



FLORIDA  
**Suicide Prevention**  
COALITION

*Reaching those in times of need*

*Sixth Conference*

**Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition (FSPC) 2022**

# Florida Taking Action for Suicide Prevention



**February 21-22, 2022**

**LOCATION**



Hyatt Place  
Tampa/Wesley Chapel  
26000 Sierra Center Blvd  
Lutz, Florida 33559

# AGENDA – Monday, February 21, 2022

1:00	1	FSPC Chair's Welcome	Roggenbaum	Sierra II
1:20	2	Seniors and Suicide	Fliger	Sierra II
	3	Engaging in Lethal Means Safety	Collins	Sierra III
1:50	4	Cultivating Effective Working Relationships with the Media to Promote Safe Reporting on Suicide	Sperry	Sierra II
	5	Growing Hope - Tools and Connections: A Pinellas Town Hall Series on Suicide Prevention	Bohn, Salinas Miranda, Barnett, O'Connell, & Agrawal	Sierra III
2:20	6	Religion and Suicide: Exploration of the Relationship between Religiosity and Suicidal Ideation	Prewitt	Sierra II
	7	Current State of Wellness, Wellbeing, and Suicide Risk in Veterinary Medicine	Richmond	Sierra III
<b>2:45 - 3:00 pm Networking Break</b> <i>Sponsored by Molina Healthcare</i>				
3:00	8	Florida Violent Death Reporting System 2019 Preliminary Findings	Liller, Thomas, Ramirez, Amoros, DiBlanda, Salinas Miranda, Agrawal, Trejos, Reid, McDaniel, Mathew, & Mai	Sierra II
	9	Suicide Prevention: The Role of the Church	Dobson	Sierra III
3:30	10	Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans, & their Families <i>(Invited presentation)</i>	Carter	Sierra II
4:15	11	Hearts in Minds: Why Love Will Save the Behavioral Health Crisis System	Atkinson	Sierra II
4:45	12	Brave Conversations: Understanding Barriers and Facilitators for Mental Health Conversations between Parents and Children	Wilks, B.M., Tran, & Kosyluk	Sierra II
<b>5:30 - 7:30 pm Poster Session</b> <i>Sponsored by Molina Healthcare</i>				
P1	Being Truly Helpful: Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers, Crisis Services, and Suicide Prevention		Atkinson & Costa	
P2	Service Dogs Saving Lives; How One Organization Has Worked to Combat Veteran Suicide and Saving Shelter Dogs in the Process		Licata & Watson	
P3	Peer to Peer Suicide Prevention for Schools		Brockman	
P4	Florida Child Safety Learning Collaborative		Smith	
P5	Florida Violent Death Reporting System		Mathew, McDaniel, Mai, Reid, Liller, Thomas, DiBlanda, Ramirez, Garcia, Salinas Miranda, Agrawal, & Trejos	
P6	Compassion, Connection, and Equity: Keys to Community-Based Suicide Prevention for the LGBTQ+ Communities of Pinellas County		O'Connell, Mathre, Bohn, Agrawal, Salinas Miranda, & Barnett	
P7	CBT Interventions for Suicide Prevention Among Caribbean Adults		Rambarran	
P8	Prevalence of Self-Reported Suicidal Ideation Within a Collaborative Care Management Program for Common Mental Health Conditions in Primary Care		Lord, Zuschlag, Milsom, & Leonard	
P9	Florida First Responders Suicide Deterrence Task Force		Vasquez & VanHaute	
P10	Collective Impact Messaging- Murals, Yard Signs, and Memes—Oh My!		Mathre	
P11	Engaging the Community on Veteran Suicide		Williams	

# Monday, February 21 Session Details

1:00 - 1:15 pm

## 1 FSPC Chair's Welcome – *Roggenbaum, FSPC Chair*

Presenter will highlight the format of and provide guidance for the conference followed by a summary of FSPC activities.

1:20 - 1:45 pm

## 2 Seniors and Suicide – *Fliger*

Mental health concerns do not stop at a certain age, in fact suicide is a relevant concern for seniors. This workshop will identify why seniors are at risk for suicide and how both laypersons and clinical staff can assist those contemplating suicide.

## 3 Engaging in Lethal Means Safety – *Collins*

Despite firearms being the deadliest means for suicide, research suggests that more than half of psychiatrists, over 75% of social workers, and over 95% of emergency room physicians have no formal training in assessing for access to lethal means. The Engaging in Lethal Means Safety curriculum provides participants with an overview of lethal means safety counseling as a clinical tool, as well as strategies for assessing for lethal means from a clinical or layperson perspective. This session will focus on the development of the ELMS curriculum, as well as provide participants with tangible skills for implementing lethal means safety in their own lives and, when applicable, clinical practice.

1:50 - 2:15 pm

## 4 Cultivating Effective Working Relationships with the Media to Promote Safe Reporting on Suicide – *Sperry*

One of the most effective ways to educate a large audience is by use of the media. Establishing and maintaining an effective relationship with the media is critical in educating the public at large regarding suicide. It is crucial that there is a well-established agenda when meeting with the media so that the message conveyed to audience is clear prior to being interviewed on the air. Establishing a point of contact within your local news outlets is vital. This is essential when wanting to convey a particular message regarding suicide. Generally, the media is discouraged from reporting on suicide. By establishing effective working relationships with the media we can begin to promote safe reporting on suicide.

## 5. Growing Hope - Tools and Connections: A Pinellas Town Hall Series on Suicide Prevention – *Bohn, Salinas Miranda, Barnett, O'Connell, & Agrawal*

Through academic-community partnership of University of South Florida's College of Public Health faculty and the Zero Suicide Partnership of Pinellas, we plan to host a series of town hall events focused on community-level suicide prevention for vulnerable populations: LGBTQ+, veterans, youth, and seniors. Data are collected through transcribed recordings of small group community conversations facilitated by trained volunteers. Data will also be collected via anonymous, online, post-event feedback. University faculty, students, and members of Zero Suicide Partnership of Pinellas will work to analyze the data to present through conferences, publications, and broader community-focused modalities. Main Ideas: The goals are increasing awareness of the crisis, and resources available, as well as the need for collaboration among partners and community members. We aim to generate new ideas for strengthening community resiliency and to build a sustainable "web of hope".

