

Statewide Suicide Prevention Council
February 6-7, 2008
Juneau, Alaska

Present: Bill Martin, Brenda Moore, Renee Gayhart, Celaena Powder, Noelle Hardt, Pat Donelson, Charles Jones and Kathy Craft

Via Teleconference: Mario Gatto, Renee Gayhart

Absent: Sen. Elton, Rep. Salmon, Rep. Joule, Sen. Ellis, Bill Hogan

Vacancies – Public member off the road system (Hilma Kameroff) and Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (Art Hansen) – Bernard Gatewood has volunteered to serve as the ABADA liaison to the SSPC. Kate Burkhart, ABADA/AMHB Executive Director, will contact Boards and Commissions about Gatewood’s possible appointment.

Guests: Diane Casto and James Gallanos, Behavioral Health Prevention and Early Intervention; Howell Powder, Celaena Powder’s father

Ethics Disclosures:

Mario Gatto – Boys and Girls Club Board Member

Noelle Hardt – Boys and Girls Club Staff (applies for federal and state grants)

Bill Martin – Tlingit and Haida President (THC applies for federal and state grants)

Brenda Moore – Youth Ministry group (may apply for state funding)

Approval of the Agenda: Jones moved and Powder seconded. Passed unanimously.

Approval of the September 17-18, 2008: Jones moved and Donelson seconded. Passed unanimously.

Partner Reports.

Division of Behavioral Health. Casto provided an overview of the reorganization merging mental health and substance abuse as the behavioral health. She described the grants funded: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS); Community Based Suicide Prevention Grants, Prevention grants...BH provides funding to community partners. BH is focusing on community readiness which is an important factor for rural/remote communities. BH RFPs will be released this week and will be due in eight weeks. There will also be 3 pre-proposals teleconferences for entities interested in applying for funds.

Suicide Prevention Initiative – this is an issue that needs direct attention. It is a focused initiative that will be aligned within the larger sense of our system. This initiative has \$500.0 allocated toward community based suicide prevention grants.

Why will these funds make a difference? Alaska now has Alaska-specific data through the Follow Back Study and Lisa Wexler's thesis report. First year outcomes:

- Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs and Behaviors
- Expand and enhance the suicide prevention media and public education campaign
- Enhance Careline
- Increase Gatekeeper trainings

Other activities: Developing relationship with Alaska State Council on the Arts. Saunders McNeill has requested travel funds to provide training in Bethel in March 2008. The cost would be approximately \$1,000.00.

Gayhart moved that the Council support Saunders McNeill's partnership request from the Alaska State Council on the Arts to travel to Bethel in March 2008 to conduct a series of workshop sessions for travel costs up to \$1,000.00. Jones seconded. Passed unanimously.

Casto mentioned the American Association of Suicidology data that now ranks Alaska as third in the nation as opposed to number one.

Casto shared the draft PLAN. REDUCE. PREVENT. Underage Drinking report which is currently up for public review and comment. She also reinforced the connection between suicide and substance abuse. 26 communities have agreed to host Town Hall meetings on underage drinking and other related topics during the months of March and April.

Gatekeeper Training. Gallanos discussed the history of the Gatekeeper Training. UA developed the training borrowing from QPR and Assist and conducted several trainings of trainers. It was transferred from UA to BH in 2007. BH will need more resources to ensure this training is utilized and is culturally relevant. The Council has approved up to \$30.0 to assist BH in continuing community outreach through the Gatekeeper training. While the training is somewhat western focused it still contains the basic information, skills and principles that need to be provided.

SAMHSA has guidance for evidenced based practice, such as, SOS curriculum.

Council members wanted to make sure that the \$30.0 allocated for Community Outreach can be spent by 6/30/08. Casto stated that Gallanos and she would look at the plans for this spring and how to ensure the expenditures are made by the end of the fiscal year.

Donelson stated that he is very glad to hear that the Council is talking about, such as strengthening rural areas and integrating the arts and culture.

Moore stated that the faith community needs assisting coordinating efforts and appreciates the direction of the Council.

Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act. BH submitted an application for youth suicide prevention funding through the GLSMA. Mannilaq applied for and received this grant last year. BH's statewide proposal is based on 5 regional teams who will act as a conduit for communities to receive administrative and technical support. The grant is for \$500.0 each year for 3 years.

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. See written report in packet.

Alaska Mental Health Board and Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. See written report in packet.

Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education. No report provided.

