



*"Saving Lives in Tennessee"*

**Advisory Council Meeting  
Trevecca Community Church  
335 Murfreesboro Pike  
Wednesday, September 10, 2014  
1:00 - 2:30 PM**

### **Minutes**

#### **Advisory Council Members Present**

Jennifer Harris, MS, Director, Senior Care Program, St. Thomas Hickman Hospital (Advisory Council Chair / Chair, Hickman-Perry Suicide Prevention Task Force)

Karyl Chastain Beal, M.Ed., Retired/Community Advocate (Advisory Council Co- Chair / South Central Regional Chair / Outreach Committee Chair)

Anne Stamps, Center Director, Cumberland Mountain Mental Health Center/Dale Hollow Mental Health Center (Advisory Council Secretary and Upper Cumberland Regional Chair)

Tim Tatum, MA, LPC-MHSP, Director of Behavioral Health, Pine Ridge Treatment Center (Advisory Council Co-Secretary/Southeast Regional Chair)

Sabrina Anderson, Executive Director, Boys and Girls Clubs of Jackson-Madison County (Rural West Regional Chair)

John B. Averitt, Ph.D., Upper Cumberland Psychological Associates/Police Psychological Officer, Cookeville Police Department

Ursula Bailey, JD, MBA, Attorney, Private Practice

Nancy L. Badger, Ph.D., Assistant Vice Chancellor, Student Services Director, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Vickie Bilbrey, Volunteer Services Manager, Gentiva® Hospice

Renee Brown, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Memphis VA Medical Center (Memphis/Shelby County Regional Chair)

Patsy Crockett, BSW, Case Manager IV, Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Cindy Johnson, Community Activist

Kelly S. Haught, MA, LPC-MHSP, Division Director, Specialty Services, Frontier Health

Brenda Harper, Community Advocate/Retired

Emily Hill, Community Education Director, Behavioral Healthcare Center at Columbia

Harold Leonard, MA, LPC-MHSP, Cognitive Behavioral Specialists of the Tri-Cities (Northeast Regional Chair)

Rita McNabb, Coordinated School Health Director, Cocke County Schools

Debra K. Moore, Community Representative, Bradford Health Services

Eve Nite, Business Development Specialist, Mental Health Cooperative of Chattanooga

Stephenie Robb, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Initiatives, Inc.

Kim Rush, Ed.S., LPC-MHSP, Vice-President of Operations, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System

Ellen Stowers, Assistant Director, Contact Lifeline

Becky Stoll, Vice President of the Crisis and Disaster Management, Centerstone

Kandi Shearer, Clinical Director, Youth Villages Specialized Crisis Services

Christen Thorpe, MS, CRC, CATSM, Child and Adolescent Therapist, Pastoral Counseling Centers

of Tennessee (Mid-Cumberland Regional Chair)

**Intra-State Departmental Group Members Present**

John Allen, Director of Behavioral Health Services, Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration  
Wendell Cheek, Deputy Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs  
Gwen Hamer, MA, Director, Education and Development, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services  
Shannon Hall, MA, Grants & Special Projects Director, Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security  
Dustin Keller, LPC-MHSP, Director, Council on Children's Mental Health, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth  
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)  
Lori Paisley, Director of Special Projects, Tennessee Department of Education  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Noel Riley-Philpo, Risk Reduction, Resilience and Suicide Prevention Manager, Joint Force Headquarters, Tennessee National Guard  
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**

Kathy Benedetto, LPC, SPE, LMFT, Senior Vice-President, Tennessee Child and Youth Services, Frontier Health  
Mike LaBonte, Executive Director, Memphis Crisis Center  
Christopher Morris, Ed.S, Assistant Principal, North Side High School  
Waring Porter, Pastor, All Saints Presbyterian Church  
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 Absent**

