

**GEORGIA SUICIDE PREVENTION
PLAN:
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND
ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED**

GOALS: reducing risk factors for suicide and strengthening protective factors

**For more information contact: Marti Vogt
Chairperson, Georgia Suicide Prevention Plan
Steering Committee
770-740-0503
mvogt@mindspring.com**

Accomplishments of the Georgia Suicide Prevention Plan (GSPP) Spring 2001-November 2003

(NOTE: state grants to SPAN USA funded most of the projects listed below)

July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001

- **Advocacy, fundraising, state input and writing of the GSPP**

July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2002

- **August 2001 SPAN USA Tool Bag Conference held in Georgia**
- **Printing of Plan, Sept, 2001**
- **Formation of SPAN USA Steering Committee**
- **Presentation of Plan at the Carter Center/Mental Health Conference**
- **National Mental Health Assoc. of Ga. - Columbia Teen Screen Pilot (Stone Mountain High School) June, 2002**
- **National Mental Health Association of Ga. - Columbia Teen Screen Project, Youth Development Center (Macon), September, 2001**
- **Facilitated Strategic Planning Retreat with Steering Committee, December 2001-January, 2002**

June 30, 2002 - June 30, 2003

- **Georgia Suicide Prevention Plan Website developed**
- **Three Regional Meetings**
- **Workshop at Student Assistance Professional Association (SAPA) Conference**
- **Faith based survey**
- **“Question, Persuade, Respond” (QPR) Gatekeeper training programs at Cobb County Schools**
- **Design of population based trial and evaluation of QPR Gatekeeper Education Program for Cobb County Schools**
- **Signs of Suicide (SOS) Screening Program implemented in some schools**
- **Suicide Prevention Awareness Day at the State Capitol**
- **Dept. Human Resources (DHR) formed a department-wide team to coordinate Suicide Prevention activities**
- **Training for professional associations**

July 1, 2003 - Present

(NOTE: state funds for suicide prevention were not renewed)

- **Reorganization of Georgia Suicide Prevention Steering Committee**
- **Follow-up of projects & future planning**

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED
THE GEORGIA SUICIDE PREVENTION PLAN
July 1, 2001 – present
Eleven Goals of the GSPP

AWARENESS

Goal 1. Promote Awareness that suicide is a serious public health problem

- **Development and Distribution of the Georgia Suicide Prevention Plan**
- **Meetings:**
 - **Tool Bag Conference**
 - **Carter Center Mental Health Meeting**
 - **Three (3) Regional Meetings (Gwinnett County, Atlanta, Valdosta)**
 - **Suicide Prevention Workshop at SAPA Conference**
- **Development of GSPP Website**
- **Suicide Day at the State Capitol**
- **Display of Survivor Quilt at public events**

Goal 2. Develop broad-based support for suicide prevention

- **As first step, developed GSPP Steering Committee with diverse stakeholders**
- **Dept. of Human Resources (DHR) Suicide Prevention Team formed**

Goal 3. Develop and implement strategies to reduce the stigma associated with being a consumer of mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services.

- **To be developed.**

INTERVENTION:

Goal 4. Develop and implement community-based suicide prevention programs

- **Columbia Teen Screen (Stone Mountain High School)**
- **Columbia Teen Screen (Youth Development Center Project)**
- **Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Gatekeeper training (Cobb County schools)**
- **Signs of Suicide (SOS) implemented in some school districts**

Goal 5. Promote efforts to reduce access to lethal means of self-harm

- **State injury prevention epidemiologists educated participants at Regional meetings of the danger of firearms**

Goal 6. Implement training for recognition of at-risk behavior and delivery of effective treatment

- **Trained participants at Regional Meetings and SAPA workshop**
- **Teachers and administrators trained by Prevention Intervention Center for Cobb County Schools to recognize at risk behaviors.**

Goal 7. Develop and promote effective professional practices and support services

- **Presentations at:**
 - American Public Health Association (Atlanta, Fall, 2002)**
 - GA Gerontology Association Annual Meeting**
 - GA Area Agencies on Aging**
 - GA Public Health Association Annual Meeting**

Goal 8. Improve access to and community linkages with mental health and substance abuse services

- **Steering committee membership**
- **State DHR Suicide Prevention Team**
- **Development of the Valley Collaborative in Columbus, GA**
- **Regional Meetings**

Goal 9. Improve reporting and portrayals of suicidal behavior, mental illnesses, and substance abuse in the entertainment and news media

- **To Be Developed.**

METHODOLOGY:

Goal 10. Promote and support research and evaluation on suicide prevention

- **Evaluation of the Columbia Teen Screen pilots by UGA**
- **Participant evaluation of Regional Meetings**
- **Design of research based evaluation of QPR (Cobb County)**
- **Faith based survey on suicide prevention services conducted by Emory Interfaith Health Program, Rollins School of Public Health (89 congregations surveyed)**

Goal 11. Improve and expand systems for data collection

- **Surveillance Report “Suicide in Georgia 2000” was printed and distributed at all regional meetings and an update is in progress**
- **State received fiscal year 2003 funding for a National Violent Death Reporting System**
- **Youth Risk Behavior Survey performed in some schools**
- **Georgia Student Health Survey performed in representative sample in Georgia middle and high schools**
- **Survey of Safe and Drug Free School coordinators to determine presence of Suicide Prevention based programs in schools (Needs Assessment)**