2:20 - 2:45 pm

## 6. Religion and Suicide: Exploration of the Relationship between Religiosity and Suicidal Ideation – *Prewitt*

The purpose of the extant study was to explore the relationship between religiosity and suicidal ideation. Through this exploration, further knowledge was sought relevant to gaining better understanding regarding the higher suicide rate continuing to be experienced by young adults. Endeavoring to discover why the suicide rate continues to increase for the subject population, depression and anxiety emerged as major contributory risk factors. Although religiosity has been shown to be related to the reduced risk of suicidal behavior, the curative value of religion relevant to suicide prevention and treatment has not been sufficiently recognized. Considering the enormity of the current suicide problem, pursuits relevant to discovering effective tools enabling impactful prevention and treatment strategies remain essential to reducing suicide deaths.

## 7. Current State of Wellness, Wellbeing, and Suicide Risk in Veterinary Medicine – *Richmond*

A recent retrospective study from the CDC shows veterinarians are at a significantly higher risk of dying by suicide than the general population. We briefly discuss the data and what is being done in the profession to support veterinarians.

2:45 - 3:00 pm – Networking Break sponsored by Molina Healthcare

3:00 - 3:25 pm

## 8. Florida Violent Death Reporting System 2019 Preliminary Findings – *Liller, Thomas, Ramirez, Amoros, DiBlanda, Salinas Miranda, Agrawal, Trejos, Reid, McDaniel, Mathew, & Mai*

The Florida Violent Death Reporting System (FLVDRS) includes violent death data (homicides, suicides, legal intervention, unintentional firearm, and undetermined) abstracted from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement records. This analysis focuses on preliminary findings of the FLVDRS 2019 violent deaths. Qualitative and quantitative analyses were conducted. Results showed that the majority of deaths were suicides (69.1%). Males comprised most deaths (77.4%). Non-Hispanic white individuals had a higher number of suicide deaths. Qualitative analyses focused on all black males regardless of ethnicity, ages 10-24, who died of suicide in Florida during 2019. Narrative themes that evolved from these data were scene location, suicide method, engagement with law enforcement, known history of psychiatric conditions, known history of suicidality, and recent life events. Continued analyses will take place to allow for future targeted prevention efforts.

## 9. Suicide Prevention: The Role of the Church – *Dobson*

Suicide seems to be one of the last taboos of the church. In many churches, if the word suicide is mentioned, it makes some people nervous. Requests for prayers for a loved one who is hospitalized for suicidal behavior are nearly whispered – if they are spoken out loud at all. People often shy away from survivors of suicide loss because they are uncomfortable and don't know what to say. And those who might want prayers – let alone tangible, embodied care for their struggles with suicide — often don't dare to ask. Yet Jesus asks us to carry one another's burdens. If the church wants to be a positive force in preventing suicide, if it cares about the emotional and spiritual plight of those that are hurting inside, it needs to recognize the influence it can have in helping people find purpose in living.

## 10. Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans, & their Families – Carter

Florida is changing the narrative of mental health – especially when it comes to preventing suicide among service members, Veterans, and their families. As part of a 2019 executive order “National Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End Suicide” that served as a call to action. The VA and SAMHSA partnered to launch the city-level “Mayor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families” and shortly thereafter the state-level “Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families” from Florida’s 21 military bases to our 1.5 million Veterans, the Governor’s Challenge supports efforts to use evidence-based practices to prevent suicide among our service members, Veterans, and their families.

Broadly, the Governor’s Challenge helps local leaders in community and state governments work together to prevent suicide among Veterans. Specifically – To convene a state interagency military and civilian team of leaders to develop an implementation plan to prevent suicide among service members, Veterans, and their families that will advance the VA’s National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide and incorporate evidence-based strategies from the CDC’s Preventing Suicide: A Technical Package of Policy, Programs, and Practices.

4:15 - 4:40 pm

## 11. Hearts in Minds: Why Love Will Save the Behavioral Health Crisis System – Atkinson

While emergency behavioral health services in the United States emphasize safety and risk management, the greatest advances to these systems have come from people and communities that have valued empathy, compassion, and choice above all. From Crisis Intervention Teams to Crisis Call Centers and peer respite homes, this professional expression of love carries both risk and reward. Learn how love in the behavioral health crisis system brought us here, and how it is our best hope for the future of mental health, suicide prevention, and community wellness.

4:45 - 5:15 pm

## 12. Brave Conversations: Understanding Barriers and Facilitators for Mental Health Conversations between Parents and Children – Wilks, B.M., Tran, & Kosyluk

Due to various forms of mental illness stigma (affiliate, public, self-stigma, etc.), youth with mental health conditions avoid seeking help for or speaking about their symptoms. Talking openly about mental health is one of the first steps toward recovery and avoiding a mental health crisis, which sometimes leads to suicidal ideation or attempts. Previous qualitative work with high school teens indicated that the stigma youth experience originates from all authority figures, including parents. Using semi-structured, virtual interviews with parents, we sought to understand better the barriers and facilitators for conversations about mental health between parents and their children.

# Poster Details

5:30- 7:30 pm – Poster Session

## P1. Being Truly Helpful: Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers, Crisis Services, and Suicide Prevention – Atkinson & Costa

Behavioral health providers seek assurances that their services are effective and that their interventions matter. The presenters will demonstrate how the development of 24/7 crisis programming meets the requirements of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs). Participants will be provided a review the ideal continuum of crisis services which provide robust and timely service access. These models include a broad range of staffing models for crisis responders that include persons with lived experience, clinicians, paraprofessionals, and co-responder models with law enforcement.

