



"Saving Lives in Tennessee"

**Advisory Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 8, 2017
12:30 - 2:30 PM**

**Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee
937 Herman Street
Nashville, TN 37208**

Advisory Council Members Present

Anne Young, MS, CAS, Program Director, Young Adult and Residential Relapse Recovery Program, Cornerstone of Recovery (Advisory Council Chair/Executive Committee Chair)

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

Jack Stewart, MA, President, NAMI Greene County (Northeast Regional Chair and Advisory Council Secretary)

Adam Graham, LPC-MHSP, Supervisor of Diversion Services, Mental Health Cooperative (Chair, Davidson County Suicide Prevention Task Force / Advisory Council Co-Secretary)

Tim Tatum, MBA, MA, LPC-MHSP (Advisory Council Past Chair / Chair, Bradley, McMinn, Meigs, and Polk (BMMP) Counties Suicide Prevention Task Force)

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

Karyl Chastain Beal, M.Ed., Community Advocate (South Central Regional Chair / Outreach Committee Chair)

Sherri Feathers, LCSW, Division Director, Specialty Services, Frontier Health

Brenda Harper, Community Advocate

Mike LaBonte, Executive Director, Memphis Crisis Center

Bellis May, BS, Admissions/Marketing Director, Adamsville Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center

Wanda Mays, CIT Coordinator, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Sandra Perley, Ed.D, MSN, RN, Associate Professor of Nursing, Columbia State Community College

Waring Porter, Pastor, All Saints Presbyterian Church (Memphis/Shelby County Regional Chair)

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

Katie Rosas, Behavioral Health Outreach Coordinator, BlueCare Tennessee (East Tennessee Regional Chair)

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

Lisa Tipton, Executive Director, Families Free

Eileen Wallach, LCSW, C-GC, CEO/Founder, Your Heart on Art, Inc. (Mid-Cumberland Regional Chair)

Intra-State Departmental Group Members Present

Michelle Bauer, Suicide Prevention Program Manager, Tennessee National Guard
Jacquelyn S. Bruce, Planning and Grants Management Supervisor, Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability
Maria Bush, LPC-MHSP, Project Director, TLC Connect & TARGET, Office of Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention, Division of Mental Health Services, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Jennifer Dudzinski, RN, BSN, Assistant State Public Health Nursing Director, Tennessee Department of Health
Gwen Hamer, MA, Director, Education and Development, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Sherlean Lybolt, MA, Mental Health Programs Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Correction
Melissa McGee, Council on Children's Mental Health Director, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
Morenike Murphy, LPC-MHSP, Director, Office of Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention, Division of Mental Health Services, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Delora Ruffin, MA, Program Specialist, Division of Child Health, Tennessee Department of Children's Services
Sara Smith, Director, AWARE Tennessee, Tennessee Department of Education on behalf of Janet Watkins, Training Director, AWARE Tennessee, Tennessee Department of Education
Jacqueline Talley, Treatment Specialist, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Advisory Council Members Absent

Ursula Bailey, JD, MBA, Attorney, Private Practice
Vickie Bilbrey, Marketing Recruiting Coordinator, Oakpoint Center
Renee Brown, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Memphis VA Medical Center
Audrey Elion, Ph.D., Mental Health Clinician, Coordinated School Health, Shelby County School Mental Health Center
Joseph Chatman III, LBSW, MSW, Chairman, Montgomery-Houston-Humphreys-Robertson-Stewart County Suicide Prevention Task Force
Patsy Crockett, BSW, Case Manager IV, Tennessee Department of Children's Services
Mary Jones, Children and Family Services
Eve Nite, Southeast Regional Director, Omni Community (Southeast Regional Chair)
Heatherly Sifford, BS, Trauma Injury Prevention Program Coordinator, Johnson City Medical Center

Intra-State Departmental Group Members Absent

Terrence (Terry) Love, MS, CPC (Intra-State Departmental Group Chair), Injury Prevention Manager, Division of Family Health and Wellness, Injury and Violence Prevention, Tennessee Department of Health
Danielle Barnes, Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel, Tennessee Department of Human Resources
Mark Breece, Deputy Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Veterans Services

Bruce Davis, PhD, Director of Behavioral and Psychological Services, Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Ashley Fuqua, Legislative Liaison & Public Information Officer
Shannon Hall, MA, Assistant Director of Talent Management, Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security
Maj. James A. Saunders, Ed.S., CFLE, Resilience & Risk Reduction Program Coordinator, Squadron Chaplain, 2/278th ACR, Tennessee Army National Guard

TSPN Advisory Council Emeritus Group Members Present

Anna Shugart, Director, Emotional Health & Recovery Center, Blount Memorial Hospital
(Blount County Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Alliance Chair, Emeritus Chair)
Clark Flatt, President/CEO, the Jason Foundation, Inc. (Emeritus Member)

TSPN Staff and Field Placement Students Present

Garrett DeVaughn, Field Placement Student, University of Tennessee College of Social Work
Amy Dolinky, BA, East Tennessee Regional Coordinator
Vladimir Enlow, MTS, Executive Assistant
Misty Leitsch, BBA, BSW, Zero Suicide Coordinator
Colton Lockhart, Field Placement Student, Austin Peay State University
Joanne Perley, MPH, Middle Tennessee Regional Coordinator
Scott Ridgway, MS, Executive Director