Jackie Berg, Training Specialist and Worker's Compensation Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development  
Jacquelyn S. Bruce, Planning and Grants Management Supervisor, Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability  
Sheila Hubbard, Statewide Clinical Case Management Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Corrections  
Sumita Keller, Customer Services Administrator, Tennessee Department of Human Services  
Michelle Ramsey RN, State Public Health Nursing Director, Tennessee Department of Health  
Delora Ruffin, MA, Program Specialist, Division of Child Health, Tennessee Department of Children's Services

**TSPN Advisory Council Emeritus Group Members**

Sam Bernard, Ph.D., the PAR Foundation

Clark Flatt, President/CEO, the Jason Foundation, Inc.  
Claudia M. Mays, LCSW, BCD, CM Counseling & Consulting Service  
Kenneth F. Tullis, MD, FASAM, ABAM Diplomate, The Psychological Trauma & Wellness Center  
(TSPN Co-Founder)  
Madge Tullis, Community Advocate (TSPN Co-Founder)

### **TSPN Staff Present**

Olivia Cole, Field Placement Student, Southern Adventist University  
Vladimir Enlow, MTS, TSPN Executive Assistant  
Samatha Nadler, Middle TN Regional Coordinator  
Scott Ridgway, MS, TSPN Executive Director

### **Guests**

Jodi Bartlett, Ed.S, LPC-MHSP, MCRT Director, Northern Region, Volunteer Behavioral Health  
Janice Johnson Browne, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor, Tennessee State University  
Frieda Herron, Private Practice  
Tricia Henderson, Counseling Center, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga  
Kay Witherspoon, Suicide Prevention Case Manager, Memphis VA Medical Center

### **Welcome and Introductions**

- Harris called the meeting to order at 1:14 AM, welcoming new members.
- Introductions followed around the room.

### **Approval of Minutes from Previous Advisory Council Meeting**

- The minutes from the February session were accidentally included in the packets instead of the ones from June, but Ridgway observed that the June minutes had already been circulated via e-mail for review.
- **Tatum motioned for approval of the June minutes as transmitted earlier, Leonard seconded, and the motion carried without objection.**

### **Regional Reports**

#### **Northeast Region**

- Regional Chair Leonard reported that Suicide Prevention Awareness Month proclamations had already been submitted from all counties in the region.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Walk is set for 4 PM at September 21 at Warrior's Path State Park. It is sponsored by Mountain States Health Alliance and will feature a picnic dinner courtesy of the Smoke Shack out of Norton, Virginia.
  - Linda Phipps Harold has informed Leonard that over 100 people attended last year and more are expected this year. The event will feature live music, several guest speakers, and may be covered by local media outlets.
- Regional members have fielded several inquiries from local media regarding suicide and depression in the wake of Robin Williams.
- "Saving Lives in Northeast Tennessee" is set for 9 AM-3 PM on September 26 at Wesley United Methodist Church in Johnson City.
  - This year's event includes a new feature—a faith-based panel featuring representatives from several houses of worship.

### **East Tennessee Region**

- Shugart gave the regional report in place of absent Regional Chair Young.
- The East Tennessee Council on Children and Youth is partnering with TSPN, Village Behavioral Health, and the Tennessee chapter of the National Association of Social Workers to stage “Keeping More Than Dreams Alive: Teen Suicide Awareness” on September 17 in Knoxville. Jason Foundation President/CEO Clark Flatt will be the keynote speaker.
- The East Tennessee Suicide Prevention Awareness Month event is set for September 29 at Cornerstone of Recovery in Louisville. The event will include dedication of the regional quilt, presentation of the Regional Suicide Prevention Award, testimonials from survivors of suicide and suicide attempts, and a sit-down luncheon.
  - Cornerstone is not only the host for this event, but also the lead sponsor.