Objectives include 1) Participants will understand the concept and objectives of CCBHCs 2) Participants will be able to understand and identify important features of: a) 24 hour mobile crisis teams b) Emergency crisis intervention services c) Crisis stabilization services d) Suicide crisis response and e) Services for substance abuse crisis and intoxication. Participants will learn innovative ways to improve care, reduce recidivism and prevent hospital readmissions.

## P2. Service Dogs Saving Lives; How One Organization Has Worked to Combat Veteran Suicide and Saving Shelter Dogs in the Process – Licata & Watson

K9 Partners for Patriots is a 501(c)3 dedicated to eliminating suicide among the veteran and active duty community through their service dog training program. This presentation will include the benefits and success that service dogs have, specifically on veterans struggling with PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injuries, and/or Military Sexual Trauma. K9 Partners for Patriots’ Veteran Councilor will also speak on the importance of mental health specifically surrounding our veterans and how we are assessing our programs success.

## P3. Peer to Peer Suicide Prevention for Schools – Brockman

Over 75% of youth will tell a peer about their intent to harm themselves and unfortunately, as promised, those peers never divulge their secret. An evidenced based peer to peer program like Hope Squad can be the answer when you have a dedicated group of students nominated by their peers and trained through the curriculum to know the warning signs. They learn how to have the right conversations to get a struggling peer to a qualified adult for help, and how to build a culture of kindness and connectedness. Join us to learn about the success with this program in the Florida Panhandle as well as across the country. Hear testimonies and success stories that convinced the Okaloosa County Superintendent to make sure this program was in every school in his district and why TWO Impact 100 groups voted to fund the program in every secondary school in the 4 counties they cover.

## P4. Florida Child Safety Learning Collaborative – Smith

In 2019, youth suicide represented the second highest leading cause of overall deaths in our state. Since 2010, the rate of youth suicide increased from 2.9 to 5.3, an 82.8% increase. The Florida Department of Health is seeking to address this public health concern through partnering with the Educational Development Center’s Children Safety Learning Collaborative (CSLC). Through working with the CSLC, the Florida Department of Health will work closely with the Florida Department of Children and Families, the Florida Behavioral Health Association, and the Florida Department of Education to plan evidence-based initiatives that we can implement that will reduce youth suicide and suicidal behavior. In this session, we will review our goals and the overall impact we hope to see from participating in the CSLC.

**P5. Florida Violent Death Reporting System – Mathew, McDaniel, Mai, Reid, Liller, Thomas, Diblanda, Ramirez, Garcia, Salinas Miranda, Agrawal, & Trejos**

The Florida Violent Death Reporting System (FLVDRS) is a state-based public health surveillance system that collects and links data from multiple sources on violent incidents that result in death (homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm death, legal intervention, deaths with undetermined intent) into one anonymous database. FLVDRS provides crucial context about victims, suspects, their relationships, and the circumstances preceding these incidents. This valuable information can help identify populations and circumstances associated with suicide in Florida. The system can be used by state and local health departments, practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and others to inform suicide strategies and prevention measures.

**P6. Compassion, Connection, and Equity: Keys to Community-Based Suicide Prevention for the LGBTQ+ Communities of Pinellas County, Florida – O’Connell, Mathre, Bohn, Agrawal, Salinas Miranda, & Barnett**

An academic-community partnership between the University of South Florida’s College of Public Health and the Zero Suicide Partnership of Pinellas held a virtual town hall event on Nov. 30, 2021 to assess the community perspective on community-level suicide prevention for LGBTQ+ residents of Pinellas County. Virtual community conversations were facilitated by trained volunteers using abbreviated appreciative inquiry questions (n=6 groups, 4-6 participants each) in Zoom. Discussions were audio-recorded, transcribed, and thematically analyzed. Demographic questions and additional evaluation questions were collected via anonymous, online, post-event feedback survey (n=14). Themes for suicide prevention efforts for the LGBTQ+ population of Pinellas were connection, acceptance, belonging, mental health support, systemic equity through stable housing, civic representation, and community engagement. Risk factors included: being misgendered, community violence, challenges accessing healthcare.

**P7. CBT Interventions for Suicide Prevention Among Caribbean Adults – Rambarran**

Suicide is considered a worldwide public health issue. Intervention is required at individual, family and community levels. CBT is an effective intervention for reducing suicidal ideation and promoting suicide intervention among Caribbean adults. Sections of this presentation that adequately address the complexity of suicide include: cultural dimensions; stigma of suicide and mental disorders in the Caribbean; relation between homicide and suicide; methods of suicide in the Caribbean; comorbidities of suicide among the Caribbean population; access to healthcare and medical resources; common coping mechanisms of Caribbean adults; and CBT intervention to treat suicidal intervention. Recommendations regarding CBT as an intervention and future studies surrounding suicide are also posited. Tailored interventions and further research should incorporate cultural values and norms related to suicide within each Caribbean country, for the most culturally sensitive programs and best treatment.

**P8. Prevalence of Self-Reported Suicidal Ideation Within a Collaborative Care Management Program for Common Mental Health Conditions in Primary Care – Lord, Zuschlag, Milsom, & Leonard**

Primary care is the most common setting for individuals to receive mental health treatment, usually through use of psychotropic medication. Early identification and treatment of common mental health conditions is essential for suicide prevention. Collaborative care management (CoCM) is an evidence-based protocol for the collaborative treatment of mental health problems in primary care. CoCM has demonstrated effectiveness in symptom reduction, engagement, adherence, and improvements in patient functioning (1). For the current study, data from an existing clinical database was used to review assessment and outcome data of patients enrolled in the Antidepressant Monitoring Program (ADM) at the James A. Haley VAMC during the first 12 months of the program (N = 462). Results indicate that outcomes for the ADM program are favorable as measured by reductions in mean PHQ-9 and GAD-7 scores despite a >12.5% prevalence of suicidal ideation at baseline (as measured by response to PHQ-9 item 9)

**P9. Florida First Responders Suicide Deterrence Task Force – Vasquez & VanHaute**

The First Responder Suicide Deterrence Task Force convened in December 2020 as result of legislative action (SB7012). This display will provide a synopsis of the purpose and progress of the Task Force including highlights from the most recent annual report to legislature in August 2021.