Guests

Richard Bogle, Co-Chair, Behavioral Health and Suicide Prevention for Hickman-Perry Counties
Chelsea Brandon, Community Activist
Calvalencia Pilate, School of Public Health, Meharry Medical College
Meghan Radman, CDC Associate, Tennessee Department of Health
Tom Starling, Ed.D., President/CEO, Mental Health America of Middle Tennessee
Kitty Stewart, Community Advocate
Daniel Wolfshadow, Trauma Specialist, Freeman Treatment Center, Co-Chair, Behavioral Health and Suicide Prevention for Hickman-Perry Counties

Welcome, Remarks, and Introductions

- Young called the meeting to order at 12:51 PM, with introductions following.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Advisory Council Meeting

- **Robb motioned for approval of the minutes from the June retreat with LaBonte seconding and no objections.**

Regional Reports

Northeast Region (Jack Stewart, NE Chair, NAMI Greene County)

- Regional members participated in the "Stand Together" social media campaign on September 16.
- On October 31, Ridgway spoke to 100 participants at a pediatric conference/youth suicide forum at ETSU, in which Benedetto also participated.

- The region is reaching out to area health councils to present information about suicide prevention and available resources, and has also engaged in several events and exhibits reaching older adults.
- Members participated in the Annual Community Forum on October 20 in Greeneville, which focused on co-occurring disorders and suicide prevention.
- The group plans to focus on youth from January to March, LGBTQ from April to June, general population for July to September, and veterans from October to December.
- Tacoma merged Wilmont last year, but the Mountain State and Wilmont merger is still on hold.
- A school postvention training session is planned for February 21 at Frontier's corporate HQ in Johnson City.
- The Northeast Council on Children and Youth (NTCCY) will partner with TSPN and Families Free (Tipton's agency) to create an event in April for adults working with youth and focus on bullying and LGBTQ youth.

East Tennessee Region (Katie Rosas, BS, ET Chair, BlueCare Tennessee)

- Rosas recapped activities related to a very successful Suicide Prevention Awareness Month:
 - Open Chord Music in Knoxville hosted a benefit concert for TSPN hosted by on September 3. The event was fun, easy, and a draw for new members. Dolinky mentioned that there were only a few TSPN volunteers present and that the event reached a new population. There were 80-85 people in attendance and about \$600 was raised.
 - Approximately 250 people attended the LGBTQ Youth and Suicide Prevention Event, held on September 15 at Bridgewater Place. The event, a partnership between TSPN and the East Tennessee Council on Children and Youth (ETCCY) included a panel discussion featuring local experts on LGBTQ youth issues, including faith responses, homelessness/transitional living situations, and suicide risk.
 - Regional members participated in the "Stand Together" social media campaign on September 16. The event gave out 550 shirts and reached over 800 people on social media. This event served as the inspiration for the statewide "Speak Up-Save Lives" social media event planned for this September.
- Dolinky and Young taped an hour-long interview of the "Real Talk with Mean Jean" for Hot 104.5 on October 16. The interview is archived on the program's website (<http://www.hot1045.net/homepage-showcase/real-talk-with-mean-jean-10-16>).
- Regional members participated in filming a two-hour long video for Knox County school staff to use for, their annual suicide prevention training; participants included Dolinky, Harrington, Ridgway, Shugart, Young, and former TSPN East Tennessee Regional Coordinator Scott Payne.
- The region hosted a postvention training in Knoxville on November 7 with 22 people participating.
- Members participated in the Psychiatric Symposium held in December, which included Kevin Hines as the keynote.
- Rosas noted that she is trying to get a more coordinated effort going between the East Tennessee Region, Southeast Region, and the Northeast Region by trying to have a

- meeting with the regional chairs and Dolinky.
- Dolinky sent out a Constant Contact announcement regarding the Crisis Text Line to all East Tennessee Grand Region members.
 - The promotional graphic has been shared with all newspapers and radio stations in the East Tennessee region.
 - Proceeds from the Open Chord event will be used to print 300 posters—200 for distribution within the East Tennessee Region, and the rest to be divided up between the Northeast and Southeast Regions.
- The region plans to stage a training session on veteran suicide prevention in March.
- In closing, it was noted that in 2013 the Blount County MHASPA group made their goal of training 3,000 people in QPR and surpassed said goal in December. The group has eight QPR trainers in their county.

Upper Cumberland Region (Anne Stamps, Center Director, Cumberland Mountain Mental Health Center/Dale Hollow Mental Health Center (Advisory Council Co-Chair / Upper Cumberland Regional Chair))

- In addition to the “Light to Hope” event discussed at the last meeting, the region also participated in the Daniel Seal Suicide Prevention Forum, held at Cookeville High School on August 25. This annual event provides parents, teachers, and community members with information on how they can prevent suicide among young people. About 100 people attended this year’s event.
 - 86 people attended the 3rd annual “Macon Memories” on September 20: the highest attendance ever for this event.
 - Stamps acknowledged Jessica Pruettt (Regional Suicide Prevention awardee 2016) for providing 1,000 church bulletin inserts to Collegeside and Sycamore Churches during that month. Stamps provided resource directories and brochures to members of several county health councils as well.
- Regional members continue to provide local training sessions in all curricula.
- Members have distributed all 11 Emergency Department Resource Toolkits to local EDs in the region.
- A school postvention training was held on January 31 with 16 participants.
- TSPN is sponsoring the Daniel Seal Suicide Prevention Walk set for March 25 in Cookeville; the Network will provide 200 each of the wristbands and keychains, along with regional resource directories.
- TSPN will have an exhibit at the Upper Cumberland Adult Abuse Coalition’s conference on May 9 in Algood. The Network has had a presence at this annual event for the last several years.
- Both Stamps and Kristi Paling (TCCY) have been certified as Master Trainers in the ACEs curriculum.

