

Ongoing and New Suicide Prevention Activities in Georgia in past 1.5 years since first Stakeholders Meeting on Sept. 21, 2005

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2nd Suicide Prevention Stakeholders Meeting 4-25-07

1. State Government through the Div of Public Health (Judith Byrnes, DHR, Injury Prevention Section – jtbyrnes@dhr.state.ga.us)
 - a. Div., of Public Health, Injury Prevention Section – 2nd Surveillance Report- Sept. 2005 and “Profile of Injuries in Georgia in 2005”
 - b. Legislation passed in March 2006 to provide support for a Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator and Epidemiologist in Div of PH, Injury Prevention Section
 - c. Grant to SPAN-GA – to develop recommendations for suicide prevention in rural areas 2006-2007
 - d. Grant to CVIOG to plan and implement regional awareness meetings
 - e. Grant to CVIOG to develop Survey of ER’s to do needs assessment for protocol and training

2. State Government through Div of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Disorders (MHDDAD)
 - a. -Behavioral Health Link (BHL) - Single Point of Entry – a Subcontractor to Div Mental Health (David Covington, dwcbhl@ihrcorp.com)
Introduced by BHL, the Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL) 1-800-715-4225 provides 24/7 support and referral to the 159 counties of Georgia. The hotline is staffed by licensed clinicians and social workers, and a referral appointment can be made at the time if needed.
 - b. The Mental Health Training Division continued to support Supported “Question, Persuade, Refer” (QPR) Training for Mental Health providers and administrators this past year

3. State Government – Division of Aging Services (abgoldman@dhr.state.ga.us)
The Div has actively partnered with the Fuqua Late Life Depression Center and initiated several projects:
 - a. Depression training for care managers, primary care physicians, family members
 - b. Peer support training program for older adults with mental illness.
 - c. Telemedicine program

Div. has

 - established a Mental Health and aging coalition
 - supported Suicide Prevention Coalition of Ga

4. Federal Government
 - a.. BHL - Help-lines 1-800-SUICIDE (funded by SAMHSA) and 1-800-273-Talk (Privately funded since 1/2005) - Covers 159 counties of Ga. and routes

into the GCAL lines (Now, since Katrina, 1-800-273-TALK also carries overflow from North Carolina)

5. Schools

- a. A model suicide prevention system wide intervention is being implemented in Cobb County. (jeff.inman@cobbk12.org)
Evaluation research of the program is being provided by Center for the Study and Prevention of Suicide, University of Rochester Medical School (www.rochesterpreventsuicide.org)
- b. Depression screening days for 9th graders in Muscogee County
- c. Every school required by the state to have an emergency response plan for any emergency, though some might not have detailed suicide and aftercare plans
- d. Many schools have protocol of risk assessment, i.e. safety plan, inform parents, referrals, etc.
- e. Georgia Crisis Assistance Teams (GCATS) There are 60-70 school psychologists who have been trained to respond to a crisis in the school if a superintendent requests them
- f. Increasing awareness of school personnel about suicidal behavior, suicide and aftercare through conferences and training by Student Assistance Professionals Association of Georgia, Inc. (SAPA)
Yellow ribbon campaign – School-wide awareness campaign about suicide in some schools (Yellow Ribbon (YR), Albany –YR Chapter of Friends for Life, Cher McDaniel BSN, RN, Cherbear@worldnet.att.net)

6. Colleges

- a. AFSP sponsoring an educational program for directors of student health and counselors from over 15 schools to share national perspective on suicide prevention on college campuses nationally, screening for depression and suicide on college campuses and grants recently given to historically Black Colleges for suicide prevention by SAMHS
- b. Morehouse received a grant from SAMHSA to implement suicide prevention in historically black colleges
- c. Georgia Southern received Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) Grant

7. Law enforcement

- a. Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) Training under the auspices of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation- Coordinated by National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI). Over 50 trainings of 20 officers at a time have been scheduled for 2007.