**P10. Collective Impact Messaging- Murals, Yard Signs, and Memes—Oh My! – Mathre**

Zero Suicide Partners of Pinellas is a collective impact project across Pinellas County with a variety of providers and entities working together to end suicide. This ongoing collective impact project does not have a dedicated source of funding, but rather exists by the will and commitment of the members. Creativity has been needed to get our message out. This presentation will provide examples of how our Zero Suicide Partners of Pinellas has creatively approached messaging to our community. We learned from early studies that we needed to reach people who have never connected or been touched by our behavioral health service providers. This presentation will share with the audience examples of our work including community murals, yard signs, social media posts, and census tract mailings. We will share the creative ways that we attained our goals, with some tips and tricks for maximizing small funding opportunities for positive results.

**P11. Community as Suicide Prevention Resource – Williams**

Veterans Counseling Veterans is supporting the National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide 2018-2028 by Involving the local community (Federal, State and County) through engagement activities that Educate, Connect and Empowers the community on Veteran suicide prevention.

# AGENDA – Tuesday, February 22, 2022

8:30	13	Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention		Sierra II
9:15	14	Suicide Prevention in Law Enforcement	Burns, R., & Burns, P.	Sierra II
	15	TAPS Suicide Postvention Model: From Grief to Growth	Stumpf Patton	Sierra III
<b>10:00-10:15 am Networking Break Sponsored by Molina Healthcare</b>				
10:15	16	How Can We Be the Most Helpful? Practical Strategies for Critical Engagement	Atkinson	Sierra II
	17	Reducing Access to Lethal Means	Jaquith	Sierra III
11:00	18	Who Cares for the Caretakers?	VanHaute	Sierra II
	19	Suicide Risk Assessment and Suicide Prevention Certified Schools	Wilks, & Aviles	Sierra III
<b>11:40 am - 1:00 pm Lunch on your own</b>				
1:00	20	Developing Comprehensive Behavioral Health Access Programs (BHAPs) to Reduce First Responder Suicide and Associated Mental Health Concerns	O'Dare	Sierra II
	21	The Promise and the Challenge of 9-8-8	Giese & McClellan	Sierra III
1:45	22	Collaborating and Training with Law Enforcement for Effective Suicide Prevention	Sosa & Martinez	Sierra II
	23	Addressing Youth Suicide Ideation: Mobile Response Teams Role in the Community	DiLorenzo-Garcia, Drescher, & Dykehouse	Sierra III
<b>2:30-2:45 pm Networking Break Sponsored by Molina Healthcare</b>				
2:45	24	Helping to Reduce Suicidality by Engaging the Faith-based Community	Wright, Rev.	Sierra II
	25	Addressing the Unique Mental Health Needs of LGBTQ Youth	Rodriguez	Sierra III
3:30	26	It's Real: College Students and Mental Health	Sullivan Larsen	Sierra II
	27	The Impact of Perceived Social Support, Social Connectedness, and Campus Connection upon Collegiate Level Students' Well-Being and Mental Health	Albury, Swanbrow Becker, Krentz, & Larkin	Sierra III
4:00	28	Who Helps Me When I Help Everyone Else? Reforming the Way that Child Welfare Handles Suicidal Clients	Bauer & Valenzuela	Sierra II
	29	Investigating the Relationship Between Academic Program Involvement and Social Connectedness Among Students During COVID-19	Krentz, Swanbrow Becker, Larkin, & Albury	Sierra III
4:30	30	Suicide Prevention and Care Coordination in Hospital Settings: Implications and Lessons Learned	Carmody & Borntreger	Sierra II
	31	Population Focused	Guevara-Ruiz	Sierra III

# Tuesday, February 22 Session Details

8:30 - 9:10 am

## 13. Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention

Presenter will highlight the state of suicide prevention in Florida. She will offer a summary of the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council's activities.

9:15 - 10:00 am

## 14. Suicide Prevention in Law Enforcement – *Burns, R., & Burns, P.*

Law Enforcement is a high-risk profession and not just because it puts police on the front lines on the streets. Prior to the pandemic, the reality was that significantly more law enforcement officers (LEOs) died by suicide than in the line of duty. Pat and Rachele Burns of Caim Coaching will examine this phenomenon, including the unique culture that increases stigma and prevents help seeking, as well as the interventions that are showing great potential in reducing officer suicide.

## 15. TAPS Suicide Postvention Model: From Grief to Growth

– *Stumpf Patton*

The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) has provided peer-based grief support to family and loved ones grieving the death of a U.S. service member since 1994, and in working with 19,000+ survivors of military suicide loss, has developed a Postvention Model specific to suicide grief based in best practices. The majority of survivors who engage in our services, utilize our resources, and attend our events have shared that, in addition to their grief, they have experienced trauma related to their suicide loss. This presentation is suitable for anyone impacted by suicide as well as those working with those bereaved by suicide, where participants will learn how TAPS has integrated a trauma-informed approach in providing suicide-specific grief support to adults and children focused on the aspects of stabilization, grief work, and posttraumatic growth.

10:00-10:15 am – **Networking Break** sponsored by *Molina Healthcare*

10:15 - 10:55 am

## 16. How Can We Be the Most Helpful? Practical Strategies for Critical Engagement – *Atkinson*

Individuals accessing residential crisis settings experience a broad variation in treatment experience across communities, with some staying as brief as 3 days and others as long as 30 days or more. Regardless of time in treatment, engaging the individual in treatment is the most important challenge facing treatment providers. In this session, learn the critical components of client engagement, and the data connecting hope, effectiveness, and length of treatment.