Southeast Region (Tim Tatum, MA, LPC-MHSP, Director of Behavioral Health, Pine Ridge Treatment Center (Advisory Council Past Chair / Chair, Bradley, McMinn, Meigs, and Polk (BMMP) Counties Suicide Prevention Task Force))

- Tatum began by commenting on the growth of the Bradley-McMinn-Meigs-Polk Counties Suicide Prevention Task Force over the last year.

- The Southeast Region staged its inaugural “We Are Glass”, an awareness/networking event, at the Camp House in Chattanooga on September 15. The event, organized largely by Nite, was designed to build connections with the public regarding suicide prevention and behavioral health. Several local mental health and social service agencies were on hand to provide information about their respective programs. There were close to 100 people in attendance. The region anticipates making this an annual event.
- UTC has applied for the Garrett Lee Smith Campus Suicide Prevention Grant; TSPN has written a letter of support associated with said application.
- The region is planning to participate in the “Love Yourself” event working with the homeless on February 21 at the Community Kitchen. The event is focused on human connection and self-care.
- It is also planning a pancake cookout for some time in March, an event for veterans in May, and baseball game exhibits in summer.
- A school postvention training session is planned for February 27 in Chattanooga.
- Tatum is working with local mental health professionals regarding the start of SOSL groups serving Bradley and Polk Counties.
- Tatum mentioned that the region has taken on a field placement student who is assisting with Gun Safety Project outreach in counties covered by the Bradley-McMinn-Meigs-Polk Counties Suicide Prevention Task Force.

Mid-Cumberland Region (Eileen Wallach, MC Chair, Your Heart on Art)

- About 100 people attended the Middle Tennessee Regional Suicide Prevention Awareness Event held on September 22. This year’s event took place in a new venue-- New Life Baptist Church, home to the Theater Bug, whose members performed numbers from “7 Ways to Sunday” during the program. The event also featured a color guard performance by the Franklin High School JROTC unit, a blessing from Rabbi Joshua Kulloock of West End Synagogue, and remarks from guest speaker Sal Gonzalez.
 - Wallach mentioned that this year’s Suicide Prevention Awareness Month featured a DHH interpreter from Bridges for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and highly recommended similar services for other Network events.
 - Smaller observances were held across the region in September, including “Trousdale Remembers” in Hartsville on September 6 and the “Never Alone” event at Cumberland University in Lebanon on the 13th.
 - The #WeMatter Suicide Prevention Movement held its Totally ‘80s Party, a concert/fundraiser, in Nashville on September 9.
 - Finally, the Montgomery-Houston-Humphreys-Stewart County Task Force hosted a suicide prevention awareness event for clergy and funeral directors in Clarksville on the 23rd.
- Your Heart on Art, Inc., hosted a reception for this year’s traveling art show, “A Journey No One Should Walk” at Barnes and Noble Vanderbilt in Nashville on November 3. State Rep. Jason Powell (D-Nashville) was a guest speaker.
 - TSPN was a sponsor of this year’s project, which was exhibited at several local events associated with Suicide Prevention Awareness Month before installment at Barnes and Noble.
- The January meeting hosted a strategic planning session for the new year, in which members brainstormed plans for outreach to middle-aged Caucasian males via employers

and via public health services, county health councils, service organizations, and fraternal orders.

- Members also discussed reincorporating the lived experience tree at Bicentennial State Mall and the TSPN bench and tree Centennial Park back in to regional Suicide Prevention Awareness Month events.

South Central Region (Karyl Chastain Beal, M.Ed., SC Chair, Retired / Community Advocate)

- In addition to the “Saving Lives in South Central Tennessee” conference discussed at the previous meeting (coordinated by S. Perley) Behavioral Health and Suicide Prevention for Hickman-Perry Counties staged the 6th Annual Remembrance 2 Resilience Walk on September 10 at the Farmer’s Market Pavilion and Jerry Dixon Walking Trail in Centerville.
 - Cowboy Up! staged an assortment of presentations to local schools and community organizations during this month.
 - “Making a Difference: Suicide Awareness Matters” organized the Awareness Walk/Balloon Release held on October 1 in Winchester.
- A Grief After Suicide retreat was held in Columbia in October. In May and June, there will be three retreats with international attendance because these will be the last retreats due to the Beals’ anticipated move to Spring Hill.
- On a related note, the new house and yard will not have room for the International “Faces of Suicide” wall, and Chastain Beal is in talks with participants in past retreats to take over the project.
 - The wall, dedicated on April 25, 2006, has about 600 panels and is visited by survivors of suicide loss from across the country and internationally.
 - The GRief After Suicide Support (GRASS) group, which has been meeting in Columbia at Maury Regional Medical Center for eleven years will continue to meet. The move should not disrupt the meetings.
- Behavioral Health and Suicide Prevention of Hickman-Perry Counties has started its own Facebook page and received approval for the Garden of Hope Project; this garden will be located along the Jerry Dixon Walking Trail.
- Anna Claire Lowder has stepped down as co-chair in October and was replaced by Wolfshadow.
- Arnell is planning a revitalization of the Giles County Suicide Task Force.

