



"Saving Lives in Tennessee"

**Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 13, 2016
8 AM Central / 9 AM Eastern
Call-in number: (641) 715-0861
Access code: 403540#**

Minutes

Members Present

Anne Young, MS, CAS, Program Director, Young Adult and Residential Relapse Recovery Program, Cornerstone of Recovery (Advisory Council Chair)
Adam Graham, LPC-MHSP, Supervisor of Diversion Services, Mental Health Cooperative (Advisory Council Co-Secretary)
Jack Stewart, MA, President, NAMI Greene County (Advisory Council Secretary)
Tim Tatum, MA, LPC-MHSP, Director of Behavioral Health, Pine Ridge Treatment Center (Advisory Council Past Chair)

Members Absent

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

TSPN Staff

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

Proceedings

- Young called the meeting to order at 8:45 AM.
- The minutes from the previous meeting were sent out to the Committee earlier.
- Young has already submitted some corrections to the central office:
 - Tatum was marked absent on the last round of minutes but was in fact on the call.
 - It was Young, not Stamps, who was going to check with the LADAC contact.
- With these edits, Stewart motioned for approval, Stamps seconded, and the motion passed.

TSPN Update

- TSPN staff are working to enter all data from recent training sessions into SnapSurvey, the program we use for training session data retention and analysis.

- Staff members are also preparing to submit quarterly and semester reports, in addition to the TLC-CONNECT/TARGET federal reports due on December 23. (This last will need to be sent in by the 16th considering the holiday office closure.)

Tullis Act Update

- Stewart plans to meet with State Reps. Jeremy Faison and David Hawk on December 20 regarding possible sponsorship and will provide an update on the results during the next meeting.
- Tatum, meanwhile, will follow up with State Senator Bo Watson about sponsoring the bill.
- Both Stewart and Tatum requested an updated version of the Tullis Act for consultation while engaging these legislators.

State Licensure Boards Update

- The Executive Committee is contemplating options for promoting suicide prevention licensure requirements for mental health professionals.
- Leitsch and Ridgway, along with Middle Tennessee Regional Coordinator Samantha Nadler, attended the latest meeting of the LPC-LMFT licensure board to promote the inclusion of the proposed licensure changes for suicide prevention training. But even though TSPN was on the agenda, an unexpectedly long and involved licensure reinstatement hearing caused the meeting to run over, and the staff never got to present.
 - It is Ridgway’s intent to present before all five major licensure boards.
 - Ridgway acknowledged the argument that has been made by some licensure boards that amending the training requirements will create a “slippery slope”— i.e., that it would lead to similar appeals from other advocacy groups. These can be countered by pointing out that 1) the proposed training will help professionals prevent suicides and save the lives of their clients and 2) adoption of similar requirements by school districts via the Jason Flatt Act and the “Jared’s Law” expansion did not produce this effect.

Crisis Text Line

- Ridgway spoke about TSPN’s partnership with the Crisis Text Line (CTL), which allow for tracking of texts to the line made from Tennessee. This will allow us to gather data like that provided by the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline regarding call volumes. It will also allow us to gauge the local impact of future CTL promotional efforts, or its inclusion in PSAs.
 - Ridgway explained how by texting “TN” to 741741, people will be connected to trained crisis counselors.
 - Ridgway plans to invite the Commissioners of TDMHSAS, the Department of Health, and the Tennessee Department of Education to the next Council meeting for a formal press conference on the partnership with CTL.

2017 Spring Symposium

- Ridgway announced that TSPN is planning a symposium for the spring focused on safety planning and violence prevention. "Steps Toward a Safer Tennessee" is set for

Wednesday, April 19, at Trevecca Community Church, located at 335 Murfreesboro Pike in Nashville, ZIP 37210.