## 17. Reducing Access to Lethal Means – *Jaquith*

The Broward Suicide Coalition was established over three years ago to address concerns about the rate of suicide in the community. Several subcommittees were established to address those concerns. One is entitled LETHAL MEANS and is charged with data driven strategies to reduce death by suicide by the most common lethal means. The data indicates that guns are the most lethal and most common method. Through the efforts of this committee, gun shops and target ranges were contacted, a media blitz of information throughout the community to reach non-traditional access points such as pediatricians, law offices, funeral homes all have been given the information to communicate to the people they interact with.

11:00 - 11:40 am

## 18. Who Cares for the Caretakers? – *VanHaute*

Caretaking and caretakers have broad definitions that include our nation's first responders. Portrayals of people in this profession through media, movies, and television seldom convey the human element. Behind the persona of the public image lies an individual who is altruistic and passionate about taking care of others. Unfortunately, that passion and altruism can take a toll on mental health, family units, relationships, and physical health. In this session participants will learn ways to be part of a larger community of care for first responders. Presented from the perspective of a first responder family member and a suicide loss survivor, the session will cover: • Myths and facts about suicide among first responders • Factors that elevate the risk of mental health disorders and suicide within the professions • Action steps to build individual and community support as a protective factor against suicide within the professions.

## 19. Suicide Risk Assessment and Suicide Prevention Certified Schools – *Wilks, B. & Aviles*

The presentation will address the impact of SB 590 on several provisions related to school safety and mental health. It will highlight continuing education and in-service training for youth suicide awareness and prevention and the criteria needed for a suicide prevention certified school designation.

11:40 am - 1:00 pm – **Lunch on your own**

1:00 - 1:40 pm

## 20. Developing Comprehensive Behavioral Health Access Programs (BHAPs) to Reduce First Responder Suicide and Associated Mental Health Concerns – *O'Dare*

Repeated exposure to potentially traumatic events puts first responders at high risk for developing behavioral health issues and substance use disorders. Combined with stigma surrounding help-seeking behaviors, lack of systematic resource and referral programs, and other barriers to care, first responders do not routinely receive a continuum of evidence-based assessment and treatment services from trained mental health professionals. Consequently, first responders are more likely to experience untreated PTSD, mood disorders (depression and anxiety), substance abuse, and suicidality. In fact, twice as many first responders now die by suicide than in line of duty incidents. In addition to completed suicides, first responders attempt suicide at over 10 times the rate of the general population. The development of comprehensive Behavioral Health Access Programs (BHAP) including education, peer support, and mental health navigation services promises to help reduce suicide in the population.

## 21. The Promise and the Challenge of 9-8-8 – *Giese & McClellan*

On October 17, 2020, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act created 9-8-8 as the new nationwide phone number for national suicide prevention, behavioral health and veterans' crises. By July 16, 2022, 9-8-8 will be activated across the country. Will Florida be ready? We will discuss the promise of 9-8-8 and how it can save lives and link individuals to treatment and services. We will also discuss the challenges of funding the 9-8-8 crisis system that must include the call centers, mobile response teams, and stabilization centers. A Q&A to explore advocacy strategies will follow, with talking points that include savings from the system. Advocacy opportunities will be provided.

## 22. Collaborating and Training with Law Enforcement for Effective Suicide Prevention – *Sosa & Martinez*

We will share the importance of collaborating with Law Enforcement for effective crisis intervention and suicide prevention. Alachua County Crisis Center has developed a strong working relationship with law enforcement through CIT training, Care Teams, Mobile Response Teams, Hostage Negotiation Training, and community disaster response through a 311 Critical Information Line. We will discuss how these partnerships developed and the importance of keeping them ongoing. We will discuss how this has given us an important point of intervention for at risk individuals in our community.

## 23. Addressing Youth Suicide Ideation: Mobile Response Teams Role in the Community – *DiLorenzo-Garcia, Drescher, & Dykehouse*

Mobile Response Teams (MRT) work with schools and community partners to promote MRTs as an alternative to punishment, arrest, or hospitalization when a young person presents with a behavioral health crisis, including suicide ideation. Marginalized students face disproportionately higher rates of exclusionary discipline. This presentation addresses how MRTs function, crisis intervention, and MRTs role in fostering holistic wellness in the community. Furthermore, the presentation addresses how MRTs address suicide ideation for people 25 and younger.

2:30 - 2:45 pm – Networking Break sponsored by Molina Healthcare

## 24. Helping to Reduce Suicidality by Engaging the Faith-based Community – *Wright, Rev.*

The complex work of reducing the number of suicide attempts and deaths from suicide must be a collaboration between medical, mental health, and faith-based communities. Faith-based communities have often stood on the sidelines watching others struggle with difficulties which have ultimately taken the lives of too many fellow citizens. These could be caused by stress, trauma, family tensions, a medical diagnosis, financial or career difficulties, or substance abuse. Evidence demonstrates that whether a person's need is emotional, physical, psychological, or spiritual, the entire person must be addressed in order to assist healing. The faith-based community is in a unique position to offer life-sustaining hope. Immediate practical steps to implement:

- Normalize the conversation about mental health issues and suicide
- Appropriate training for leaders and congregants
- Recognize personal weaknesses and limitations; be willing to refer
- Establish helpful resources, especially locally

## 25. Addressing the Unique Mental Health Needs of LGBTQ Youth – *Rodriguez*

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020), with LGBTQ youth being four times more likely to seriously consider suicide, to make a plan for suicide, and to attempt suicide than their non-LGBTQ peers (Johns et al., 2019; Johns et al., 2020). This workshop will address factors contributing to higher rates of suicide, suicidal ideation and depression among Florida's LGBTQ youth. We will also provide strategies and resources for supporting LGBTQ youth in addressing depression and suicidal ideation. This includes how to ensure your existing programs and initiatives meet the needs of LGBTQ youth.