Rural West Region (Bellis May, RW Chair, Adamsville Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center)

- Members of the Rural West Region received Suicide Prevention Awareness Month proclamations from all counties during Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.
- The region finally has a functioning suicide survivor support group, hosted by Paula Terry and is currently actively taking new members and spreading the word about the group.
- Lakeside Behavioral Health System has agreed to help cover facility rental costs for next year’s Suicide Prevention Awareness Month event, tentatively planned for the *J. Walter Barnes* Conference Center on the campus of *Jackson-Madison County General Hospital* on September 1. The group is planning 200 people this year.

- Members are circulating the job description for the West Tennessee Regional Coordinator position across all available channels and discussing opportunities for increasing regional buy-in to help the next Coordinator maximize his/her efforts.
- Training sessions continue in all curricula region-wide.
- A Union University intern is currently working in the region under J. Perley's supervision.

Memphis/Shelby County Region (Pastor Waring Porter, Memphis Chair, All Saints Presbyterian Church)

- Porter acknowledged the work done in West Tennessee by the previous Regional Coordinators, two of whom subsequently transferred to other parts of the state.
- Regional members secured Suicide Prevention Awareness Month proclamations from all city and county governments.
- The Memphis Crisis Center was among those participating in the 3rd annual Shelby County School Rally on October 29, attended by over 500 people.
- Brown led a suicide prevention presentation at the Martin Luther King Prep School on November 29 for over 600 students.
- The 3rd annual Mental health breakfast for the Dennis Jones Living Well Network will take place February 23. The keynote speaker for the event is Dan Harris, journalist and author of *10% Happier*. Breakout sessions will be featured this year with topics including mindfulness, mental health in faith communities, and mental health in the workplace.
- Regional projects currently under consideration include promotion of dialectical based therapy, a focus on older adults, and work on the issue of seasonal affective disorder.

Committee Reports

Outreach Committee (Karyl Chastain Beal, Chair)

- Committee Chair Chastain Beal reviewed the Committee's discussion of options for promoting the Crisis Text Line.
 - During today's meeting, Dolinky showed Committee members the graphic created by Brandon. They recommended having flyers printed for distribution, and relay to other regional members by PDF.
 - The graphic could be posted by regional members statewide in schools, hospitals, treatment centers, AA meeting venues, etc.
 - Dolinky provided the Committee with examples of promotional materials designed by East Grand Region volunteers.
- The Committee authorized Dolinky to set up an account for TSPN on Instagram, the only major social media platform on which the Network does not yet have a presence. Wallach had recommended using HootSuite to connect all TSPN's social media accounts for simultaneous announcements.
- In other actions, the Committee suggested agenda items for the next Advisory Council retreat.
 - Wallach offered to conduct another art project for the Wednesday evening segment. Wolfshadow can provide an experiential workshop as an additional option that evening.

- The retreat will start with a brief connection-building piece (15-20 minutes) for everyone to help include the new members.
- Chastain Beal mentioned that she had been in talks with suicide prevention leaders from Oklahoma and Minnesota who had contacted her wanting to take custody of the International Suicide Memorial Wall.

Executive Committee (Anne Young, Chair)

- Chair Young announced that in a special called meeting earlier today, the Committee discussed the imminent relocation of the International “Faces of Suicide” Memorial Wall. Members agreed they would prefer to keep the Wall in Tennessee.
 - Chastain Beal mentioned that she had been in talks with leaders of a national suicide prevention organization and a state suicide prevention organization and foundation from Oklahoma and Minnesota who had contacted her wishing to take custody of the wall.
- **The Executive Committee issued a motion for TSPN to spend up to \$5,000 to secure a new venue for the International “Faces of Suicide” Memorial Wall at a location in Nashville. Wallach seconded and the motion passed without objection.**
- Meanwhile, Young reported that the Executive Committee now meets monthly via conference call, with four such sessions held since the last Council meeting and the most recent one on February 2. Minutes from that session are in the meeting packets.
- The idea behind these conference calls is a more proactive response to matters facing the Network that the previous schedule of three meetings a year at Council meetings would allow. It also enables the Committee to provide more support and guidance for the Network as it grows and moves into the future.
- The most recent meeting included updates on the Tullis Act and the licensure board meetings, AFSP State Capitol Day, the Crisis Text Line, and the symposium.

Strategies/Outcomes/Evaluations Committee (Anne Young, Chair)

- Committee Chair Young showed everyone a copy of the new Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention pamphlet (a.k.a, the state plan), copies of which are included in the meeting packets.
- The Executive Committee provided the Strategies/Outcomes/Evaluations Committee with the evaluation piece for the revised Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention (also available in the packet), noting improvements in specificity, timelines, and wording.
- **The Strategies/Outcomes/Evaluations Committee motioned for approval of the evaluation piece for the revised Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention. Shugart seconded and there were no objections.**
- The Committee also discussed an annual recommendation from the Advisory Council for a statewide initiative for focused on in each region throughout the state. The chosen initiative would not be the sole focus for all regions, but a unifying statewide project to be incorporated throughout each region capitalizing networking across the state.
 - Suggested populations include middle-aged males and youth.
 - Committee members preferred to wait for the release of more detailed 2015 state suicide data before deciding on a statewide project focus.
 - The Council will discuss this subject in more detail at the Advisory Council retreat, with anticipated rollout afterwards. The annual statewide focus would thus

follow a fiscal calendar (July through June), with one quarter of the year used to plan and report idea and the remainder of the fiscal year for action.

- Finally, the Committee is interested in developing a brochure flyer focusing on how to respond on social media to suicide including youth and adults. This will be presented at the retreat in June.

