

TSPN CALL TO ACTION

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TENNESSEE SUICIDE PREVENTION NETWORK



TSPN HONORS AGENCIES AND TRAINERS CONTRIBUTING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Zero Suicide Initiative Partner Agencies	2
Honoring Our Partners in Higher Education	3
New Suicide Prevention Trainers	4
TSPN Regional Calendar	5
Advisory Council Contact Information	6



This special edition of the TSPN Call to Action focuses on honors announced at the Suicide Prevention Awareness Day event in Nashville on September 14. Specifically, TSPN recognized volunteer suicide prevention trainers who had achieved their certification quotas, as well as agencies that support the Network's training efforts through the statewide Zero Suicide Initiative or as part of the Network's general outreach.

The following is a statement from Misty Leitsch, BBA, BSW, who serves as TSPN's Zero Suicide Coordinator (pictured above). As such, she is in charge of overseeing statewide implementation of the Zero Suicide Initiative by TSPN and community partners.

Melissa Sparks, Director of Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention for the Division of Mental Health Services within the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (TDMHSAS) attests to the importance of Leitsch's work: "We are exceptionally fortunate to have someone promoting this Initiative who not only knows what needs to be done, but whose enthusiasm and energy helps 'sell' the idea to both leaders and staff within behavioral health and managed care organizations. I doubt we would be where we are on the Initiative without Misty's involvement."

More information about the Initiative is available via the TSPN website (<http://tspn.org/zero-suicides>).

As I approach closer and closer to my two years as the Zero Suicide Coordinator, I am so thankful to have the opportunities to work with so many incredible people across the state of Tennessee who share the same passion and vision for the Zero Suicide Initiative.

It truly is my honor and privilege to work with so many incredibly talented and creative individuals and dedicated agencies, amid success and challenges of implementing the Zero Suicide Initiative. As I travel around Tennessee to visit partner agencies' Zero Suicide Implementation Committees, I have seen tremendous progress.

Several agencies are in the process of or have completed the second Organizational Survey, indicating they have surpassed their one year implementation mark. Some agencies are even conducting their second round of the Workforce Survey or preparing to distribute the second round of the Workforce Survey.

Preliminary data from the Organizational Survey demonstrates incredible growth for agencies across the state, as I'm sure the Workforce Survey will as well.

I'm looking forward to two major events related to the Initiative during this coming month. In the next two weeks, I'll be in Indiana as one of the facilitators of a Zero Suicide Academy, helping mental health providers there learn how they can bring Zero Suicide to their communities. Later that month, TSPN Executive Director Scott Ridgway will join me on a panel at the New York City Mental Health Conference, also presenting information about our state's Initiative.

I am ecstatic to see the improvements and progress each agency has made in one year's timeframe, and I look forward to helping them build on these accomplishments in the coming year and beyond.

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The official logo of Tennessee's
Zero Suicide Initiative.

ZERO SUICIDE INITIATIVE PARTNER AGENCIES



Tennessee has been praised as a national leader in the implementation of the Zero Suicide Initiative. TSPN, in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) (which oversees the statewide Zero Suicide Initiative Task Force), is working to help these agencies eliminate suicides and suicide attempts within their client base through an aggressive yet achievable action plan incorporating best-practice prevention and intervention strategies.

As part of this year's Suicide Prevention Awareness Day event, TSPN honored Centerstone as Tennessee's Pioneer Agency of Zero Suicide for its completion of all seven dimensions of the Zero Suicide Initiative, serving as a statewide pioneer in the implementation of this Initiative and a model for other agencies across Tennessee. This award was presented by (as pictured above) TSPN Executive Director Scott Ridgway (far left); TSPN Advisory Council Chair Tim Tatum (second from left); Melissa Sparks (third from left); Morenike Murphy, Project Director for TLC Connect and TARGET within TDMHSAS's Office of Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention (fourth from left); and Misty Leitsch (second from right). Ridgway and Sparks co-chair Tennessee's statewide Zero Suicide Initiative Task Force.

Centerstone's award was accepted by Becky Stoll (center), Lisa Eggebeen (fourth from right), Jennifer Armstrong (third from right), and Jennifer Smith (far right).

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Several other agencies had each implemented four of the seven dimensions of this Initiative by the time of the ceremony. Each of these agencies was presented with a special plaque marking which of the seven dimensions of the Initiative they have completed. As partner agencies complete each dimension, they will receive additional pieces to complete their respective plaques.



