Thursday) at Trevecca Community Church.
- On Wednesday evening, TSPN will host a catered dinner and a screening of the documentary "Of Two Minds", followed by a Q&A with co-director/writer/producer Lisa Klein. Thursday will feature the keynote presentation, luncheon, and breakout sessions.
 - Stamps circulated a copy of the agenda to meeting participants.
- It was noted that Nadler was among those interviewed in the documentary.
- Since the event is being held in July, many of the breakout sessions focus on topics that will

- appeal to teachers and other school employees.
- The Suicide Prevention Awareness Day event will be held on Wednesday, September 9, also at Trevecca.
 - Committee members discussed ways the event can be more inclusive. Previous observances have focused primarily on people who have lost loved ones or suicide prevention in general; it has been suggested that this year's event could include something about the lived experience movement.
 - The Committee also recommended creation of a social media team to promote the event to populations not usually present at these observances.

Intra-State Departmental Group Update

- Love recounted efforts in progress to circulate and complete the Intra-State Departmental Group Survey, which will assess the procedures and resources state departments and agencies offer for both their staff and the general public.
- The survey was based on the one circulated in 2005, with significant updates by Love and Ridgway.
- Each survey should be signed off on by the Commissioner or Executive Director of the department or agency and relayed to the TSPN central office no later than February 27.
- The qualitative data obtained from this survey will be used to advise outreach to and within these agencies.
- Other projects the Group has in mind include online suicide prevention training for state employees and increased access to aggregated suicide data for strategic planning purposes.
- Love reported that an inter-departmental survey revealed that employees of HR departments are the least happy out of all state employees. This may provide ideas for a targeted approach.
- Ridgway is certain that the current survey is one of the first, if not the first, comprehensive review of suicide prevention protocols and strategies within state agencies.
- The 2005 survey had only four questions on it and was primarily oriented towards what the departments needed and/or wanted from TSPN. This one is not only more in-depth, but it also aims to assess what these agencies themselves are doing in terms of suicide prevention and crisis intervention.
- Each department and agency survey is to be signed off by the Commissioner or Executive Director so as to brief him/her on the state of suicide prevention and crisis intervention within that entity.
- Ridgway announced that two state departments, specifically the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability, have already turned in their surveys.

TDMHSAS Update

- Sparks began by acknowledging the role Advisory Council members have played thus far in the promotion of the Zero Suicide Initiative.
- She also pointed out that the Southeast Region's efforts to embed suicide prevention activities within partner agencies' existing services is exactly in line with the Zero Suicide Initiative, to incorporate suicide prevention as a core component of everyday operations.
- Both of the grants administered by TDMHSAS are in line to begin providing training sessions and other services.
 - TSPN, Centerstone, and the Centerstone Research are the grant partners assisting the department in fulfilling the goals of the grant. Centerstone will provide follow-up services for high-risk individuals, both by phone and, in the case of people in Middle Tennessee, in person. Face-to-face services via telehealth may also be in the future. TSPN will provide training and CRI will evaluate activities.
- Lockman has reviewed outcomes from the TLC-3 enhanced follow-up and the results are promising. She plans to present these in-depth during the next Advisory Council meeting in June.
- Part of these projects involves targeting the systems and institutions where people in crisis are going to access services. At the last GLS meeting in Washington, it was noted that nationally, 70% of the people who die by suicide never make contact with a behavioral health professional, but large percentages of them seek help from their local emergency department or primary care physician.
- In other news, Sparks has data available from the statewide Mobile Crisis database—two years' worth of figures. Her preliminary review of the data shows that approximately 26% of people seen by Mobile Crisis are actively suicidal. This suggests that the Zero Suicide Initiative Task Force will need to place special emphasis on Mobile Crisis Units and outpatient facilities.
 - Sparks has also noted an increased volume of mental health referrals during the past two years.
- This week the Department released a standardized training suicide prevention curriculum for law enforcement personnel. In advance of the release, it was shared with the Department's criminal justice liaisons and some crisis workers. The training will be posted on the Department's website after the website's redesign is complete in October.
- The Department is partnering with the Department of Intellectual Disability to strengthen the system's ability to manage a crisis and develop suicide prevention protocols for people with intellectual disabilities.
- In response to inquiries from Advisory Council members, Sparks provided additional details about the law enforcement training.
 - The training has been accredited by the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council. It has received very good reviews by those who have previewed the curriculum.
 - It does not take the place of Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), but is a valid resource for those without said training. It provides solid basic information about how to approach and deal with emotionally troubled and/or actively suicidal persons. It reviews the C-SSRS screening tool, provides information about the

“suicide by cop” problem, and offers a clarification on Title 33, which relates to response and authority.