Emeritus Group (Anna Shugart, Chair, Blount Memorial Hospital)

- Chair Shugart reported that the Emeritus Group is also meeting monthly, with four such sessions held since the last Council meeting and the most recent one on February 3. Minutes from that session are also in the meeting packets.
- The Group was established in 2014 to recognize TSPN Advisory Council members who had rotated off the group but still wanted to remain actively involved with Network projects and activities, and to honor Council members who had provided outstanding service to TSPN and to suicide prevention efforts within our state.
- During the recent conference calls, the Group has focused on the involvement of Emeritus Group members providing mentorship to new Council members appointed by the Office of the Governor. The objective is to provide them with as much information and understanding about their roles and responsibilities ahead of their first Advisory council meeting. The first such orientation session is planned for this June's retreat.
- The Group is also reviewing the Advisory Council binder, and developing an orientation plan for new Council members in which Emeritus members would participate.
- **The Emeritus Group submitted a motion approving the nomination of Ben Harrington to the Emeritus Group. Tatum seconded and there were no objections.**
 - Harrington's title for Emeritus Group purposes is "Advisory Council Chair Emeritus", considering his service in this role from 2003 to 2006.
- A nomination form is available in the meeting packet for anyone interested in recommending a former Advisory Council member for Group membership.

Advocacy Committee (Tim Tatum, Chair)

- Committee Chair Tatum reported that sponsors have been secured for the introduction of the Ken and Madge Tullis Suicide Prevention Act of 2017 to the Tennessee General Assembly: Sen. Richard Briggs (R-Knoxville) and Rep. Sam Whitson (R-Franklin).
 - Tatum acknowledged Harrington's efforts to connect TSPN with these legislators.
 - Briggs is a former trauma surgeon at St. Mary's Tennova in Chattanooga, former president of the Knoxville Medical Association, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Medical Association of Tennessee. He is also a retired Army colonel and a veteran of the Persian Gulf War. Briggs is interested in the Tullis Act from both the perspective of a medical professional and a veteran and is interested in sponsoring it.
 - Whitson is also a former Army colonel and was personally approached by Briggs about sponsoring the bill.
 - Meanwhile, Tatum asked all Council members to contact their state legislators about supporting the bill.
- Stewart plans to meet with Rep. Jeremy Faison (R-Cosby) in Nashville later today regarding his possible sponsorship of a bill to reintroduce the suicide prevention license plate offered in 2013. He also plans to meet with Rep. David Hawk (R-Greeneville).

- **The Advocacy Committee submitted a motion to pursue legislation re-authorizing and exploring options related to the suicide prevention license plate during the 110th General Assembly. Averitt seconded and there were no objections.**
- The Committee reviewed the language and statements within the gubernatorial Suicide Prevention Awareness Month publication and made recommended updates. These will be presented at the June retreat for approval.
- Tatum has received notice that the Tullis Act has been introduced to the Tennessee Senate as Senate Bill 489. He encouraged all members to engage their legislators in supporting it.
 - Also, Tatum suggested possible contact with State Sen. Jack Johnson (R-Franklin), the sponsor of Senate Bill 359, re the “reasonable doubt” language in the bill as mentioned by Lewis earlier.

TDMHSAS Update (Morenike Murphy, LPC-MHSP, Director, Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention, Division of Mental Health Services, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services)

- Murphy acknowledged this was the first Advisory Council meeting she was attending in her new role as Director.
- She announced that the Department is planning its 2nd Annual Crisis Conference, tentatively planned for June 16.
- This year’s conference theme is “From Hope to Support”. Unlike last year’s event, which was limited to crisis providers, this one will be open to the community.
- Murphy stated the Department has partnered with the TN Law Enforcement Training Academy to provide Mental Health training to existing and newly hired officers.
 - This will be a four-hour training conducted over 4 days 2 classes. It will be incorporated into the New Recruit Academy and will be offered as an elective.
- The Department has also partnered with Tennessee Emergency Communications Board to develop protocols for 911 dispatchers and mobile crisis providers regarding the Kelsey Smith Act, facilitating a call from individuals in a mental health crisis, and the collaboration of 911 dispatchers and mobile crisis providers in TN.
- Murphy provided an overview of the Mobile Crisis data file included in the meeting packet.
 - The document shows statewide Mobile Crisis in-person consults between FY 15 and FY 17, as derived from the web-based Crisis Management Tracking System (updated weekly).
 - The reverse includes a list of adult and youth mental health service providers and a service map.
 - Murphy noted that only four of the providers listed—Frontier Health, Helen Ross McNabb, Mental Health Cooperative, and Youth Villages—treat youth; the others exclusively focus on persons over the age of 18.
 - There was a statewide increase of 4,000 assessments between FY 15 and FY 16, with 15% of these involving people age 17 and under. About half of the youth seen by Mobile Crisis had suicidal ideation as their primary issue consistent with adult numbers.
 - Upwards of 30% of youth assessed by Mobile Crisis were ultimately referred for inpatient treatment. The Mobile Crisis teams work well with clients’ natural

support systems to develop safety plans, diverting them outpatient therapy as needed.

- Murphy observed that this information suggests the Department still has much to do in terms of identifying gaps and where to increase our efforts.
- The volume of youth Mobile Crisis cases tends to increase between August and October. This is partly due to the stress inherent in the start of a new school year, but also because youth are in school to begin with and under closer watch by adults. Murphy is interested to see if youth suicide deaths follow a similar pattern.
- Murphy pointed out that after emergency departments, schools are the second most common site of Mobile Crisis assessments.