## 26. It's Real: College Students and Mental Health – *Sullivan Larsen*

It's Real: College Students and Mental Health is a documentary featuring the stories of six college students from across the country. The film reveals depression and other mental health conditions as they are commonly experienced by high school seniors, and shows how students can seek help for these conditions and successfully manage them. It can be used as part of an educational program designed to raise awareness about mental health issues experienced in college and to encourage help-seeking among college students. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) has developed It's Real: College Students and Mental Health to support colleges and universities in implementing suicide prevention as an integral part of their ongoing campus activities and services.

## 27. The Impact of Perceived Social Support, Social Connectedness, and Campus Connection upon Collegiate Level Students' Well-Being and Mental Health – *Albury, Swanbrow Becker, Krentz, & Larkin*

Emerging Adults are commonly subject to numerous stressors, making them naturally vulnerable to suicide. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has placed them more at risk. Feeling socially connected is an important buffer to suicide and other mental health problems (Tull et al., 2020). This study sought to investigate how undergraduate students' perceived social support, social connectedness, and campus connection impacted their well-being/mental health. 545 enrolled undergraduate students completed a survey surrounding their experiences during the past year, some of which also participated in a focus group. Results indicate that college students are often subject to multiple mental health stressors, which can be exacerbated by societal pressures and minority statuses, yet also mitigated by individual perceptions, social connectedness, social supports, and belonging. Thus, employing programs that foster social connection/belonging among students can potentially increase students' resiliency.

## 28. Who Helps Me When I Help Everyone Else? Reforming the Way that Child Welfare Handles Suicidal Clients – *Bauer & Valenzuela*

Academic researchers, politicians, mental health professionals, and others have become increasingly aware of the need for further education and training in regard to suicidality, but it has not yet integrated into the child welfare system. Child welfare professionals are commonly viewed as the first responders, yet do not have the training necessary to assess and refer individuals who are experiencing suicidality. Through the use of gatekeeper training (QPR), we have created a framework and program to integrate active participation of child welfare professionals in combination with behavioral health professionals, successfully bridging the gap between the two sectors. This presentation describes current methods of this program as well as denotes means to incorporate modifications to other programs nationwide.

## 29. Investigating the Relationship Between Academic Program Involvement and Social Connectedness Among Students During COVID-19 – *Krentz, Swanbrow Becker, Larkin, & Albury*

The COVID-19 pandemic forced many students' classes and activities to switch to an online environment, leading to a decreased sense of connectedness. Feeling socially connected is an important buffer to suicide and many other mental health problems (Tull et al., 2020). Our study sought to investigate how undergraduate students in different academic programs felt connected to their professors, peers, and campus during COVID-19. Five hundred forty-five undergraduate students in academic programs completed a survey about their experiences throughout the past year, and a handful of these students also participated in a focus group. Our results show that academic programs where students live together, interact with each other more, and study together have the highest levels of social connectedness.



### 30. Suicide Prevention and Care Coordination in Hospital Settings: Implications and Lessons Learned – *Carmody & Borntrager*

The Florida Implementation of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention Care Coordination Program was a 3-year initiative that focused on evidence-based and best-practice strategies to improve patient suicide care within emergency department settings in area hospitals in Central Florida. The program was designed to reduce adult suicide risk through participation and engagement in suicide prevention care coordination services that focused on suicide risk screening and monitoring, safety planning, psychoeducation and support, advocacy, and referral and linkages to treatment and other community resources. A total of 15,745 patients were screened for suicide risk in two emergency department settings. Among individuals screened, 2,400

were eligible for participation in the FINS Care Coordination Program. A total of 591 patients, aged 25 and older, were enrolled in the program. Preliminary findings will highlight patient-level outcomes, clinical implications, and lessons learned.

### 31. Population Focused – *Guevara-Ruiz*

Population Focused will provide a brief accelerated description of all the services provided by the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay. Upon the brief description we will embark in the journey the Florida Veterans Support Line has taken since 2014 to date. Identifying the success and growth. Which all correlates with a “peer Approach” to public health. This approach is a crucial element to “Staying Connected” which in the realm of the Military Veterans is key to prevention. This session will highlight the “Power of Peers”.

## Display Tables

### Caim Coaching Life Strategies for First Responders

Caim Coaching Life Strategies for First Responders trains First Responders to help them improve their skills in and ability to better manage their marriage, money, and mental resilience. Our ultimate goal is to eliminate divorce, debt and suicide deaths for these vital public servants.

### K9 Partners for Patriots Inc.

We are focused on combating suicide in veterans & active duty service members through our certified service dog training program. All of what we do is done at no cost to the program participant. We focus specifically on the disabilities of PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injuries, and Military Sexual Trauma.

### Veterans Counseling Veterans Inc.

Veterans Counseling Veterans is a 501C3 nonprofit, EIN 46-4123917 who serve the entire Veteran Community: Military, Veteran, Family and Community. Our mission is to support Military, Veterans and their family’s mental wellness connecting using our Model of Teaching, Engagement, Advocacy, Mentoring and Service (TEAMS)

### Cope Notes - <https://copenotes.com>

Cope Notes uses daily text messages to improve mental and emotional health for individuals, families, and large groups like schools, businesses, nonprofits, and even governments. Each anonymous text combines peer support, digital journaling, and positive psychology to train the brain to think in healthier patterns over time.

### United Way of Broward County

Available resources include some Suicide Prevention Campaign Materials. For example, Rack Cards, 2-1-1 Bubble Sheets, Window Clings, etc.