### **Upper Cumberland Region**

- Regional Chair Stamps says that nine counties have submitted proclamation documents thus far.
- The Daniel Seal Suicide Prevention Forum, held September 4 in Cookeville, had excellent turnout, and feedback has been positive. This event, in its fourth year, included a panel discussion aimed at teachers and school staff. Somewhere between 85 and 100 people attended.
- Harper, the lead organizer for last night’s “Macon Memories” event in Lafayette, said that turnout was excellent, and she thanked Ridgway for his participation in the proceedings.
  - Harper has also organized “Love Never Dies” events to be held in Hartsville, Lebanon, and Mount Juliet later this month.
- The region had an exhibit at the Fall Fun Fest in Cookeville on September 6; it included a rubber duck pond for the kids.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual “Light of Hope” event will be held at Nashville State Community College on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Southeast Region**

- Regional Chair Tatum reported that “Saving Lives in Southeast Tennessee”, which was co-sponsored by TSPN and the Southeast Council on Children and Youth, was held in Chattanooga on September 4 and attended by 158 people. He circulated a program from the event.
  - The event included separate youth and adult tracks.
  - Rachele Stafford, the keynoted speaker, provided very powerful remarks about the loss of her parents in a murder-suicide incident.
- Tatum provided an interview regarding Suicide Prevention Awareness Month for September edition of *Southeast Crossroads*, a regional interest magazine.
- Members participated in several radio and TV interviews in the aftermath of Robin Williams’s death; these included a talk radio segment featuring Tatum, which discussed the risk posed to middle-aged males.
  - Tatum spoke on TSPN’s behalf at the Hamilton County/Chattanooga/Southeast Tennessee Annual Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Awards Breakfast.
  - Tatum continues to provide suicide prevention training to participating officers, having facilitated a class in June with another one scheduled for October.

- One additional note: yesterday Ridgway and Tatum presented information about suicide prevention to the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Council.
  - Ridgway mentioned that members of the Health Council are appointed by the Mayor and City Council, and they are increasingly interested in mental health issues.

### **Mid-Cumberland Region**

- Regional Chair Thorpe announced that about 60 people are signed up from tomorrow's Middle Tennessee Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Event, to be held in Nashville's Centennial Park.
  - Emcee for this event will be Anna Marie from Nashville's Mix 92.9.
  - The event will include a presentation from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Honor Guard and a musical performance from recording artist April Kry. The Regional Suicide Prevention Awareness Award will be formally presented, two speakers (one survivor; one attempt survivor) are scheduled, and event will conclude with a picnic dinner sponsored by Rolling Hills Hospital.
- As in other regions, members provided information to local media outlets following the death of Robin Williams.
- 500 bags of materials were given out through TSPN's exhibit at the July 21 Nashville Sounds game.
- Hamer reported that the Suicide Prevention and African American Faith Communities Coalition (SPA AFC) was the winner of this year's Innovator Award at this year's Healthy Nashville Summit 2014 NashVitality Awards, held May 9. SPA AFC was hailed for its effective implementation of suicide prevention strategies on the local level, all without the use of municipal funds.
  - SPA AFC has a workshop planned for November 1 at Patterson Park Community Center in Murfreesboro.

### **South Central Region**

- Regional Chair Chastain Beal announced that the Hickman-Perry County Suicide Prevention Task Force's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Awareness and Prevention Walk is set for September 13 in Centerville.
  - The event will include the boot display from Fort Campbell and an exhibit with mental health resources.
  - Sponsors of this event are LifeCare Center of Centerville, Saint Thomas Health Services, and UnitedHealthcare.
- The Suicide Prevention Memorial Walk organized by the Giles County Suicide Prevention Task Force is set for that same date in Pulaski.
- Additionally, the Making a Difference Suicide Awareness Movement (MADSAM) is planning its Third Annual Suicide Awareness Walk on October 4 in Winchester.
- Stowers announced that Contact-Concern is organizing a suicide support group for Tullahoma; the first meeting is October 6.

