

# **FSPC Annual Meeting and Election 6/11/16 Minutes**

## **Meeting opened at 12:06**

Present at the Alachua County Crisis Center: Laura Meyer; Secretary, Ali Martinez; Director of region 3, Betsey Westuba; Chairperson and Director of regions 5 and 14, Judy Broward, Vice Chairperson and Director of region 13, Pam Mezzina, Director of region 2 and Steve Roggenbaum, Member of the FSPC.

Call Ins: Tara Sullivan; Director of region 7, Rene Favreau; Treasurer and Director of region 9, Vicki Clark, Director of region 8, Rene Barrett, Director of region 10, Marlen Jehs; member and previous Chairperson.

We have a quorum.

Missing Directors: Rachelle Burns; region 1, Lisa Zeller; region 4, Elizabeth Lurie; region 6, Diana Flores; region 11, Lisa Grubbs; region 12.

Meeting brought to order by Betsey Westuba, Laura Meyer took minutes.

## **Approval of last year's minutes:**

Judy Broward made motion for approval of last year's minutes and Pam Mezzina seconded the motion. Unanimous vote to pass the minutes with correction of financial statement from last May, 2015..

## **Agenda Items Discussed:**

**Treasurer's Report:** Rene Favreau, Treasurer went over the report. A more detailed discussion concerning the Day at the Capitol expenses and credits will be discussed with Board of Directors at a later date.

## **Previous Outstanding Issues:**

Betsey asked how everyone felt about having meetings every three months. It's hard to find a date where everyone can attend. Vicki asked if the meeting has to be on a Saturday?

Steve Roggenbaum brought up issue of creating a list of duties that Coalition volunteers can help with. Pam Mezzina and Ali Martinez agreed to send information concerning tasks that Big Bend Hospice and the Alachua County Crisis Center have their volunteers do so that the coalition will have some guidelines.

Steve also discussed information that will be needed for the News Section on the new FSPC website being developed. A suggestion of highlighting a Regional Director every three months was made and all were in agreement that this was a good idea. Steve will ask a volunteer working with him this summer to assistance in creating an outline for the coalition to follow for addressing news on the new website.

Steve talked about resurrecting the brochure. Judy discussed online printing-Vista Print. Local names could be printed on brochures (personalized, name and area).

Judy will look into printing business cards and brochures for Regional Directors.

## **Annual Elections;**

### **Coalition Board of Directors for the 2016-2017 year:**

Chairperson: Betsey Westuba

Vice Chairperson: Judy Broward

Vice Chairperson: Steve Roggenbaum

\*Lisa Zeller is stepping down from the Vice Chairperson position and will stay on as Regional Director for region 3. Thank you very much for your hard work, Lisa!

Treasurer: Rene Favreau

Secretary: Laura Meyer

### **Regional Director changes for 2016-2017 year:**

Region 9: Doris Carrol

\*Rene Favreau will be stepping down from Regional Director position of region 9 and will continue on as Treasurer. Thank you for your continued hard work Rene!

There was a unanimous vote in favor of this slate of Board of Directors and new assignment of Regional Director of region 9.

### **Regional Director Candidates Needed:**

Region 15; Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, and St Lucie Counties

Region 12; Flagler and Volusia Counties

Region 11; Dade and Monroe Counties

### **New Business:**

#### **Growing the Coalition:**

Betsey Westuba made the motion to have all Regional Directors work on increasing membership to the Coalition this year by 10 new members. Motion was seconded by Steve Roggenbaum.

Betsey agreed to send out an outline of responsibilities of Regional Directors to all directors. Steve suggested that the Coalition Regional Directors talk about updating this position description at a later date.

Rene Barrett said she would check with survivors from her suicide loss support group to help find a candidate to help her with her assigned region. Rene Favreau offered to help Rene recruit new members for Regional Director. Thank you both!

Judy Broward mentioned that there had been some positive response by the Dept. of Children and Families to request that the \$150,000 be added to the budget for allotment to employ two full time employees for the Statewide office of Suicide Prevention. Currently, the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council focus on suicide prevention initiatives such as creating and implementing the Statewide Plan for Suicide Prevention in Florida as well as increasing public awareness. The Office and the Council were established in 2007 under the leadership of Governor Crist and there were two full time employees working in the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention. Under Governor Scott's direction, the Office of Suicide Prevention was moved to the Florida Department of Children and Families in 2011 and it remains there under the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental

Health (SAMH). The funding was removed when the office was moved. One of the strong initiatives of the FL Suicide Prevention Coalition is to work on reinstating the two full time employees that were dedicated to suicide prevention when Charlie Crist was governor. The Coalition will continue to advocate concerning this issue.

Steve Roggenbaum stated that in the annual report of the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council were recommendations to put back the \$150,000 in the budget for two positions in the Office of Suicide Prevention.

### **New Website Update:**

#### **Assigning Tasks:**

Discussion was held about the much valued participation of Terry Smith as Webmaster of the Coalition website. The Coalition is extremely grateful to Terry and his wife Valerie for their many years of service! Thank you for building the Coalition website and maintaining it since it's inception Terry! Your years of serving as Chairperson are so appreciated as well! Terry will be stepping down from his position as webmaster but he will continue to work with the Coalition if he is needed.

Vicki Clark has offered to take on the role of webmaster when the new website goes live. Vicki has experience in using WordPress which is the program that the new website is built with. Thank you so much Vicki and Terry Smith thanks you as well!

The IT Committee (Pam Mezzina, Steve Roggenbaum and Betsey Westuba) will continue to work on editing the website before it goes live which should be soon.