### Molina Healthcare

Molina Healthcare, Inc., a FORTUNE 500 company, provides managed health care services under the Medicaid and Medicare programs and through the state insurance marketplaces. Through its locally operated health plans, Molina Healthcare served approximately 4.6 million members as of March 31, 2021

### University of Central Florida/ Florida Launch Engage Active Departments and Systems for Zero Suicide (FL LEADS)

The FL LEADS project is a five-year, federally funded grant seeking to transform and improve suicide care practices, standards, and outcomes in health/behavioral health systems throughout rural and urban counties in northeast, northwest, central, and west Florida. Rooted in cultural competency and evidence-based research, this multi-system approach will implement the Zero Suicide (ZS) model. FL LEADS aims to reduce health disparities and inequalities that affect the lives of adults, ages 25 years and older, at risk for suicide and/or experiencing behavioral health disorders, serious mental illnesses, and substance abuse addictions.

### Crisis Center of Tampa Bay

The Crisis Center of Tampa Bay provides a range of programs & services to ensure that no one in our community has to face crisis alone. We are here 24 hrs. a day, 365 days a year as the community’s gateway to help. People who are struggling with a variety of crisis situations including thoughts of suicide, sexual assault or abuse, domestic violence, financial distress, substance abuse, medical emergency, & other emotional or situational problems can connect to hope & healing. Content that will be provided are Community Resource Guides, Suicide and Crisis Hotline, Florida Veterans Support Line,

Sexual Assault Services, Corbett Trauma Center, & Youth in Transition.

### X2ai <https://www.x2ai.com/>

X2AI is an evidenced-based mental health support chatbot supporting over 29 million people, providing access 24/7-365 days a year. We are filling the gaps in care from 1 in 40 being served to 1 in 4 receiving meaningful support. We do this simply through text and we can also embed into an application or website. We deliver significant impacts to people daily, and have built in capabilities to de-escalate crisis situations like suicide. We have the ability to support concierge, call center models and refer into other resources like therapy. Our data-dashboard allows you easily to track and see progress of your population. Our data shows messages are responded to by the user in the first three seconds, making this a powerful engagement tool. One research study with the Lagos Federal Psychiatric Hospital found that interactions with Tess as an adjunct to their program helped patients decrease depression symptoms by 81% compared to patients who did not have access to the chatbot who experienced an 11% decrease in symptoms.

### Creating Today

Our words create the world we step into each day. Creating Today offers a way to encourage and promote health and wellbeing. Whether for individuals or organizations, a postcard size message prompts the reader to take a minute and consciously create an intention for the day. These postcards are available with customization on the back for organizations, if desired. Also available with a mini easel which easily fits on desktop or countertop as a visual reminder to create each day with intention.

# About Our Presenters

**Kelli Agrawal, MPH**, University of South Florida, College of Public Health, Pre-Doctoral Fellow and Graduate Research Assistant. Strong, successful, background in community-level trauma and resilience, qualitative analysis, and community advocacy. USF College of Public Health FLVDRS Team.

**Joycelyn Albury** is a current doctoral student in the Combined School and Counseling Psychology program at the Florida State University. She is originally from Miami, Florida. She received her Bachelor's degree at Florida State University in Psychology and her Master's degree at Nova Southeastern University in Mental Health Counseling. She has a longstanding history of working with individuals who struggle with suicidal ideation and self-harm, volunteering for numerous years with the National Suicide Prevention Hotline and supporting adult males within a state prison who were being monitored for suicidal and self-harm thoughts. She is currently a Registered Mental Health Counselor Intern and acts as a support for women and girls by being affiliated with the Oasis Center for Women and Girls and the Florida State University Victim Advocate Program. Joycelyn's research interests include suicide and crisis prevention and intervention as well as eating disorder treatment.

**Elizabeth Amoros**, USF College of Public Health FLVDRS Team.

**Travis Atkinson, MS**, LPC Director of Clinical & Crisis Services, TBD Solutions For nearly 20 years, Travis has worked in both clinical and managerial roles in behavioral health. Through these experiences, he espouses the value of a healthy and functioning behavioral health care system, the power of data to drive decision-making, and the importance of asking the right questions. While maintaining a broad vision for excellence and leadership, Travis has sought out best practices for behavioral health care services through research and connecting with fellow providers at a local and national level. Colleagues describe him as an excellent training instructor, coach, meeting facilitator, and conference presenter. Travis received his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Michigan and his Master's in Community Counseling from National-Louis University. He is the president of the Crisis Residential Association, and he previously served as Chair of the Crisis Services Committee for the American Association of Suicidology.

**Jesus Aviles, SSP, NCSP** FDOE/USF School Psychology Consultant Bureau of Student Support Services (BoSSS).

**Dr. Joshua Barnett, PhD, MS, MA**, University of South Florida, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, Adjunct Instructor, Department of Mental Health Law and Policy. Strong, successful, background in behavioral health, systems evaluation, and healthcare services integration.

**Sarah Bauer, ABD, LMFT, MS, MS** is employed at the Department of Children and Families as a Regional Behavioral Health Community Administrator. She is a licensed marriage and family therapist who has worked with suicidality and trauma for the past 10 years.

**Dr. Marty Swanbrow Becker** is an Associate Professor of Psychological and Counseling Services in the Educational Psychology and Learning Systems Department at Florida State University. His current research examines the personal and contextual factors that influence the progression of adolescents and young adults along a distress and suicidal continuum of experience with a focus on stress, coping, resilience, help seeking, and diversity of background. He also explores the efficacy of suicide prevention interventions and

applies the knowledge gained to design and deliver programs to reduce the prevalence of suicidal experiences among adolescents and young adults. Dr. Swanbrow Becker has published several peer-reviewed journal articles in journals such as the Journal of College Student Psychotherapy, the Journal of College Counseling, the Archives of Suicide Research, and the Journal of Specialists in Group Work. In his position as an Associate Professor at FSU, Dr. Swanbrow Becker teaches courses such as Evidenced-Based Counseling / Psychotherapy, Introduction to Counseling Theories and Techniques, Practicum in Counseling and Rehabilitation, and Individual Appraisal in Counseling. He is professionally affiliated with the American Psychological Association and the Society of Counseling Psychology. He earned his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology with a specialization in Counseling Psychology from The University of Texas at Austin in 2013. Dr. Swanbrow Becker is currently working with a team of students on suicide prevention research.