### **Rural West Region**

- Regional Chair Anderson reported that about 100 people attended the "Saving Lives in Rural West Tennessee" conference held in Jackson on September 5.
  - The impressive response to this event led regional members to suggest that any repeat of this event be held in a larger venue.

- Guests were particularly appreciated of Ridgway's remarks, as well as the cyberbullying lecture presented by Debra L. Ireland, an Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee.
- Last night Anderson presented to 25 students in a wellness course at Lane College, and she has a similar lecture planned for September 30 at a local school district.
- The region is also planning an event in partnership with Team Mica sometime this fall.

### **Memphis/Shelby County Region**

- Anderson also presented this region's report, as Regional Chair Brown had to leave early.
- A capacity crowd of 270 people is expected for "Suicide and Trauma" on September 16 at Hope Church in Cordova.
- Anderson also noted several events planned at the Memphis VA in association with Suicide Prevention Awareness Month; Enlow added that a full listing of these events is included in the Suicide Prevention Awareness Month round-up on the TSPN homepage.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Advocacy Committee**

- Committee Chair Tatum announced that Suicide Prevention Awareness Month proclamations are coming in from all corners of the state. The signing events for these proclamations have been featured in several local newspapers.
- Ridgway commented that 9 of the 13 counties in the Upper Cumberland Region had installed new mayor since last year, in the wake of the Upper Cumberland Development District controversy. Several of these wanted to wait until after the election to make the proclamation.
- At any rate, about 60 counties are represented in this year's proclamation campaign. Several counties have submitted multiple proclamations—for example, ones from mayors of different towns within the same county.
- Tatum encouraged members to reach out to their local mayors and/or county executives, but advised them to check with other members regarding which proclamations have been secured to avoid duplication of efforts.

#### **Strategies/Outcomes/Evaluation Committee**

- Speaking on behalf of absent Committee Chair Young, Johnson directed members to the press release regarding the Zero Suicide Initiative Task Force as featured in the meeting packets.
- An orientation meeting for the Task Force is set for September 19 at the Metro Nashville Police Department's Hermitage Precinct (site of the usual Advisory Council meetings).
  - Members of the Advisory Council, Intra-State Departmental Group, and the general public are allowed to attend, but should RSVP with the TSPN central office.

#### **Outreach Committee**

- Committee Chair Chastain Beal announced that while the quilt project is complete for this year, she will accept submissions for next year's quilt. Interested parties should contact her for further details.
- As Chastain Beal noted during today's ceremony, the panel for Daniel Hepburn on the

latest quilt includes some of Daniel's original artwork. His mother, Wanda Hepburn, graciously provided a print of another one of his paintings to share with the Council.

- Chastain Beal asked members for their assessments of today's Suicide Prevention Awareness Month event. Comments were generally favorable, with especially high marks given to the catering.
  - Shugart mentioned that the debut of the new quilt is always very meaningful for survivor families. Chastain Beal explained how it is often the first opportunity she has to meet panel submitters in person, since she primarily communicates with them online during the quilt development process.
  - Johnson reported that Kris Moore's family was in attendance at today's event and told Hill that they found the ceremony particularly moving.
  - Chastain Beal considered Annette Lake's testimonial one of the highlights of the event, an assessment shared by the other members of the Council.
  - Harris believes the musical performances by Dr. Janice Johnson Brown helped break up the proceedings. Hamer appreciated the song choice, which was particularly fitting for the event.
  - Stoll suggested that future events have a dedicated hashtag, such as #TSPNday, for use in promoting the event on Twitter and other social media platforms.
- Ridgway suggested that at the start of next year's event, he will ask everyone to check in on Facebook and social media first thing to mention their attendance of the event.
- Ridgway noted that Ireland, who spoke at "Saving Lives in Rural West Tennessee", included a demonstration of how quickly photos and other posts can spread through social media and how much of the information we provide is tracked by third parties. She provided a list of social media "dos and don'ts" that members may want to provide to clients and other contacts.
- In response to a question from M. Tullis, Enlow provided information about the agency's Twitter account (@TSPNorg).