Alaska Brain Injury Network. See written report in packet.

Faith Based and Community Initiatives. No report provided.

Alaska Commission on Aging. No report provided.

Public Comment – 1-800-315-6338 (2017#)

Ric Illiano works with the FAS adult and youth population in Juneau. Case management and support (wrap-around) is needed for this target population who feel frustrated and are at high risk. Casto mentioned that Michael Baldwin is conducting research on the relation between suicide and FASD. He is presenting at a conference in Vancouver in early April. Illiano stated that he use to train on high risk issues (Governor Health Student Team) and spoke about an exercise he conducted that kids brought many issues up. They had the adult resources and support for children and youth that needed follow up.

Michael Baldwin, Anchorage. His research is highlighting the risk individuals with FASD have for possible self harm and death by suicide. His research was published this past winter.

Casto described the Medicaid Waiver FASD and co-occurring demonstration project for home and community based services. This project will serve 88 youth over the 5 year demonstration project.

Long term case management services are not available through the community mental health system and these individuals do not qualify for disability services.

Jeri Museth, Tlingit and Haida. She facilitates a suicide survivor support group and suicide prevention for youth. Casto, stated that we should work toward getting the Gatekeeper training into our school's in-service training schedules.

Donelson. "Kids don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

Powder stated that she took a human relations class and then an advanced human relations class who then speak to freshman about suicide prevention.

Gallanos asked Powder if a teen peer outreach group might make a difference in Alaska. Powder doesn't think that kids from Bethel will listen to Anchorage kids; but that would be better than a guy in a suit.

Old/New Business

1. Suicide Prevention Youth Art Contest at the Boys & Girls Club. First Place winner: Nicole Robinson from Anchorage, 13 years old. Second place: Yellow box.
2. Legislative Hill Visits. Craft reviewed the contents of the packets for the legislators and discussed tips for council member hill visits.
3. Media Campaign. The AFN DVD will be made available to council members and the public as soon as the mass production is complete.
4. Budget. Craft reviewed the budget with council members and discussed alternatives to the community outreach funding if the Gatekeeper training falls through. Casto, Gallanos and Craft will put together a plan for expending the dollars. Moore will also work with the ministry group on a possible overview of the Gatekeeper training.
5. Bracelets. The SSPC still has bracelets available. Hardt will contact the Anchorage superintendent about disseminating the bracelets in the Anchorage middle and high schools.
6. FY08 Annual Report to the Legislature. Craft made this document available to council members. The annual report will be provided to the Governor's Office, legislature, and department staff.
7. Craft presented the Trust toolkit for the SSPC and asked that members review and send any changes or corrections to her.
8. Member at Large position vacancy. Hardt moved that Charles Jones fill the Member at Large Seat. Donelson seconded. Jones agreed. Passed unanimously.
9. FY09 possible meeting locations: Dillingham, Homer, Kenai, Anchorage or the Mat-Su Valley and Juneau.
10. Sitka, April 28-29, 2008 Meeting. Possible events:
 - Invite SEARHC to speak about suicide prevention activities in the 7 village served
 - Invite Boys and Girls Club to speak about Project LEAD.

Invite Sitka Prevention and Treatment Council to speak about their activities.
Hold a Town Hall Meeting or highly publicized public comment.

11. Legislative Audit. Craft reminded the SSPC that their sunset date is scheduled for June 2009 and that some time over the next year Legislative Audit will conduct its review of the Council.

Thursday – February 7, 2008

Hill Visit Debriefing: In attendance for afternoon debriefing were Brenda Moore, Renee Gayhart, James Gallanos, Celaena Powder, Pat Donelson and Charles Jones. Report back from hill visit was it went well as expected. Several legislators were contacted directly and legislative aids were also consulted on the Suicide Prevention Initiative and the Councils' recommendations. Thank you cards were filled out and given to James for distribution to legislators.

Future work on BH gatekeeper training outreach: James Gallanos recommended a tentative date between May 3rd and May 14th to hold a general Gatekeeper training and a trainer of trainers (TOT) seminar in Anchorage. Brenda Moore, Pat Donelson and Calaena Powder were also interested in attending. Pat suggested the earlier the better for him as April is a busy time. James will consult with the BH staff, Sarah Dewane from BHRS and others to support this training to be completed by the Spring in order to retain and spend down the 30.0 outreach funding.

SSPC Plan revision: No action was taken

Adjournment.