

MEETING MINUTES – SATURDAY - JUNE 8, 2002

FLORIDA SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION

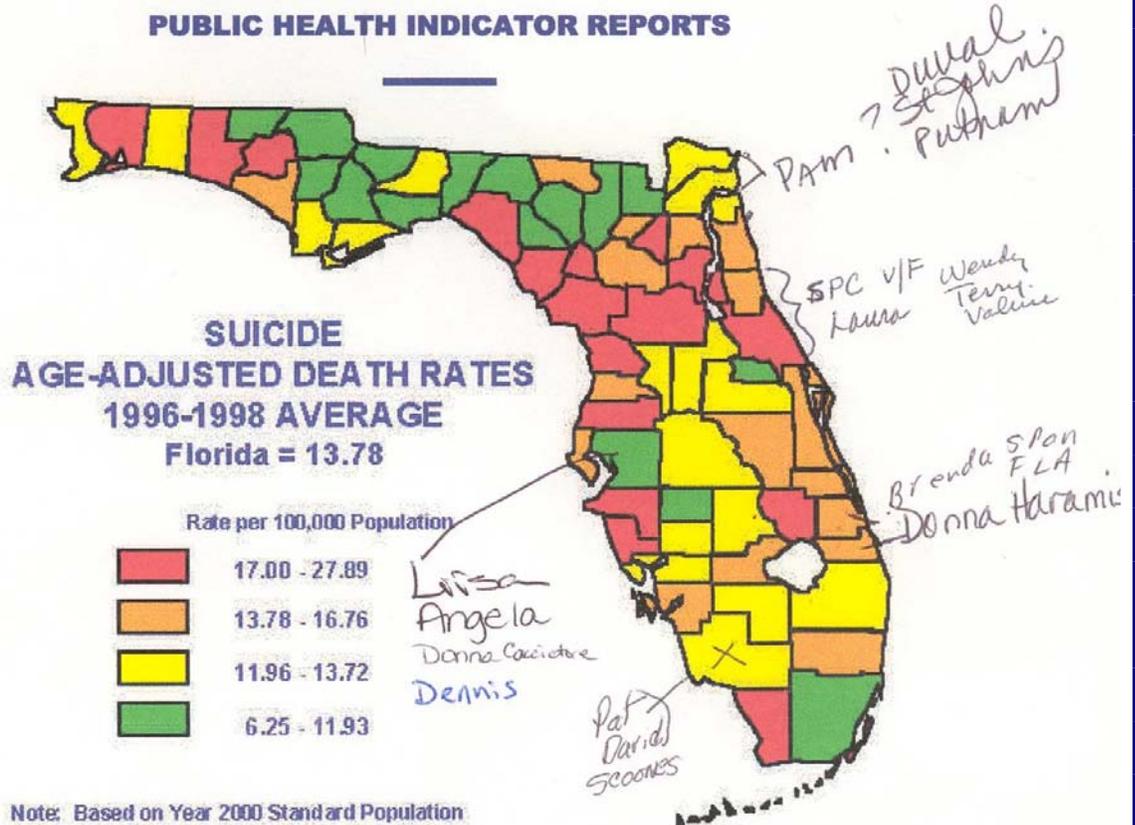


The meeting started at 10 a.m.

- A. This initial planning meeting was held in an attempt to organize and pull together the state at the grassroots level addressing the issue of suicide prevention.
- B. The meeting was scheduled for Saturday, June 8, 2002, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Amerisuites Orlando/Universal in Orlando, Florida
- C. Attendees included: Dr. Wendy Wiles – “Facilitator” – Head of school counselors at Flagler/Palm Coast High School; Terry Smith – Flagler/Palm Coast High School, and member of the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Volusia/Flagler Counties; Valerie Smith - survivor – Palm Coast; Pat Scoones – representing NAMI – Naples, Collier County; David Scoones – representing the J. Timothy Hogan Foundation – Naples, Collier County; Dennis Ross – President & CEO of the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, Hillsborough County; Brenda Molinaro – President of SPAN FL, Ft. Pierce, St. Lucie County; Laura Meyer – Florida Representative of SPAN USA and member of the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Volusia/Flagler Counties, Deland, Volusia County; Liisa Hyvarinen – Freelance Journalist, Tampa, Hillsborough/Pinellas Counties; Donna Haramis – Survivor, Port St. Lucie County; Angela Blocker – Survivor, Tampa ; Pam Harrington – Florida Representative of SPAN USA, founder of The Beth Foundation, Inc., Ponte Vedra Beach, St. Johns County; and Donna Cacciatore – Coordinator of Volunteer Services, Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, Hillsborough County.
- D. Introductions were made and each attendee stated the reasons they were involved in suicide prevention, each person indicated what they would like to accomplish at this meeting , and what things they would like to leave with at the end of the day. The initial list included seven things:
 - 1. Decide on a structure for this group – do we want one?
 - 2. Support efforts for lobbying/activity in the public sector.
 - 3. Share what we’ve done already so as not to reinvent the wheel! ☺
 - 4. What can I do individually?
 - 5. Raise the profile of suicidality through the use of the media/legislature.
 - 6. Share information – develop a plan.
 - 7. Enhance the status of survivors in this effort of pro-activity.

