



"Saving Lives in Tennessee"

**TSPN Emeritus Group
Conference Call Meeting
Friday, May 19, 2017
9 AM Central / 10 AM Eastern
Call-in number: (641) 715-0861
Access code: 403540#**

Minutes

Members Present

Anna Shugart, Director, Emotional Health & Recovery Center, Blount Memorial Hospital (Blount County Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Alliance Chair, Emeritus / Emeritus Chair)
Sabrina Anderson, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Club of Jackson
Jodi Bartlett, Ed.S, LPC-MHSP, Community Advocate (Upper Cumberland Regional Chair, Emeritus / Past Emeritus Chair)
Carol Burroughs, Lexington County Schools (Rural West Regional Chair, Emeritus)
Clark Flatt, President/CEO, the Jason Foundation, Inc. (Advisory Council Member, Emeritus)
Harold Leonard, MA, LPC-MHSP, Cognitive Behavioral Specialists of the Tri-Cities (Advisory Council Chair, Emeritus)
Benjamin Harrington, CEO, the Mental Health Association of East Tennessee, Knoxville (Advisory Council Chair, Emeritus)
Jennifer Harris, St. Thomas Hickman Hospital (Advisory Council Chair, Emeritus)

TSPN Staff Present

Vladimir Enlow, MTS, Executive Assistant
Scott Ridgway, MS, Executive Director

Proceedings

Ridgway called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

TSPN Update

- Approximately 400 people attended "Steps Towards a Safer Tennessee" on April 19 in Nashville. Feedback from the symposium highlighted by the powerful remarks given by Sue Klebold during our keynote address. Participants were also asked to evaluate the symposium at large: The involvement of so many different agencies and backgrounds at this event, as well as our guests' enthusiastic response to our breakout sessions, profoundly demonstrates the public's continuing support of our suicide prevention efforts.
 - Below is the summary of feedback from the symposium presentation as derived from evaluation forms received. Participants rated each aspect of the presentations on a scale of 1 to 5, with "1" being poor and "5" being excellent:

This symposium met or exceeded expectations	4.71
The extent and depth of topics presented was appropriate	4.68
The time given to cover material was appropriate	4.61
The formats and methods used were appropriate	4.62
Materials and handouts were useful	4.64
Speakers in general sessions were prepared, informative and responsive to questions	4.80
The food available at this event was satisfactory	4.75
The venue facilities were satisfactory	4.82
I would be interested in attending a similar symposium in the future	4.81

- The symposium included a tabletop exercise on preventing suicide among middle-aged males, the results of which will be shared and discussed during the retreat.
- TSPN staff attended the 50th Annual AAS conference in Phoenix. Over 1,400 people attended, making it the largest such conference in the organization’s history.
 - TSPN staff presented three workshops, and there were an additional six on various aspects of the CONNECT-TARGET grants, making a total of nine from Tennessee.
 - Tennessee remains in the forefront of the nation’s Zero Suicide Initiative, with other states continuing to show interest in our state’s work on this project.
- The temporary budget recently approved by President Trump allots \$9 million for suicide prevention. \$8 million of this is earmarked for the Zero Suicide Initiative in the form of three-year \$1 million grants for 8 states; the rest is intended for infrastructure. The grants can be used to enhance existing Nssp grant or build a Zero Suicide Initiative program.
 - Earlier this morning it was announced that grants of \$700,000 over a five-year period would be available for six states. The state of Tennessee will be among those applying for the grants.
- The Network has fielded several inquiries from community members regarding Netflix’s series *13 Reasons Why*, and the series and public reaction to it was also discussed at AAS.
 - A press release has gone out with coverage by many sources all over the state and was included in materials distributed at this meeting.
 - On Monday Ridgway was interviewed by WTVF Newschannel 5 out of Nashville about the “13 Reasons Why” controversy.
- Farragut High School in Knox County has suffered three suicide deaths since January, with two in a two-week period. Ridgway and Amy Dolinky assisted with a community meeting on Thursday night with 300 people in attendance.
 - TSPN will continue to work with Knox County Schools to help improve its prevention/intervention/postvention response.
- The TSPN Advisory Council retreat is scheduled on June 7-8 at Montgomery Bell State Park. TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams is scheduled to address the Council, as is Morgan McDonald, Assistant Commissioner for TDH and Director of its Division of Family Health and Wellness.
- Ridgway facilitated a postvention training in Chattanooga last Wednesday with staff at UT-Chattanooga (a recent student death has moved them to organize the team). The college wants to be the first in the state within a comprehensive prevention/intervention/postvention plan in place.
- Last Friday, Ridgway was the keynote speaker at the statewide conference for the Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention.