#### **Intra-State Departmental Group Update**

- Love announced that longtime Committee Chair Dustin Keller is leaving the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth for a position at Camelot. Linda O'Neal will presumably direct whoever fills Keller's position to attend Group meetings as the TCCY delegate.
- The IRB research project regarding the Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention will begin sometime this fall. He was on a conference call with tech support associated with IRB, working out of the University of Rochester. A doctoral-level student has been selected to assist with the interview process.
- Love reported that the Department had seen its share of media and consumer inquiries following the death of Robin Williams.
- The Department has arranged a 15-minute promo for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline on WQQK (a.k.a. 92Q), as well as a segment for local Trinity Broadcasting Network affiliates.
- A informational segment on the Zero Suicide Initiative has appeared on WBBJ-TV out of Jackson.
- Love asked other members of the Group to provide details on TSPN-related projects within their departments and agencies.
- Cheek reported that he and other members of the Network (specifically

- Sparks, Riley-Philpo, Granger Brown, Debbie Jones, and Christina Mick) will travel to Bethesda, Maryland for the VA Suicide Prevention Academy next month. It will focus on the development and implementation of strategies related to veterans, their families, and suicide prevention.
- Love pointed out that Allen spearheaded the dedication of the September state employees EAP newsletter entirely to the issue of suicide prevention; he thanked Ridgway for his assistance in providing some of the information included.

### **Other Business**

#### **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**

- Ridgway directed members to the call volumes report in the meeting packets, but did not go into detail about them in the interest of time.

### **New Business**

#### **Emeritus Group Nominations**

- The following ex-members of the Advisory Council have been nominated for membership in TSPN's Emeritus Group:
  - Pam Arnell, Ed.D.
  - Jodi Bartlett
  - Anne Henning-Rowan
  - Anna Shugart
  - Bartlett had agreed to be the new chair of the Emeritus Group.
- **Tatum motioned for the appointment of all the Emeritus Group nominees to said group; Anderson seconded and the motion passed unanimously**

#### **Nomination of TSPN Officers**

- Harris pointed out this coming year's slate of officers, including Executive Committee members and Advisory Council chairs, as was included in the meeting packet.
- Executive Committee
  - Past Chair: Jennifer Harris
  - Chair: Tim Tatum
  - Co-Chair: Karyl Chastain Beal
  - Secretary: Anne Stamps
  - Co-Secretary: Renee Brown
- Regional Chairs
  - Northeast: Harold Leonard
  - East Tennessee: Anne Young
    - Blount County Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Alliance: Anna Shugart
  - Southeast: Eve Nite
  - Upper Cumberland: Anne Stamps
  - South Central: Karyl Chastain Beal
    - Giles County Suicide Prevention Task Force: Pam Arnell
    - Hickman-Perry County Suicide Prevention Task Force: Jennifer Harris
  - Mid-Cumberland: Christen Thorpe
    - Davidson County Suicide Prevention Task Force: Angie Thompson
    - Montgomery-Houston-Humphreys-Stewart: Cindy Johnson



- Rutherford: Kim Rush
    - Rural West: Sabrina Anderson
    - Memphis/Shelby County: Pastor Waring Porter
- Following review of the slate, **Harris asked for a motion to accept the current slate of officers. Anderson motioned for approval of the slate, Crockett seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

