



"Saving Lives in Tennessee"

Higher Education Task

Force Meeting

**Friday, October 6, 2017
TSPN Central Office
446 Metroplex Drive, Suite A-224
Nashville, TN 37211
10:00 AM Central**

Task Members Present

Co-Chair: Sandra Perley, EdD, MSN, RN, Columbia State Community College
Co-chair: Scott Ridgway, MS, Executive Director, TSPN
Byron Pickens, PhD, Argosy University
Leslie Reed Brietenmoser, PhD, MSN, RN, Austin Peay State University
Caryn Schmitz, MA, NCC, LPC-MHSP, Baptist College of Health
Katy Wilson, APRN, MSN, MBA, Belmont University
Jason Kishpaugh, LPC-MHSP, Lincoln Memorial University
Janet Turner, PhD, LPC-MHSP, NCC, ACS, MPA, Lindsey Wilson College
Andrea Mills, Med, LPC-MHSP, Lipscomb University
Denise Walker, MS, LPC, Northeast State Community College
Travis Loveday, MA, Pellissippi State Community College
Christina Mick, EdD, Tennessee Tech University
Susan Elswick, EdD, University of Memphis
Tricia Henderson, LPC-MHSP, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
John'Na Webster, MSW, University of Tennessee at Martin
Cynthia Polk-Johnson, University of Tennessee at Knoxville
Mani Hull, EdD, TN Campus Compact, Retired
Lou Hanemann, Tennessee Higher Education Commission
Joanne Perley, MPH, TSPN Staff, Middle TN Regional Coordinator

Task Members Absent

Jennifer Catlett, LCSW, Carson-Newman University
Theresa Okwumabua, PhD, LeMoyne-Owens
Heidi Leming, Tennessee Board of Regents

Welcome and Introductions

- Co-Chair Dr. Perley welcomed all to the meeting at 10:11am and thanked them all for their attendance.
- Co-Chair Dr. Perley asked those present to introduce themselves with their name, institution they represent, role within their institution, and what they would like to accomplish at this task force.
- Co-Chair Ridgway welcomed all and noted that no other state, to his knowledge, has this type of task force, focusing on suicide prevention in higher education statewide. He continued with housekeeping announcements and reviewed the material in the binder provided to task force members (brochures, materials, status of suicide report, etc.). Co-Chair Ridgway also highlighted that eleven task members are QPR trainers

throughout the state, noting that over eighteen thousand Tennesseans were trained last year in some type of suicide prevention curriculum through the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN).

History of TSPN

- Powerpoint presentation presented by Co-Chair Ridgway, describing the history of TSPN as well as the Network's approach of prevention, intervention, and postvention.

Presentation of the Problem Dr. Sandra Perley, Task Force Co-Chair

- Powerpoint presentation presented by Co-Chair Dr. Perley provided in binders for task force members. Co-Chair Dr. Perley presented her original research on suicide prevention in Tennessee Community Colleges, focusing on prevention strategies and at risk populations.

Focus on Mission/Goal of the Task Force

- Co-Chair Dr. Perley reviewed the mission/goals of task force, document in the binder provided to task force members. All agreed with the mission/goals as they are set forth.
- Co-Chair Dr. Perley asked task members present what goals they would like to accomplish as well as possible subcommittees to be formed within the task force:
 - Mick highlighted the need for the Zero Suicide Initiative on college campuses.
 - Hull highlighted the need for a resolution to include all higher education institutions, for policies and protocols to be instituted addressing suicide prevention/intervention/postvention. Hull agreed, following a prompt by Co-Chair Perley, to chair this subcommittee to focus on this resolution.
 - The group agreed to title this committee the Advocacy Committee, to focus on legislation and public policy. Hanemann agreed to work with Hull towards this end, stating that a resolution can be supported without requiring funding and can lay the ground work moving forward.
 - Henderson detailed her efforts to obtain a UT Chattanooga specific two letter keyword in conjunction with the Crisis Text Line, similar to the TN keyword that is utilized statewide. To get a keyword, there must be a population of 35,000 or more targeted, which the campus of UT Chattanooga does not have. Henderson explained that having a keyword allows for data to be reported which can help guide prevention efforts, not only in suicide prevention but other crisis prevention. This task force could work to have a statewide college student keyword to specifically reach this demographic. Co-Chair Ridgway informed all that there is no cost to this, with Henderson noting that the University of Alabama has this in place as well as a community college system in California. This task force, however, could initiate the first statewide text keyword for college students.
 - Hull requested Co-Chair Ridgway's ideas/priorities for this task force. Co-Chair Ridgway reviewed the idea of a prevention/intervention/postvention plan in place. Co-Chair Ridgway noted that he has been working closely with Carson Newman, UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga and others.