- In related news, the Department has formed the Behavioral Health Emergency Services Team, a workgroup charged with recommending less traumatic options for involuntary emergency transport of persons in mental health crisis. This group includes law enforcement officers, ED physicians, EMS technicians, mental health consumers, and advocates. Workgroup recommendations currently include regional contracted transportation systems that of course come with a fiscal note so efforts are currently underway to conduct a cost analysis.
- Sparks commented on the professional licensure legislation, thanking TSPN for proposing this much-needed change in protocol. Sparks is concerned about the number of mental health professionals in our state who are unprepared to deal with a suicide crisis. One of the goals of the grant is to integrate suicide prevention training into higher education curriculum so that no prospective professional in the health related field graduates without knowing how to deal with actively suicidal persons. But while this legislation will help, there are people who are not licensed mental health professionals who need training. She would appreciate suggestions from Advisory Council members on how to embed suicide prevention curricula in higher education institutions.
 - It was noted that the Network can provide free suicide prevention training and materials through the current grant programs. Ridgway mentioned that one of the grants supports provision of online suicide prevention training to first responders. The Network will need input from these workers to help develop this curriculum.

Other Business

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

- Ridgway directed members to the call volumes report in the meeting packets.
- He acknowledged the efforts of Mental Health America of New York City, administrators of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, for providing TSPN with the latest call center figures.
- The Network is investigating the prospect of additional community agencies answering the hotline; several have expressed interest, including those administering the state’s Mobile Crisis contract. However, Ridgway cautions that the application and connection process is not a simple one, pointing out how long it took to get Contact CareLine, the latest agency to start taking calls, connected to the Lifeline.

Insure Tennessee

- Ridgway provided a report on Governor Haslam’s proposed healthcare plan and TSPN’s role in supporting it. Ultimately, the Tennessee Senator Health and Welfare Committee rejected the bill by a vote of 7-4, disappointing public health advocates across the state.
- Despite the program’s failure to materialize, Ridgway applauded Haslam’s leadership in developing it over the past two years. Had Insure Tennessee passed into law, it would have provided healthcare coverage to over 300,000 Tennesseans.
- Ridgway was at Capitol Hill to hear testimony on the program. He found that most of the legislators had little understanding about how badly the program was needed. They had already made up their minds about it, having associated it with Obamacare, and were thus not receptive to public appeals.

- The packets for today's meeting includes letters of support for Insure Tennessee from both TSPN and the Tennessee Coalition for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

TSPN Logo/Tagline

- Ridgway led the group in a discussion about the new TSPN logo and possible suggestions for an accompanying tagline.
- Agencies partnering with TSPN for conferences and events have been using the stylized image in our website's masthead in sponsorship materials instead of the actual TSPN logo. To prevent this, Ridgway procured the assistance of Clay McCoy of Acadia Healthcare (an ally of TSPN's East Tennessee Region) to have their marketing team develop a new, catchier logo. The marketing team considered several designs before developing the three-star version that appears on today's meeting materials.
- However, the logo they developed included the tagline "Offer Hope, Save Lives", which TSPN members have generally rejected.
- The central office is soliciting new taglines from members of the Advisory Council. Later on, Enlow will e-mail everyone some suggested taglines for review.

New Business

TSPN Leading the Way: Advocacy, Connection, Education (Statewide Symposium) Tuesday and Wednesday-July 28-29, 2015

- Usually TSPN holds its statewide symposia in the spring, but the central office had difficulty reconciling the availability of an available and reasonably priced conference space with the schedule of invited speaker Lisa Klein.
- The proceedings will include a dinner on the evening of the 28th, along with a screening of the documentary "Of Two Minds". The 29th will feature the keynote, luncheon, and breakout sessions.
 - Klein will be recognized during the dinner on Tuesday evening.
- The price of registration will include both the dinner and the main day of the presentation.
- Ridgway and other TSPN staff believe that shifting the event to the end of July will have the added benefit of bringing in educators and public school staff who might not otherwise be able to attend.
- While the symposium is not intended as a Zero Suicide Academy, several of the breakout sessions address elements of the Zero Suicide Initiative or associated skill sets.
- Some potential sponsors have already expressed interest, with Cornerstone already agreeing to a \$500 sponsorship.
 - Members are encouraged to seek out additional support for the symposia; copies of the sponsorship form are included in each meeting packets.
 - At this point, partner agencies are only being asked for a verbal agreement. However, the sooner they turn in the sponsorship forms, the sooner their logos can be added to symposium promotional materials.
- Ridgway acknowledged Chastain Beal for suggesting the title for this year's event.

Executive Director's Report

- Ridgway reports that approximately 2,400 people across the state participated in one or more of the 19 Suicide Prevention Awareness Month events held during September.