Zero Suicide Initiative (Misty Leitsch, Zero Suicide Coordinator)

- Leitsch introduced herself and mentioned that, in the interest of time, she had provided a flyer detailing the purpose of the Zero Suicide Initiative in the meeting packets for the new folks and others that may not be familiar with the Initiative.
- Copies of the Zero Suicide Initiative decal and magnet are also included in the packet. Only a few of these are available; the rest will be shared with Initiative agencies.
- Leitsch noted that employees of Professional Care Services have added the Zero Suicide logo to their ID badges.
- Currently there are 21 agencies across Tennessee participating in Tennessee's Zero Suicide Initiative, and she recognized Council members who participated on the 20-member statewide Zero Suicide Initiative Task Force as delegates of partner agencies
 - Graham, for Mental Health Cooperative
 - Robb, for Behavioral Health Initiatives
 - Stamps, for Volunteer Behavioral Health
 - Stoll, for Centerstone
 - Young, for Cornerstone of Recovery
- Leitsch acknowledged Murphy and Ridgway for their leadership and guidance with the Zero Suicide Initiative.
- Leitsch thanked these members of the Task Force and all others for their continuing leadership within the Initiative.
- The Initiative is not taking on any new agencies due to time. The grant ends in September, and the Network hopes to get new funding. If approved, the new grant will start October 1. The Initiative will consider taking on new members then.
- The Task Force meets quarterly at the TSPN central office and has set dates for the current calendar year.
- Leitsch has met face to face with 14 of the 21 agencies, with 2 more scheduled visits. Waiting to hear from the remaining 5 agencies.
- Leitsch reports that all agencies have conducted the first round of the Organizational Survey and Workforce Survey. Four agencies have completed the second round of the Workforce Survey, while 12 agencies have completed the second round of the Organizational Survey.
- Leitsch has met with CRI to discuss data analysis and best way to demonstrate growth over time.
- Leitsch reports that the focus over the next few months will be data analysis and a Tennessee Model Pathway to Care. Members from agencies and Taskforce are invited to

be a part of the Task Force to develop the Model Pathway.

Other Business

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (Scott Ridgway)

- Recent call volumes from the Lifeline are included in the meeting packets; these were received from the Mental Health Association of New York City, which maintains the Lifeline's national switchboard.
- Also included are excerpts from the most recent NASMHPD Commissioner's Report, which provides an overview of Lifeline operations within Tennessee.
 - This handout shows that 12% of calls bounced to an out-of-state call center. The number of bounced calls has remained stable even as Tennessee call centers take on more calls overall.
 - The handout also provides information on the seven centers currently taking calls within Tennessee. It notes that Behavioral Health Initiatives stopped taking these calls on December 1.
 - Ridgway explained that every call center is required to compile extensive follow-up details about each call and that BHI, which was already answering two other hotlines, found it increasingly difficult to collect all the necessary information.

Suicide Death Data and 2015 YRBS Stats (Scott Ridgway)

- Since October, TSPN has been part of a Youth Suicide Data Working Group overseen by Michael Warren, Deputy Commissioner of Population Health within the Tennessee Department of Health.
 - In the fall of 2015, Vanderbilt Children's Hospital had six emergency patients, five of whom died, within a six-week period. Ridgway provided debriefing services for ED staff and provided them with resources and support, along with information about what TSPN was doing in the affected communities and explanations behind the recent deaths (there was initial speculation that the deaths were somehow connected).
 - Warren subsequently requested a regular meeting of department employees and other stakeholders in the mental health field to review available data for developing youth suicide prevention strategies.
 - Ridgway explained that Lewis's proposed recalibration of suicide death data should not affect the youth suicide figures already reported since these came from the statewide Child Fatality Review Board.
 - Ridgway mentioned that he is a member of the statewide board as well as the local one for Davidson County.
- The meeting packet includes minutes a summary of the latest available youth suicide data, as provided during the most recent meeting on January 27 by TDH epidemiologist Hongyan Ma:
 - According to the CDC, suicide is the tenth-leading cause of death in the United States and the second-leading cause for Americans aged 10-24.
 - In 2015, Tennessee's suicide rate was up by 12% over the previous year, from 14.0 per 100,000 to 15.6. There were 1,065 recorded suicide deaths, up 120 from

the previous year. Tennessee's suicide rate is 17% higher than that of the nation at large.