E. There were discussions and recommendations on the group definition and group name. Preliminary decisions made on these issues are listed below:

1. This will be a unified and structured group of members.
2. The organization will be divided into regions and there will be a chairperson designated for each region. . The regions are to be: Northeast (NE), Southeast (SE), Northwest (NW), Southwest (SW), Central (C), South (S), and West (W). Interim chairpersons were appointed for each area. A regional map was passed around the group and each person listed their location. See map below:



3. The focus of suicide prevention for this organization will be on all age groups (multi-focused).
4. The formal name of the group will be “Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition” (FSPC)
5. There were “interim” officers elected for leadership until the full group gets together. Those officers are as follows:
 - a. Chairperson – Terry Smith
 - b. Vice-chairperson – Dennis Ross
 - c. Secretary – Laura Meyer
 - d. Treasurer – Donna Cacciatore

6. Members present were identified by the specific group they fit into, such as - media, crisis center, education, mental health advocates, survivors, consumers, state task force in Tallahassee, and advocates of non-profit organizations. Some areas that were not represented were the faith community, law enforcement and the elderly.

F. A proposed mission statement was developed and agreed upon by all members present at this meeting. The mission statement of the Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition is:

“Collaboration to develop and implement suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention strategies and programs. Statewide initiatives will focus on public awareness, education and advocacy through cooperation and networking among organizations, agencies, media, individuals, surviving family members and government.”

G. There will be separate working committees and possibly sub-committees formed eventually as the group moves along.

H. The list serve name will be changed by Pam Harrington to the new name of this coalition “Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition”.

I. Some questions raised during the meeting:

- a. Will this organization try to legislate?
- b. Should membership dues be collected? Possibly \$25.
- c. Should we become a legal non-profit (501c3) organization?
- d. Will we want a logo?
- e. Would it be good to invite notable honorary members – who should they be?
- f. Should we contact leaders of support groups to join this organization?
- g. What other areas of the community should be targeted as potential members?

J. The group recommended some short and long term goals , and strategies to accomplish these goals. These are listed below.

SHORT TERM, LONG TERM GOALS AND STRATEGIES

1. Develop an “Action Plan” following the Surgeon General’s National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action, to enhance the White Paper (Strategy Paper) developed by

the Florida Suicide Prevention Task Force, lead by James McDonough, Director, Florida Office of Drug Control in Tallahassee.

2. Develop a state wide web site
 3. Compile a list of resources for the new web site
 4. Apply for non-profit status (501c3)
 5. Identify funding needs, sources and options
 6. Arrange for all members to attend a three-day coalition training at Camp Blanding, possibly during mid-October
 7. Contact potential members (leaders from each individual region will make contacts)
 8. Media strategies: Liisa Hyvarinen may write a story about this meeting for distribution to local news agencies, and for inclusion in newsletters of established groups such as SPAN USA, NAMI, AFSP, FISP, AAS, and SAVE
 9. Obtain statistics for suicide vs DUI deaths since MADD has been so effective – under reported issues such as one car accidents
 10. Develop letterhead and mailing address for organization correspondence and outreach activities (temporarily use Terry Smith's address)
 11. Plan a "Suicide Prevention Day" at the Capital in Tallahassee while the legislature is in session (Jan/Feb) display Lifekeeper quilts
 12. Form a Board of Directors for the coalition
- K. Several handouts were distributed at the meeting by each attendee. One handout discussed was the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Strategy and how it aligned with the national strategy. Tennessee has formed the "Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network", which is divided into seven regions. Each region had a representative attend their regional suicide prevention conference last year and discussed what they were doing in their area.**

L. Donna Cacciatore from the Tampa Bay Crisis Center, recommended a 30-minute video on survivors called “Different Places”

- a. Each member present at the meeting agreed to doing some outreach before the next meeting, gathering information to include on the list serve, and inviting potential members to join the coalition.**
- b. The next regular meeting of the Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition will be on Saturday, July 20, 2002, from 10a.m.-5p.m., at the same location, Amerisuites Orlando/Universal, 5895 Caravan Court, Orlando, FL (407) 351-0627**
- c. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.**

*Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by
Interim Secretary, Laura M. Meyer, June 11, 2002*