- Also, we received approximately 130 Suicide Prevention Awareness Month proclamations during 2014, representing 88 of Tennessee's 95 counties and 130 county and city governments.
- Ridgway reflected that it is exciting to know that TSPN and its members are making a difference across the state.
- He expressed appreciation for the Outreach Committee's plans to focus the lived experience movement during the upcoming symposium.
 - In line with this focus, Ridgway wanted to have Ken Tullis as the keynote speaker—he noted that Tullis has not spoken at a TSPN event for a few years. However, Tullis is not available on the scheduled dates.
 - Ridgway noticed that Tullis was promoting the concept of suicide attempt survivors participating in the suicide prevention movement roughly 15 years before AAS formally adopted the concept.
- Ridgway, along with Nadler, Haught and Sparks and others, participated in LivingWorks's field trial for its new "Suicide to Hope" curriculum in Nashville on October 15 at the Hayes Building. The curriculum is designed to help Mental Health Professional work with clients who have attempted suicide in the past.
- Research shows that many counselors and therapists go through their entire curriculum without the word "suicide" even being mentioned. "Suicide to Hope" is intended to help these professionals respond to the special needs of these patients.
- Ridgway, Bernard, Averitt and Granger Brown presented to about 89 people at the Tennessee Psychological Association (TPA) on October 30.
 - Ridgway recalled that the TPA was pushing against the legislation when it was introduced last year. TSPN's presentation, which consisted of two back-to-back sessions, included information about update stats, TSPN, how to work with patients, ect. Feedback from the session suggests many TPA members had not fully understood how many people in Tennessee die by suicide, and how great the need for this information really was.
- Ridgway also participated in a panel discussion during TAMHO's annual conference on December 2. This event featured a presentation from David Covington, Co-Lead of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention's Clinical Care and Intervention Task Force, to promote the Zero Suicide Initiative.
 - Suicide prevention activist and author Kevin Hines was the keynote presenter at this event.
 - Benedetto moderated the panel mentioned previously, and Ridgway, Stoll, West and others were participants as well.
- Currently six agencies participating in the Zero Suicide Initiative Task Force are circulating a workforce survey which will gauge the suicide prevention training needs of agency staff.
- The "Love Never Dies" Memorial Quilt will be accepting new panels for the current quilt through June. Interested parties may contact or make referrals to Chastain Beal.
- TSPN hired Dolinky as its West Tennessee Regional Coordinator on November 17; Payne started as East Tennessee Regional Coordinator on January 19. Regional Coordinators are active in all three Grand Regions.
 - Ridgway has come to appreciate the ability to refer training and speaker requests to the Regional Coordinators rather than having to handle them personally or hunt for an available regional member.

- The job posting for the Zero Suicide Prevention Coordinator was sent out via the office Constant Contact system this past Monday. It is also posted on the Center for Nonprofit Management website.
 - MHAMT received 20 applications for the position within 48 hours of the initial announcement.
 - The applicants will be subjected to similar interview procedures as were in place for the Regional Coordinators. Specifically, the top ten applicants will be invited to submit a brief research paper on the Zero Suicide Initiative. The applicants with the best papers will be invited to an interview for which they will prepare a PowerPoint presentation on the Initiative. Ridgway hopes to have a final decision made by the first week of March.
 - Ridgway admits the procedure may seem rigorous, but all three of the Regional Coordinators managed the process. Ridgway believes the procedure guarantees the selection of the best person for the position.
- Ridgway, along with R. Brown, Dolinky, Hamer and LaBonte, are participating in conference calls associated with the Suicide and the Black Church Conference planned for June 17-18 in Memphis. More information on times and programming will be forthcoming. Ridgway was able to confirm that the conference will be held at the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center, which is sponsoring the event.
- TSPN passed its TDMHSAS program audit in December with outstanding reviews. Preparations for the audit involved reviewing TSPN's Scope of Services and creating a binder with documentation for all aspects of same.
 - The central office created two binders for the audit: one for provision to the auditor and another for consultation for future program audits. Ridgway passed this second binder around for review by Advisory Council members.
 - MHAMT will go through a fiscal audit in March; TSPN will likely provided assistance in this process as well.
- Ridgway anticipates staging the first Zero Suicide Academy late fall, to be held first in the TSPN's Northeast Region. Additional sessions will follow in the Rural West and Southeast Regions.
 - All Zero Suicide Academies will run from 9 AM to 3 PM and will be hosted by TSPN partner agencies in these areas.
 - The day before yesterday, Ridgway and Sparks were both on a conference call on the Zero Suicide Initiative, which exposed the need to make people understand that the Initiative will focus on behavioral healthcare and community mental health centers, at least in the beginning. At this point, the Zero Suicide Initiative will not be offered to law enforcement, community groups, or any entity not directly associated with behavioral healthcare. People not employed with such agencies need not register for the Zero Suicide Academies.
 - Primary care and emergency departments will be involved with the federal grant; in fact, Ridgway recently participated in a retreat at St. Thomas Hickman in Centerville to roll out this project.
- Ridgway began circulating a demographic survey to meeting participants. The survey is intended to collect information on age, gender, sexual minority status, and suicide survivor/attempter status for members of the Advisory Council and/or Zero Suicide Initiative Task Force members. He emphasized that this is an anonymous survey and that participants should not put their names or contact information on the form. They should simply complete the survey, fold it over in half, and pass it to the front.

Adjournment

- Tatum acknowledged Ridgway and Enlow for their efforts in preparing for today's meeting, as well as Spears for her continuing support and advocacy on the Network's behalf.
- He also thanked the Regional Coordinators for their work thus far.
- The next meeting will convene on Wednesday, June 3, in the Community Room of the Metro Nashville Police Department's Hermitage Precinct, located at 3701 James Kay Lane in the Hermitage.
- **With a motion from Anderson, seconded by Crockett, the meeting adjourned at 2:14 PM.**