- The TSPN region with the highest raw number of suicides in 2015 was Mid-Cumberland, with 301 recorded deaths. The region with the highest rate was Upper Cumberland, with a rate of 19.9 per 100,000 population.
- Data indicates a dramatic rise in youth suicides, at least in raw numbers. There were 13 suicide deaths among children under the age of 18 in 2011—there were 33 recorded in 2015.
- The increase appears more acute within the 10-14 subgroup (1 death in 2011 versus 14 in 2015) than among the 15-17 cohort (12 in 2011 versus 19 in 2015). The increase is especially noticeable among young males and Caucasians.
- The meeting packets include a chart showing suicide death numbers and rates for select youth age cohorts, as well as state rankings compiled by the American Association of Suicidology.
- The 33 recorded suicides among persons 10-17 years of age in 2015 make up only 3% of all suicide deaths, but 17.5% of all deaths in this age group. Tennessee's suicide rate for this age group is also 17% higher than the nation at large.
- Of the 33 suicide deaths within the 10-17 age range
 - 19 involved teens ages 15-17.
 - 23 involved males; 28 involved whites.
 - 55% of the deaths involved some form of weapon (i.e., a gun or knife); 33% involved asphyxiation (which includes hanging). There has been an increase in suicide deaths involving weapons (as opposed to falls, suffocation, etc.) among the 10-14 cohort (1 death in 2014 versus 9 in 2015).
 - 75% of the deaths occurred at the child's home.
 - 13 of the deaths occurred within TSPN's Mid-Cumberland Region; 9 in the East Tennessee region.
 - The highest youth suicide rate in 2015 was East Tennessee's 7.6 per 100,000, followed by Mid-Cumberland and South Central. However, given the relatively small numbers involved, these rates are unstable year-to-year.
- The statewide Child Fatality Review Board report for 2015 was recently finished but has not yet been published. The report includes state recommendations for child fatality prevention based on input from local Child Fatality Review Boards. This latest report includes a recommendation regarding youth suicide prevention, specifically encouraging schools to take advantage of suicide prevention curricula such as QPR and Youth Mental Health First Aid. The recommendations cover not only suicide but all forms of "intentional violence"—that is, suicide and homicide taken together.
- Ridgway stated that when he started as Executive Director of TSPN, Tennessee's suicide rate was ranked 13th highest in the nation according to the American Association of Suicidology. In the most recent rankings (2014) Tennessee was at 26th highest. This is thanks to the hard work and impact of TSPN volunteers and partner organizations across the state. If not for this hard work, our state's ranking would likely be even worse.

- The most recent Child Fatality Annual Report confirmed the increase in youth suicides, rising from 13 in 2011 to 33 in 2015, with the biggest increase (2014 to 2015) was among youth ages 10-14.
 - Ridgway acknowledged the roles of Smith and Watkins in compiling the report. He also recognized their coordination of efforts to train over 2,000 teachers in Youth Mental Health First Aid, resulting in over 8,000 referrals since the start of fiscal 2017.
- Tennessee Department of Health analysis reveals that 55% of youth suicides (ages 10-17) involved weapons, while 30% involved asphyxiation and 9% poisoning. 75% occurred in the child's home. Provisional data for the first six months of 2016 has not yet been analyzed.
- The latest report from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which is conducted every two years, highlighted increases in “feeling unsafe” and “bullied at school” as indicators which are likely related to suicidal thoughts or attempts. Ridgway noted the potential role of social media in these phenomena.
- Smith explained that the YRBS data is derived from self-report surveys from high school students.
- The Department of Health plans to work with TSPN on the development of the next *Status of Suicide in Tennessee* report, which Ridgway hopes to have published before the General Assembly adjourns.
- Ridgway closed by cautioning that the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) frequently used to obtain suicide death data gets its numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and prevention. TSPN, meanwhile, uses data received directly from TDH. There are occasional discrepancies in the WISQARS and TSPN data, so members should take care to confirm and report the source of the data they cite in presentations.
- Ridgway recommended submitting a letter to the TDH encouraging the state to apply for inclusion in NVDRS, noting that the Metro Public Health Department had already done so on behalf of Davidson County.
- **Stewart motioned for the drafting of a letter from TSPN to the Tennessee Department of Health encouraging the state to apply for inclusion in the National Violent Death Reporting System. Rosas seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**
- After a discussion led by Ridgway, **Tatum motioned for the establishment of a workgroup to explore partnership with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to support their training efforts and advocate for increased funding for the office. Averitt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**
- The following people volunteered to participated on the Medical Examiner Workgroup: Averitt, Bauer, Bush, Flatt, Graham, Leitsch, Mays, J. Perley, S. Perley, Stoll, Shugart, and Wolfshadow.

Executive Director's Report

- Ridgway acknowledged the contributions of the Network staff for their continued service to the Network.
- Middle Tennessee Regional Coordinator Samantha Nadler has resigned to take a position with HCA TriCare to obtain her licensure hours; her last day was January 13. J. Perley

starts in that position on February 20, and Ridgway hopes to fill the vacant West Tennessee Regional Coordinator position within the next month.

- Ridgway will schedule a meeting with the TDMHSAS Assistant Commissioner about possibly securing more funding for TSPN operations.
- Ridgway also acknowledged the continuing work of field placement students DeVaughn and Lockhart, as well as Laura McDermott from Tennessee Nazarene University.
- Ridgway announced that TSPN has provided over 13,000 people instruction in some form of suicide prevention curriculum since July 1.
 - There is increasing interest from schools in QPR and instructor training. Instructors have found that they can tailor the first part of their presentations to specific audiences before presenting the core QPR training.
- Ridgway acknowledged recent issues with e-mails sent out by the central office either not reaching their intended recipients or suffering from formatting issues. Ridgway has discussed the matter with Starling, and he hopes that MHAMT's new COO, who officially starts tomorrow, will make the resolution of this problem a priority.
- Ridgway addressed the following items within the meeting packets:
 - The latest copies of the *TSPN Call to Action* and *can you hear me?*
 - The revised agency brochure, the most popular item in TSPN's brochure collection with over 15,000 distributed since its introduction
 - The current list of Council members and terms. Members should e-mail the TSPN central office if they notice any inaccuracies. Ridgway noted that he is working with the Governor's office to fill vacancies and prepare for several forthcoming rotations off the Council.
 - Tricia Henderson from the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga's Counseling Center has been selected as an alternate for the Southeast Region, replacing Moore.
 - The Advisory Council and Intra-State Departmental Group rosters as they currently appear on the website; again, all corrections should be noted on the printout currently circulating submitted to the TSPN central office.
 - A copy of the recently introduced Senate Bill 359. The bill would require a medical examiner to make certain findings before listing suicide as a cause of death, and creates a presumption against a determination of cause of death by suicide. It also creates a process by which a deceased person's spouse, parent, guardian, next of kin, or estate administrator can request the medical examiner reconsider a determination of cause of death by suicide.
 - Copies of the symposium registration and sponsorship form.
- TSPN staff and members continue to promote "Steps Toward a Safer Tennessee" symposium planned for Wednesday, April 19.
 - The current list of sponsors is as follows:
 - American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
 - Behavioral Health Initiatives
 - Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee
 - Bridges for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 - Camelot Care
 - Centerstone
 - Cornerstone of Recovery