- The keynote speaker will be Sue Klebold, mother of one of the students involved in the Columbine High School massacre and author of *A Mother's Reckoning: Living in the Aftermath of Tragedy*. In the years since the incident, Mrs. Klebold has emerged as a powerful advocate for mental health and suicide prevention.
- Breakout sessions on safety planning and violence prevention are also planned.
- Ridgway expects this symposium to be TSPN's largest ever, even bigger than the one in 2015, with approximately 400 people in attendance.
- The Governor, Tennessee's congressional delegation, and commissioners of key state departments will be invited to speak.
- Ridgway provided an outline of the schedule as developed in a planning meeting with Granger Brown—TSPN's former Substance Abuse Outreach Coordinator, a major financier of the symposium, and its Planning Committee Chair:
 - 7:30 AM: Registration
 - 8:30 AM: Welcoming remarks from Advisory Council Chair Anne Young and/or the Commissioners of TDMHSAS, TDH, and TDSHS
 - 9:00 AM: Remarks from Brown in his capacity as Event Chair
 - 9:20 AM: Keynote address from Klebold
 - 10:15 AM: Break for networking and viewing of exhibits
 - 10:30 AM: Q&A segment with Klebold, moderated by Becky Stoll of Centerstone
 - 10:45 AM: Panel discussion including delegates of Baretta, Barrett, and Remington, as well as gun-owning survivors of suicide (Eileen Wallach and Woody Woodruff were mentioned specifically). The TDMHSAS Commissioner may be invited to facilitate. Alternately, this period may feature breakout sessions instead.
 - 12:00 PM: Lunch
 - 1:00 PM: Breakout sessions or panel, depending on which one is scheduled for the AM
 - 3:00 PM: Closing remarks and dismissal
- Ridgway explained that sponsors are already being contacted about their support of the event, with a sponsorship form outlining benefit packages already sent out to key contacts.

Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention Evaluation

- Members reviewed the current evaluation piece for the Strategies as developed by Joanne Perley, the Network's West Tennessee Regional Coordinator who agreed to take on this project. Enlow and Ridgway also contributed to the document.

Other Business

- The latest state suicide figures as released by the Tennessee Department of Health show there were 1,065 suicide deaths in Tennessee in 2015 (up from 945 last year) with an increase in the rate from 14.4 per 100,000 to 15.6. This new rate represents a 12% increase over the past year and is 21% higher than the nation at large.
 - Nationally, there were 44,193 suicides recorded in 2015, at a rate of 13.3 (up from 13.0 in 2014).

- TSPN will request the usual breakdown by race, sex, county, method, and select age groups after the first of the year.
- Dr. Adele Lewis, the state medical examiner, has been invited to the February Advisory Council meeting to give the presentation she originally planned for the June retreat; this will be an opportunity to ask follow-up questions about the state data.
- Graham announced that the latest recommendations from the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), which accredits master's and doctoral degree programs in counseling and related specialties, support "professional seminars to professional and personal growth". There is an increasing movement within entry-level doctoral programs to adopt CACREP standards, and the vague nature of this recommendation could conceivably justify suicide prevention and crisis intervention training. This represents an opportunity for promoting of speciality suicide prevention curricula such as AMSR and ASIST to these programs
 - Until now, many programs used the American Red Cross standards for crisis de-escalation, which are fairly generic and of limited use for helping people in suicide crisis.
 - Graham recommended hosting lunch-and-learn sessions at local universities on the subject. Ridgway recalled Sandra Perley's research, which supported further engagement with community colleges.
 - The Committee recommended submitting this to the Strategies/Outcomes/Evaluations Committee for further consideration.
- The next Advisory Council retreat is tentatively planned for June 7-8, moved up so as not to conflict with fiscal year closeouts or the Suicide and the Black Church Conference set for June 14-15 in Memphis.
- Ridgway referenced the Emeritus Group's ongoing work on the mentorship/orientation process for new Advisory Council members. This process includes review and update of the Advisory Council binder, which will be used as a tool for said orientation.

Scheduling of Next Conference Call

- Members of the Committee opted to skip January and have the next call the week before the Advisory Council meeting. They selected Thursday, February 2, as the next date.

Adjournment

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 AM.
- The next conference call will take place on **8 AM Central / 9 AM Eastern on Thursday, February 2**, using call-in number **(641) 715-0861** and access code **403540#**.