- Turner noted no course requirements for counselors in her institution addressing suicide prevention/intervention/postvention. Others agreed, with several acknowledging student feedback following graduation highlighting lack of preparedness to address suicide/crisis.
 - Brietenmoser described a first-year experience course at Austin Peay University, where coping and stress management skills are highlighted as an opportunity.
 - Pickens reviewed the opportunity for curriculum infusion of suicide prevention skills.
- Henderson discussed the existing policy for suicide at the University of TN at Chattanooga and is working towards approval of a procedure. She noted that when constructing this policy/procedure, various other issues were brought to the forefront, such as death policies and mental health guidelines.
 - Elswick noted the need for a toolkit for higher education institutions.
 - All agreed to create another committee to be titled the Protocol Committee.
 - Co-Chair Ridgway noted the success of the LEA K-12 Checklist, provided to task members, which is a toolkit for public schools in which they can alter the protocol to their school's needs.
 - Henderson volunteered to chair the Protocol Committee with Elswick and Polk-Johnson.
- Kishpugh followed with a discussion on screening as well as outreach opportunities.
 - Mick volunteered to chair this committee to be titled the Outreach Committee.
 - Polk-Johnson highlighted sustainability and funding, asking about external funding sources. Brietenmoser noted working with the JED Foundation.
 - All agreed sustainability to be a focus of the Advocacy Committee, changing the name to the Advocacy and Sustainability Committee.
 - The Outreach and Curriculum Committee was further discussed to cover apps, materials, as well as the development of a 30-minute curriculum to be taught in classrooms.

Committees and Goals:

- **Advocacy and Sustainability Committee:** Co-Chairs Hull and Hanemann with Brietenmoser, Loveday.
 1. Crafting a resolution utilizing information from Co-Chair Dr. Perley's presentation and best practices. Combine this information towards a resolution for higher education institutions to adopt
 2. Three education committee sessions within state legislation sessions have time at the beginning of the year for a representative to present to committee on the state of suicide in college campuses.
 3. Work with TN Promise, TN Achieves and other initiatives already in place to provide information and mentor training.

- **Protocol Committee:** Co-Chairs- Henderson, Elswick and Polk-Johnson with Pickens, Wilson, Schmitz, and Mills.
 1. Henderson will send out Doodle to committee members to schedule first conference call meeting time.
 2. All will review and make recommendations working off of the preexisting UT Chattanooga protocol.
 3. Committee will make a statewide template with suggestions for review.
- **Outreach and Curriculum Committee:** Chair- Mick with Kishpaugh, Walker, Turner, and Webster.
 1. Develop curriculum infusion ideas.
 2. Research access to free screenings.
 3. Promote education and awareness in suicide prevention and gatekeeper training.

Goals for Next Meeting

- Committee reports as well as action items from committee reports.
- Hanemann requested data break downs of the 18-24 age groups for suicide as well as 24-64 age groups. Data for college veteran students as well as college student data for suicides was also request.
- Webster requested a list of task members by Grand Region as well as contact information. J. Perley will send this information out to all with this meetings minutes.
- Co-Chair Dr. Perley thanked all for attendance and participation.
- Co-Chair Ridgway closed the meeting, the next meeting will take place December 13th, where members will discuss if the task force will meet bi-monthly or quarterly.

Next Meeting: December 13th, 10am-2pm at TSPN Central Office