- Cumberland Hall Hospital
 - Dennis H. Jones Living Well Network within Methodist Healthcare
 - Elements Behavioral Health
 - Freed-Hardeman College
 - KidLink Treatment Services
 - Mental Health Association of East Tennessee
 - Mental Health America of Middle Tennessee
 - Mental Health Cooperative
 - NAMI Tennessee
 - Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations
 - Tennessee Department of Correction
 - Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
 - Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security
 - Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
 - Tennessee Psychiatric Association
 - UnitedHealthcare
 - Vanderbilt Behavioral Health
 - Volunteer Behavioral Health
 - Additionally, the symposium has been endorsed by the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association.
- 300 people are expected to attend; roughly 160 seats are reserved or registered. Ridgway asked Group members to promote registration at every possible opportunity.
- Ridgway is working with Shannon Hall to arrange for POST certification for law enforcement personnel.
- Ridgway thanked Murphy and Bush for their efforts to compile the Mobile Crisis data and the former's earlier presentation on same.
- TSPN has facilitated or provided consultation on twelve school postvention operations across Tennessee, each one in response to a student death.
 - TSPN is staging school postvention training sessions across Tennessee, with a session last month in Cookeville and two others planned for Johnson City and Chattanooga. After leading sessions for community mental health center staff, he hopes to go back and train school crisis team members. For example, Elion, the new alternate for TSPN's Memphis/Shelby County Region, is working to set up a training session for Memphis City Schools' crisis team.
 - The goal of this training is to make sure that schools follow best-practice postvention procedures to debrief the school community, spot other students in crisis to control for contagion effects, and promote the return to normal school functioning.
- Ridgway further acknowledged Brandon, who had been honored by the Council ahead of the meeting, for her work on the Crisis Text Line graphic.
 - Tatum reported that the graphic was shared over 20 times within the first 24 hours after it was shared on social media.
 - Crisis Text Line is working with the University of Tennessee system to develop tracking mechanisms.

- Ridgway announced TSPN's recent partnership with Bridges for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (referenced by Wallach earlier). The Network has provided two trainers out of its Nashville office with QPR training; they will in turn provide interpreting services at our symposium.
- Ridgway encouraged consultation of the Advisory Council binder for personal reference, noting that handouts from this and future meetings will be three-hole-punched for easy insertion.
 - Stoll wondered about making the binder content available digitally to save on paper. Ridgway acknowledged this concern, noting that for transparency purposes all meeting minutes are posted on the TSPN website. However, experience shows that when information is provided solely in a digital format, some people ignore or miss it. The Network wants to make doubly sure its members are aware of upcoming events and projects, so documentation is made available as hard copies as well.
- The contract has been approved for Montgomery Bell State Park Inn related to the Council's annual retreat on June 7-8.
 - The event will follow the same schedule as last year: check-in on Wednesday afternoon (given the availability of rooms), meetings from 1-5 PM, a break for dinner, an activity that evening, reconvening on Thursday morning at 8 AM following breakfast, check-out that morning, and adjournment at noon.
- On January 27, Ridgway presented at a meeting of the Tennessee Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors Board regarding the professional licensure requirements. They motioned to add Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network as an approved education provider that will be added to Rule 1200-30-01-.12 (2) Continuing Education. Also, just as ethics is required for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors, the board also voted unanimously to about creating a policy statement recommending that LADACs consider taking suicide prevention training continuing education for counselors seeking certification or recertification.
 - Ridgway is also planning to meet with Kathy Benson, President of the NAADAC Board (who happens to be in private practice in Nashville) about implementing the licensure requirements on a national scale.
- Ridgway met with the Social Work Board on February 2 and plans to present the idea again at the next meeting in May, in which they also will consider a rule change to include language related to suicide prevention training. One of their concerns is that there are over 6,000 social workers in Tennessee—they are concerned that we may not be able to provide training to them all. Ridgway explained to them that training is available through other providers besides TSPN, and is also available online.
 - While the Council still supports and will pursue passage of the Tullis Act, rule changes by licensure board can provide the opportunity for training professionals.
- TSPN is partnering with AFSP for this year's AFSP State Capitol Day, scheduled for February 15. Interested parties should contact Hall at shannonhall567@gmail.com.
- Ridgway advised that TSPN work as much as possible within the next two years, ahead of the next gubernatorial election, on this and other Council priorities. Williams, Warren, and other Departmental figures supportive of TSPN's mission may not necessarily be kept on when the new administration takes office.
- The next Suicide and the Black Church conference is planned for June 14-15 in

Memphis; Hamer and/or Ridgway will send out additional information to Council members.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.
- The next meeting will take place during the Advisory Council retreat at Montgomery Bell State Park Inn on June 7-8.
- The September meeting will take place at Trevecca Community Church (335 Murfreesboro Pike in Nashville) at 1 PM on September 13 at 1 PM, following the Suicide Prevention Awareness Day program.