### **Executive Director's Report**

- Ridgway acknowledged Nadler, who started with TSPN in July as its Middle Tennessee Regional Coordinator. He pointed out that Nadler was selected as the regional and statewide winner before she came on staff.
- The central office is trying to arrange interviews for leading applicants for the West Tennessee Regional Coordinator position.
  - Ridgway admitted there had not been much luck filling the post. Applicants frequently drop out when they realize that a research paper and PowerPoint presentation are required. But this is not an entry-level position and will require someone who is a “self-starter” with advanced knowledge about substance abuse, suicide prevention, and co-occurring disorders.
- The East Tennessee Regional Coordinator position will be posted contingent on funding via the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act; in response to an inquiry from Sparks, Ridgway said he was optimistic about Tennessee’s chances of being funded. Any confirmation of the award will come sometime around October 1, after which point the central office will start advertising the position.
  - Ridgway envisions the Regional Coordinators freeing him up for administration of statewide projects like the Primary Prevention Initiative.
  - In response to questions from Council members, Ridgway clarified that the Regional Coordinators will not be taking the place of regional members, but working with trainers and members to implement the Strategies. This is partly by necessity since the grants funding these positions will provide little money for travel.
  - Ridgway recalled that many members in TSPN’s Memphis/Shelby County Region were interested in the West Tennessee position and wanted the Coordinator to operate out of Memphis. But Jackson is more centrally located, and outreach to rural parts of West Tennessee is part of the reason the position was created in the first place. He noted that rural counties often have high suicide rates.
- A new task force is forming within Bedford, Coffee, and Franklin Counties; Ridgway expects it to be operational by the end of the calendar year.
- TDOH’s Office of Health Statistics has provided the central office with 2013 state suicide figures. There were 1,017 recorded deaths—the first time the raw number has surpassed the one-thousand mark—at a rate of 15.7 per 100,000. This rate is essentially where the state was in 2008, reversing a general downward trend.
  - Ridgway has already requested additional figures from the Office of Health Statistics for use in development of the next Status of Suicide in Tennessee report. He also requested some additional data from the new state medical examiner.
- Ridgway explained to members that he will not be able to attend the VA Suicide Prevention Academy, but he had obtained permission for Granger Brown to attend as a TSPN delegate. Brown had attended another academy on veteran issues held in Bethesda last year.

- Ridgway is excited about the launch of the Zero Suicide Initiative Task Force; its first meeting is set for September 19 at the Metro Nashville Police Department's Hermitage Precinct.
  - Centerstone has already been implementing the project for the past two years, with Frontier and Cornerstone becoming involved later. The meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> is an orientation meeting for Task Force members and is open to the public.
  - Many mental health centers across Tennessee have expressed interest in implementing the Zero Suicide Initiative.
- Ridgway is also looking forward to the formal establishment of the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Instructor Network (T-SPIN), a support network for QPR and ASIST instructors across Tennessee. T-SPIN will actively coordinate local response to training requests fielded by the central office and regional members.
  - Ridgway thanked Chastain Beal for circulating information about T-SPIN to prospective members.
- The death of Robin Williams occurred while Ridgway was vacationing in Australia, and he did not have access to his voicemail. When he returned he was flooded with phone messages requesting comment.
  - He appreciates the efforts of Sparks, Tatum, central office staff, and others to handle media inquiries. Also, TSPN was able to put out a press release addressing the problem of suicide in Tennessee; this release was picked up by several newspapers.
  - Ridgway spoke about the need to educate the media about how to (and how not to) report on suicide and related issues. He recalled how the central office provided extensive assistance to a reporter at the *Chattanooga Times-Free Press* for a three-part series on suicide among men in midlife, which ultimately ran the June 29-July 1 editions. But the series itself carried spotty and incomplete information on TSPN and was, on the whole, more sensationalist than informative. Neither the reporter nor the paper's editor acknowledged TSPN's attempts at constructive feedback.
    - While local papers have and do promote NSPL, but more needs to be done to engage and inform readers.
    - On a brighter note, the *Tennessean* did carry Ridgway's Suicide Prevention Awareness Month editorial in its September 3 edition (a copy is included in the meeting packets).
- Several members of the Advisory Council are up for appointment and should receive letters from the Office of the Governor confirming their status on the Council. Only a few vacancies remain.
  - Admittedly, Boards and Commissions is so far behind on appointments that some Council members got formal notice of approval with only eight months to go in their terms.
  - The most recent addition to the Council is Christopher Morris, Assistant Principal at North Side High School in Jackson.
- Ridgway has made arrangements with Graffiti Indoor Advertising to order 100 posters to be placed in restrooms across Middle Tennessee during August and September.
- As was done during today's ceremony, Ridgway thanked Enlow for his ten years of employment with the Network.
  - He also took this opportunity to thank Harris, the outgoing Council Chair, for her two years of service, and the Council at large for their service as well.