8. Academic

- a. Research at Emory University on identifying college students with depression and possible suicidal ideation (AFSP Grant)

- b. Research at Grady/ Emory University Dept. of Psychiatry on the association of domestic violence and suicide (CDC grant)
- c. Research at UGA supported by a DHR Contract to survey selected states on suicide prevention coordination

9. Business and the Workplace

- a. Columbus Cares is a community-based suicide prevention program designed to provide suicide education and support across the Chattahoochee Valley. The program is part of the Pastoral Institute and offers one-hour training sessions to area businesses, churches and other groups to help individuals recognize signs of depression in themselves, their families and their co-workers. The training is called [QPR](#): Question, Persuade, Respond

10. Community

- a. Valley Collaborative in Columbus for suicide prevention
- b. Albany, Ga. High school students work on preventing violence including prevention of suicide

12. Faith based organizations

- a. Stephen's Ministry

13. Non profit organizations

- a. Suicide Prevention Coalition of Ga. (Marti Vogt - mvogt@mindspring.com)
 - 1. History - Meeting monthly since 2003, Representatives from many different sectors
 - 2. Have guest speakers at meeting who share information about their work on suicide prevention
 - 3. Working on increasing capacity to implement suicide prevention in Ga.
 - 4. Developed Planning Committee for 2nd Stakeholders Meeting - Funded by DHR and CDC
- b. The Link Counseling Center's National Resource Center (NRC) on Suicide Prevention and Aftercare; (Donna Johnson, dj4art@earthlink.net)
 - 1. Counseling Services
 - 2. Survivors of Suicide (SOS) Support Groups for children, adolescents and adults
 - 3. Outreach and training in the community
 - 4. Provides support to individuals and schools after a suicide
 - 5. Survivors of Suicide Support Teams (SSST) available locally; SSST training locally and nationally. Upon request, teams will visit bereaved families
 - 7. Developed Handbook on Aftercare for police
- c. Suicide Prevention Advocacy Network of Ga. (SPANGA) (Sheri McGuinness –spangeorgia@aol.com)

1. Advocacy
 2. Fund raising
 3. Suicide Prevention Day at the Capital
 4. Leader of Rural Project Planning
 6. Has taken over “Life keepers Memory Quilts Project” since Sandra Martin passed away. The project promotes education, awareness, and prevention
- d. American Foundation of Suicide Prevention – Metro Atlanta (Chris Owens- cowens@afsp.org)
1. Metro chapter formed this year; has Executive Director
 2. Sponsored several fundraisers: Out of the Dark walk, golf tournament event at Eddie’s Attic and art Auction on April 29
 3. Sponsoring education program for college counselors on depression and suicide
- e. National Organization of People of Color against Suicide (NOPCAS)
1. Doris Smith, 1st VP and Treas. has run a bereavement groups in Atlanta (Doris Smith - ds7703@bellsouth.net)
- g. National Mental Health Association of Ga. (NMHAG) (new name – Mental Health America) (Ellyn Jaeger –ellyn@nmhag.org)
1. Helped develop and advocated for legislation to fund two suicide prevention professionals in DHR, Injury Prevention Section – a suicide prevention coordinator and an epidemiologist
 2. Depression screening day
 3. Project HOPE – Education campaign on depression for African Americans
- h. National Alliance of Mental Illness- Ga. (NAMI-GA) (www.namigeorgia.org)
1. Coordinates CIT Training
 2. Advocating for improving conditions in State hospitals
- i. National Association of Social Workers -Ga (naswga@mindspring.com)
- j. Licensed Counselors (www.lpcag.org)
- k. United Family & Friends of Eliscia, Inc. (www.friendsofeliscia.homestead.com)
- l. Cetpa (www.cetpa.org)
The Cetpa Prev. Programs provide prev efforts to the Latino population to increase awareness about substance abuse and other risk factors