- Copies of this year's *Status of the Suicide in Tennessee* report have been delivered to the TSPN central office. Ridgway circulated copies of said report.
- The Tullis Act has cleared the House and Senate and is set for provision to the Office of the Governor for consideration. It mandates two hours of suicide prevention training for mental health professionals every five years.
- The TSPN central office is working with the Office of the Governor to confirm new and repeat appointments to the Network's Advisory Council.
- Yesterday after the Memphis/Shelby County regional meeting, Ridgway met with staff at Murphy's, the bar on Madison Avenue that was the site of the Facebook Live suicide over the weekend. Mike LaBonte will assist with a second debriefing this evening.
- Chamique Holdsclaw will be the keynote speaker at the Suicide and the Black Church conference scheduled for June 14-15 in Memphis.

Retreat Overview

- Shugart asked if any new Council members will attend this meeting, which will include a “dry run” of the PowerPoint on Wednesday afternoon. Ridgway said no; the earliest notice TSPN can expect to receive about new members will come in at the end of this month.
- Ridgway provided an overview of the agenda, which, in addition to the PowerPoint, will include an overview of TSPN central office processes and procedures (handling of evaluation forms, the outcomes report, etc.). Adam Graham will facilitate the rest of the day's proceedings, which will include a review of the tabletop exercise conducted during the symposium
- The committee and business meetings will be held on Thursday morning.
- Smaller attendance than usual is expected at this meeting due to scheduling conflicts on the part of several members.
- A quick review of the RSVP list shows for the Emeritus Group, Bartlett, Bernard, and Shugart will attend the entire retreat. Burroughs will attend only the Wednesday proceedings; Flatt will be there on Thursday.
- Shugart will consult with the available Emeritus members about how they want to divide up the presentation.

Review of Advisory Council Orientation PowerPoint

- Shugart acknowledged the efforts of Enlow to combine the PowerPoints developed by Emeritus Group members into a single, neatly designed presentation.
- She asked the group if they had any recommended changes.
- Ridgway noted that the file has 48 slides. Spending one minute on each slide leaves barely enough room for a Q&A session during the hour allotted for the presentation. Shugart was also concerned about the length.
- Ridgway recommended streamlining the PowerPoint wherever possible—for example, removing the listings of each point in the Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention and replacing them with a single slide with the cover of the strategy booklet. The new members will receive a copy of the booklet and can review it during the presentation.
- Additionally, pictures could be added to make the presentation seem less wordy—for instance, a picture of the *Status of Suicide* report on the corresponding page.
- Harris pointed out that her presentation had notes at the bottom for presenters which were missing in the finished product. Consensus was that not only should the notes be added back to Harris's sections, but to the entire presentation. They would include indications as to where certain documents discussed in the PowerPoint were in the binder.
- Ridgway said it would be no problem to provide handouts with space for participants to take notes.

- Enlow can make the recommended edits, both with regards to graphics and notations, and have this out to the Emeritus Group by Monday afternoon. Group members will review the edits, copying their feedback to the entire Group.
- In the meantime, Shugart will check with Emeritus Group members attending the retreat to see which sections they will present. These members will meet briefly before the presentation.
- At the request of Shugart, an easel-mounted flipchart will be provided for the review session.

Adjournment

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:31 AM.