At left: Sean Jones accepted the award on behalf of Carey Counseling Center.

At right: Anne Young accepted the award on behalf of Cornerstone of Recovery.



At left: Sherri Feathers accepted the award on behalf of Frontier Health.

At right: Candace Allen (center) and Lori Ramsey (third from right) accepted the award on behalf of the Helen Ross McNabb Center.



Precious Daughtry (fourth from left), Adam Graham (center), John Midgley (fourth from right), and Amanda Bracht (third from right) accepted the award on behalf of Mental Health Cooperative.



HONORING OUR PARTNERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION



During this year's Suicide Prevention Awareness Day event, TSPN bestowed this year's Community Service Awards upon Tennessee Tech University, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and the University of Tennessee at Martin for their contributions to suicide prevention efforts on the college campus. They have worked with TSPN to promote the cause of suicide prevention within the student body and faculty of their respective universities through special campus events and through suicide prevention training sessions. All of these efforts are in addition to their regular duties providing individual counseling and support for students in need.

TSPN also honored individual instructors in the "Question, Persuade, and Refer" (QPR) protocol for completing their training objectives and becoming certified QPR trainers. Over the past year they have lead numerous training sessions for students, faculty, support staff, and people in the surrounding community. Pictured below are Sandra Perley of Columbia State Community College (third from left), Tricia Henderson of UT-Chattanooga (third from right), and Christina Mick of Tennessee Tech (far right). Also pictured are Ridgway, Tatum, and Leitsch (far left).



NEW SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINERS

In October of 2015, TSPN facilitated a series of training courses for people interested in becoming a trainer and providing suicide prevention training to the general public and to mental health professionals. Participants were certified in one of three curricula commonly used by the Network: QPR; Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, or ASIST; and "Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk: Core Competencies for Mental Health Professionals", or AMSR.

TSPN is grateful to TDMHSAS for the funding it has provided for these training courses and the logistical and moral support it has provided since.

All of the participating trainers needed to provide training to a set number of individuals in order to complete their certification process. They attended these courses and provided these trainings in addition to their day jobs. This year's event included a segment honoring those who completed those requirements and as such are now certified as trainers in their respective curricula.



QPR trainers honored this year included (from left to right): Tim Tatum, Anne Young, Shannon Hall, Octavio Areas, Precious Daughtry, Amy Burgess, Brenda Harper, and Anne Stamps.



AMSR and/or ASIST trainers honored this year included (from left to right): Jessica Mullins, John Midgely, Leah Pastula, Adam Graham, Lori Ramsey, and Dana Townsend.

TSPN REGIONAL CALENDAR

No December meetings are scheduled unless otherwise marked. Dates marked in **bold** and in **sapphire** indicate alternate meeting dates intended to accommodate state holidays or other previously scheduled events.

East Tennessee Region

monthly, 3rd Thursday, 12:15 PM
Third Floor Conference Room, Cherokee Health Systems, 2018 Western Avenue, Knoxville, 37921
November 17 and no meeting in December

Memphis/Shelby County Region

monthly, 3rd Tuesday, 11:30 AM
Memphis Crisis Centers Training Facility, 70 North Pauline, Memphis, 38105
November 15 and no meeting in December

Mid-Cumberland Region

monthly, 2nd Thursday, 9:30 AM
TSPN central office, 446 Metroplex Drive, Suite A-224, Nashville, 37211
November 10 and December 8

Northeast Region

monthly, 4th Thursday, 9:00 AM
Accounting Conference Room, Frontier Health, 1167 Spratlin Park Drive, Gray, 37615
November 29, no meeting in December, January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24,
no meeting in September, October 26, and **November 30**

Rural West

monthly, 3rd Wednesday, 10:30 AM
Fifth Floor, West Tennessee Healthcare Building, 1804 Highway 45 Bypass, Jackson, 38305
November 16

South Central

monthly, 1st Wednesday, 11:00 AM
Conference Room A, South Central Regional Health Office, 1216 Trotwood Avenue, Columbia, 38401
November 2 and December 7

Southeast Region

monthly, first Thursday, 11:30 AM
Omni Community Health, 1635 Chestnut Street, Chattanooga, 37408
November 3 and December 1

Upper Cumberland Region

monthly, 4th Thursday, 9:00 AM
Volunteer Behavioral Health, 1200 Willow Avenue, Cookeville, 38502
November 17 and December 22