Doris Carrol agreed to help with editing as well.

Betsey Westuba requested that all Regional Directors verify and update their region's resources by calling them and adding new resources that are available. All agreed to complete this task by the end of June and send any changes to Betsey Westuba so they can be updated for the new website. Pam Mezzina agreed to create a form for verifying resource information and adding any events pertaining to suicide prevention either in Florida, nationally or globally.

Steve Roggenbaum mentioned that the coalition needs to come up with benefits that Coalition members will receive when becoming a member. Some suggestions were things such as wrist bands, and discounted fees to the annual mini conference at the Day at the Capitol events. This subject will be discussed at a later date as well.

### **2016 Annual Day at the Capitol:**

Judy Broward talked about the Annual Day at the Capitol events. The 2016 Day at the Capitol events were held on Jan. 12, 13 and 14th in Tallahassee. New events that were added were: a mini conference held at the Dept. of Children and Families and a casual dinner at Marie Livingston's Steakhouse for attending Regional Directors and speakers that participated in the mini conference.

Judy Broward, Steve Roggenbaum and Betsey Westuba planned and implemented the first Mini Conference prior to the Day at the Capitol.

Thanks to Sofia Castro, Suicide Prevention Coordinator with the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention for presenting at the mini conference, helping us get ready for the Day at the Capital and for being at the capital all day running errands for us. Other mini conference presenters were: Pam Mezzina, FSPC Region 2 Director, Judy Broward, FSPC Region 13 Director, Ali Martinez, FSPC Region 3 Director, Tara Sullivan and Jill Harrington from the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention and Tara being FSPC Region 7 Director, Dr. Marty Swanbrow Becker, Asst. Professor of FSU and Jackie Rosen, CEO of the FL Initiative for Suicide Prevention. The conference was a great success and we had 25 attendees.

Betsey Westuba, Chair, Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition announced the speakers at the Press Conference this year and speakers were: Senator Lizabeth Benacquisto and Representative Dane Eagle both addressing the need for Suicide Prevention training for school personnel. Chief Jim Russell, FSU Assistant Chief of Police and marathon cyclist who speaks openly about stigma, depression and the fact that persons with mental illness can be successful and feel better. David Wheeler, School Psychology Consultant with the FL Dept. of Education. Rachele Burns, Director of Student Support Services at Pensacola State College and Recent Region 1 Regional Director with the FSPC, Gloria C. Henderson, Program Manager with the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Florida Department of Children and Families. Hannah Jines, teacher, AFSP volunteer, and survivor of suicide loss and Raela Marie Villanueva, previous FSPC Regional Director of region 1, singing "The Dream" as a closing.

The annual "Lighting of the Darkness" event presented by Pam Mezzina and Big Bend Hospice had a new venue which was in the Dept. of Medicine building at the University of Florida. This was an outstanding event as usual.

The Coalition extends our heartfelt gratitude to the many organizations, volunteers and presenters that participated in the Day at the Capitol events this year! A special thanks to American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, for partnering with us and supplying lunch and coffee to all participants at the Day at the Capitol!

Other organizations attending were the Florida Initiative for Suicide Prevention, Big Bend Hospice, Tally Wave of Hope, the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, NAMI Tallahassee, Big Bend 211, FL Council on Compulsive Gambling,, DISC Village, Inc, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3308 and Pensacola State College. Thank you all for your hard work!

### **FL Education House Bill 7029**

The implementation of Suicide Prevention and Awareness training in Florida schools was the coalition's main legislative advocacy goal this year. Senator Lisabeth Benacquisto and Representative Dane Eagle worked very hard to get this legislation passed. In April, House Education Bill 7029 was signed by Governor Scott and became law. This bill includes language addressing a two hour suicide prevention and awareness training that will be offered to school personnel in elementary, middle and high schools in the state of Florida. The Dept. of Education and the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention will be working together to come up with a list of evidence based programs that schools can use. This legislation is not a mandate for schools although it is a positive step towards the prevention of suicide in schools in Florida. When a school implements this suicide prevention training, it shall be considered a "Suicide Prevention Certified School." The training must be included in the existing continuing education or in-service training requirements for instructional personnel and may not add to the total hours currently required by the department. A school that chooses to participate in the training must require all instructional personnel to participate. A school that participates in the suicide awareness and prevention training pursuant to this section must report its participation to the department. The department shall keep an updated record of all Suicide Prevention Certified Schools.

### **2017 Annual Day at the Capitol**

The 2017 Day at the Capitol will be held on April 5<sup>th</sup>. April 3<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> are being planned as pre-Day at the Capitol event days. The Coalition is looking for possible speakers for the coming year's mini conference and press conference.

The National Alliance for Mental Illness will also be at the Capitol during the Day at the Capitol events in 2017 and will be collaborating with the FSPC in our legislative advocacy efforts.

**Outstanding Issues:**

Betsey Westuba reminded Regional Directors that the 2016 to 2020 State Plan for Suicide Prevention and Florida Suicide Prevention Action Steps can be found on the Dept. of Children and Families website at <http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/mental-health/suicide-prevention>. All Regional Directors are asked to email any information about suicide prevention action steps that are being taken in their regions to Sophia Castro at [sindie.castro@myflfamilies.com](mailto:sindie.castro@myflfamilies.com). On the above site, there is also a form that can be submitted for any upcoming events to be added to FL Dept. of Children and Families calendar.

Minutes submitted by Laura Meyer; Secretary, Betsey Westuba and Judy Broward June 17, 2016