



Tennessee Farmers Suicide Prevention

**Task Force Meeting
Friday, December 7, 2018
TSPN Central Office
446 Metroplex Drive, Suite A-224
Nashville, TN 37211
10:00 AM Central**

Minutes

Task Members Present

Carol Coley McDonald, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Co-chair
Scott Ridgway, MS, Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, Co-chair
Dale Barnett, Tennessee Poultry Association
Stan Butt, Tennessee Dairy Producers Association
Phyllis Ferguson, Tennessee Pork Producer's
Jennifer Goodrich, Tennessee State University
Mary Beth Henley, University of Tennessee Extension
Charles Hord, Tennessee Cattlemen's Association
Dr. Lauren Kennedy, Tennessee State University
Ryan King, Tennessee Farmer's Co-op
Scott Lewis, Farm Credit
Dr. Emily Paskewitz, University of Tennessee
Dan Strasser, Tennessee Farm Bureau

TSPN Staff

Joanne Perley, MPH, TSPN Staff, Director of Statewide Initiatives and Development

Task Members Absent

Richard Jameson, Tennessee Soybean Association
Dr. Chaney Mosley, Middle TN State University
Lou Nave, Farm Animal Care Coalition of Tennessee
Finis Stribling III, Tennessee State University
Lee Fields Wambles, Centerstone
Dr. Heather Wallace, University of Tennessee Extension

Welcome and Introductions

- Co-chair Ridgway welcomed all to the meeting at 10:16am and thanked all for their attendance.
- Co-chair McDonald welcomed all and thanked them for their involvement on behalf of the Commissioner, who was unable to attend.

- Co-chair Ridgway asked those present to introduce themselves with their name, institution they represent, role within their institution, and any personal experiences with suicide.

History of TSPN

- Co-chair Ridgway presented on the History of TSPN. The PowerPoint presentation will be provided to all Task Force members via email.

Presentation of the Problem/Focus on Mission/Goal of the Task Force

- Perley presented a PowerPoint Presentation with a focus on the problem at hand for this task force, what is known about suicide for this demographic in our state, and a focus on the mission and goals of this Task Force. The PowerPoint will be provided to all via email with these minutes.
- Known risk factors for Farmers were included in the presentation. All agreed that inclusion of eternal optimism or rather a tie to the land/occupation should be included. An underlying issues was also highlighted, noting that producers to not control their own destiny.
- Henley shared information with all of the Farm Stress event taking place in Michigan; flyer and more information provided to all.
- McDonald and Strasser will be attending a Rural Stress conference in Atlanta the following week.

Strategic Planning/Committee Development

- McDonald led the group in debriefing the prevention/intervention/postvention ideas for the Task Force to focus on.
- Farmer Demographics were used from this resource to assist with this process: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/Ag_Overview/stateOverview.php?state=TENNESSEE
- **Prevention:**
 - Integrate TSPN in Agriculture Community trade shows and conferences
 - Joint PSAs from Represented Agencies
 - Billboards in Rural Areas
 - Focus on Trade Publications, especially those represented in this room
 - Trainings work with FFA, 4H, etc.
 - Work with Sheriff's Associations and Association with Chiefs of Police
 - Health disparities and cultural relevance
 - Trainings to those that work with farmers
 - Graphics and good videos to be shared by all partners
 - Information in electric water billing
 - Farmers Stress Suicide display
 - Stickers for Farm equipment for alone time
 - Promotions on radio
 - Need for specific data, data collection, literature review as well as review of what other states have done
 - Policy changes
 - Presentation to Legislative Agriculture Committees

- Train University of Tennessee Manage Specialist
- How do we get QPR training out there, similar to how people have access to First Aid Training
- Contact resource lists, who to contact, etc.
- Farmer Stress training
- **Intervention:**
 - In Involve Sheriffs and Local Law Enforcement
 - Involve Rural Church Leaders
 - Message of hope and help to the farmer on the farm
 - Farmer Field days
 - Training crisis center operators on the basics of agriculture
 - Group support, to help combat isolation
 - Farm visits, highlight transition options, etc.
- **Postvention:**
 - S Share Survivor stories at conferences
 - Consider health disparities and cultural relevance

Timeline for Goals

- Task members were asked to choose which committee they would like to be involved in for this Task Force: Prevention, Intervention/Postvention, or Research.
- Perley will be contacting all Task Force members in the coming week with minutes, information from the meeting, as well as reaching out to the various committees to schedule conference calls. Each committee will meet once via call prior to the next meeting, scheduled for January 28th.

Goals for Next Meeting

- Next meeting, Farmers presentation by Cookeville High School FFA.
- Butt, Strasser, and others will contact local farmers to speak on their experiences at the next meeting. Kennedy highlighted the need for farmers to speak from a variety of backgrounds for inclusivity as well as noting the lack of diversity on the Task Force, to better represent all populations in Tennessee, including race, gender, urban/rural, and those with disabilities.
- Meeting adjourned at 1:40pm by Co-chair Ridgway.

Next Meeting January 28, 2019