Intra-State Department Meetings

2 PM–4 PM
TSPN central office, 446 Metroplex Drive, Suite A-224, Nashville, TN 37211
November 9

Advisory Council

February 8, 2017 (Metro Nashville Police Department, Hermitage Precinct, 3701 James Kay Lane, Hermitage 37076)

Blount County Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention Alliance

monthly, 1st Friday, 12:00 PM
Boys and Girls Club Meeting Room, Fort Craig Elementary School, 520 South Washington Street, Maryville, 37804
November 4 and December 2

Bradley-McMinn-Meigs-Polk Counties Suicide Prevention Task Force

monthly, 2nd Wednesday, 11:30 AM
Pine Ridge Treatment Center, Tennova Healthcare, 2800 Westside Drive Northwest, Cleveland, 37312
November 9 and December 14

Davidson County Suicide Prevention Task Force

monthly, 2nd Thursday, 10:30 AM
TSPN central office, 446 Metroplex Drive, Suite A-224, Nashville, 37211
November 10 and December 8

Giles County Suicide Prevention Task Force

quarterly, 3rd Monday, 10:30 AM
Giles County Career Center, 125 South Cedar Lane, Pulaski, 38478
December 19

Behavioral Health and Suicide Prevention for Hickman-Perry Counties

monthly, 4th Friday, 12:00 PM (lunch served at 11:30 AM)
Conference Room, St. Thomas Hickman Hospital, 135 East Swan Street, Centerville, 37033
November 18 and no meeting in December

Montgomery-Houston-Humphreys-Stewart Suicide Prevention Task Force

monthly, 3rd Friday, 9 AM
Youth Villages, 651 Stowe Court, Clarksville, 37040
November 18 and December 16

Rutherford County Suicide Prevention Coalition

monthly, 1st Tuesday, 5:15 PM
TrustPoint Hospital, 1009 North Thompson Lane, Murfreesboro, 37129
November 1 and December 6



Early last month, Morenike Murphy announced her pending relocation to Atlanta, having accepted a job with the Veterans Crisis Line. Her last day with TDMHSAS was October 26.

We appreciate all Murphy's efforts to support and coordinate TSPN's federal suicide prevention grants, and we wish her all the best in her new position.

ADVISORY COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are interested in getting involved with TSPN on a local level or have other questions, contact the chairperson of your region as indicated by the map provided below:

East Tennessee region

Katie Rosas
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catherine_rosas@bcbst.com

Memphis and Shelby County

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Mid-Cumberland region

Eileen Wallach, LCSW, C-GC
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Northeast region

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Southeast region

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Upper Cumberland region

Anne Stamps
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Advisory Council Chair

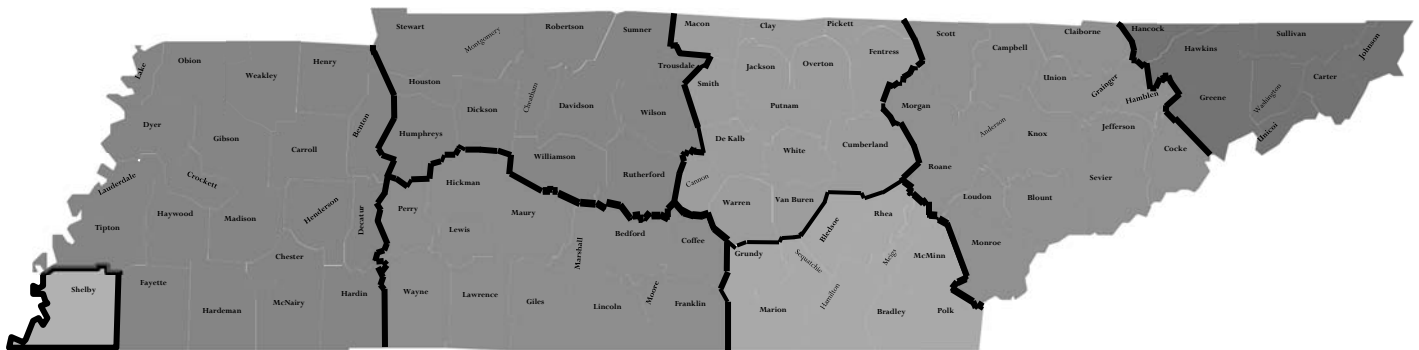
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