- Ridgway announced that the Southeast Region has been in communication with Chuck Lambert, proprietor of Breezin Metal Works in Sale Creek. After losing his son Chad to suicide, he established an annual motorcycle rally as a local suicide prevention fundraiser. Past events have involved 400 participants and raised more than \$40,000 for local law enforcement. He is interested in partnering with TSPN to raise funds for our agency.
  - He had previously approached the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFS) about turning this into a benefit for their agency, but there was too much paperwork involved and they wanted too much control over the event and its financials.
  - Nite has agreed to work with Lambert to endorse and promote the event, primarily for the purpose of suicide prevention but also in hopes of receiving some of the proceeds.
  - Nite explained that Lambert became familiar with TSPN by attending one of the regional meetings. The last event had 150 people participating in the rally itself, with every surrounding county sending law enforcement officers to participate. \$14,000 in donations was provided to the Rhea County Fire Department.
  - Lambert had intended to attend today's Suicide Prevention Awareness Day but was unable to do so.
- Ridgway acknowledged the efforts of Allen to arrange the devotion of this month's EAP newsletter entirely to the subject of suicide prevention. Rust estimates circulation of the newsletter at roughly 250,000 state employees and subcontractors.
- Dustin Keller is transitioning out of his role on the Intra-State Departmental Group as he is leaving TCCY. Ridgway thanked Keller for his service to the group.
  - Mention was also made of the birth of Ranjan Keller, son of Dustin and Sumita, in June.
- Chastain Beal was thanked for her work on the development of the latest quilt; Ridgway advised members to start soliciting panels for next year's quilt now rather than next year.
- Billbrey offered a suggestion for the website: she would like a large-print handout of the warning signs page for provision to community members, especially older adults. Printout of the page directly from the website often results in print too small for people to read. Enlow offered to handle this project personally.
- K. Tullis inquired as to whether there had been any uptick in suicides since the death of Robin Williams. Bernard reported that suicides had been on the rise in the Chattanooga area even before then. Shugart said that Blount Memorial Hospital was seeing more people seeking treatment, a phenomenon Tatum had also seen at Pine Ridge.
- Ridgway presented information about the "lived experience" movement and requested endorsement of same by the Council.
  - Nadler explained that "lived experience" is the new preferred terminology for suicide attempt survivors. The term helps resolve the long-running confusion of "survivors of suicide" with "survivors of suicide attempts". It also conveys a more positive image, helping to separate the person from the behavior.
  - The "Saving Lives in Rural West Tennessee" conference earlier this month included a presentation on "lived experience" as part of the statewide rollout.
  - Ridgway recalled how years ago, K. Tullis had approached AAS about engaging people who had survived suicide attempts, but the idea was generally rejected by other members. There was a real lack of understanding about the role they could play in the suicide prevention movement. But since then AAS has reconsidered its

position, and at their conference earlier this year they added a Lived Experience Division to the group.

- **Chastain Beal introduced a motion for the formal endorsement of the lived experience movement and the integration of the concept into TSPN initiatives. Tatum seconded the motion, which passed without objection.**

#### **Adjournment**

- The next meeting will convene on Wednesday, February 11, in the Community Room of the Metro Nashville Police Department's Hermitage Precinct, located at 3701 James Kay Lane in the Hermitage.
- With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:29 PM.