**Dr. Joe Bohn**, University of South Florida, College of Public Health, Assistant Professor, Deputy Director for the DrPH Program, and Director of Community Engagement. Strong, successful, background in community-based participatory research and cultivation of evidence-informed community initiatives for academic-practice partnerships.

**Lisa Borntreger, MSW**, works as a Project Manager in the Center for Behavioral Health Research and Training at the University of Central Florida. Lisa also worked as a Care Coordination Specialist on the FINS grant where she focused on implementation of care coordination, collection, and analysis of client level data.

**Peggy Brockman** is the Executive Director of United for a Good Cause, Inc. They are responsible for bringing the Hope Squad Peer-to-Peer Suicide Prevention program to the schools of NW Florida. They launched the program in Okaloosa County in September of 2020 with 15 secondary schools and will have 38 schools including all secondary and elementary schools by the end of this school year. They have also launched the program in schools in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties in 2021 and have secured funding to have all secondary schools in both of those counties as well as all schools in Walton County started by the end of 2022-23 school year.

**Patrick Burns**, Founder & Coach, Caim Coaching, is also a detective with Pensacola Police Department. Observing his colleagues and profession over the years led to the recognition that there was a great need to address the problems of debt, divorce and mental health issues, which led to a disproportionate number of suicide deaths in his profession. Pat is currently working on a Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with Troy University, and hopes to use it to assist officers and their families.

**Rachelle Burns**, Founder & Coach, Caim Coaching (also Region 1 Director, FSPC and Chair, EscaRosa Suicide Prevention Coalition) has been involved in the field of suicide prevention since 2012 when she was the Project Coordinator for Pensacola State College's Garrett Lee Smith Campus Suicide Prevention Grant. During this time she became involved with FSPC and AFSP and recognized a need for community suicide prevention efforts in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, and was able to start the EscaRosa Suicide Prevention Coalition to try to meet that need. ERSPC is now a registered FL non-profit and is awaiting 501(c)(3) status recognition. Rachelle and her husband, Pat, a sworn Law Enforcement Officer since 2006, started Caim Coaching, LLC in 2020 to help train first responders and their significant others in the areas of money, marriage and mental resilience.

**Jackie Carmody, MSW** is a Mental Health Clinician as well as Care Coordination Coordinator for the Center for Behavioral Health Research and Training at the University of Central Florida under the current project: Florida Launch Engage Activate Departments and Systems for Zero Suicide project (Florida LEADS). On the previous project, Florida Implementation of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (FINS), Jackie was a Care Coordinator in the Emergency Departments responsible for implementation of Care Coordination.

**Colonel Alfred "Al" Carter** (retired) is Chief of Staff of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs in Largo. The retired Army Colonel provides operational and administrative oversight of the department's function entities and activities involving nearly 1,260 employees with an annual budget of more than \$112 million; impacting more than 1.5 million veterans and their families. He was appointed as Agency Chief of Staff in 2011 following his retirement after 28 years of military service; transitioning as the Agency's Deputy Executive Director in 2012 and again resuming the Chief of Staff role in 2019. He served in numerous command and staff leadership positions in the U.S. Army as a Military Police Officer with duty assignments encompassing more than 40 countries including combat tours in Qatar, Afghanistan and Iraq and three assignments with U.S. Central Command, MacDill AFB, Fla., during OEF/OIF campaigns.

**Chris Collins, LCSW, ACSW**, is PhD candidate at the Florida State University College of Social Work where he researches gun violence prevention and violence against women and other marginalized communities. Prior to pursuing doctoral education, Collins was a clinician working primarily in acute mental health, including as a Team Lead for a regional behavioral health hospital. Collins is dedicated to ameliorating gun violence and providing meaningful solutions to individuals and communities increasingly plagued by violence.

**Gina Costa, MS, LMHC, MCAP** has been working in the behavioral health field since 1992. She received her Master's degree in Mental Health Counseling from Nova Southeastern University and is a licensed mental health counselor as well as a qualified supervisor in the state of Florida. Gina spent several years working in addictions, and is also a Master Certified Addiction Professional. She has specialized in working with children with serious emotional disturbance (SED) and adults with severe mental illness (SMI). She had the privilege of working for three large community mental health agencies where she was able to develop programs along the continuum of services. In 1997, she cut the ribbon on a state-of-the-art Crisis Stabilization Unit in Fort Pierce. She has written, received, and implemented grants for Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics and most recently designed and developed a Crisis Residential program in Jackson, Michigan. Gina resides with her family in the Orlando metropolitan area.

**Alexis DiBlanda**, USF College of Public Health FLVDRS Team.

**Amanda DiLorenzo-Garcia** is a Postdoctoral Scholar at the University of Central Florida working in Counselor Education on the Recovery Support Specialist program. Moreover, she continues clinical work through the Alachua County Crisis Center's Mobile Response Team. She completed her doctorate at the University of Central Florida and her Master of Education and Education Specialist degrees in Marriage and Family Therapy at the University of Florida. Dr. DiLorenzo-Garcia's research interests include ambiguous loss and readjustment, grief and trauma, and self-compassion. Dr. DiLorenzo-Garcia studies the loss and growth experienced by family members of mass shootings survivors and primary survivors.

**R. Matthew Dobson**, Public Health Services Manager for DOH-Santa Rosa, Former U.S. Army Reserve Chaplain, Current Community Service Chaplain (volunteer) for SAFER-Santa Rosa, Charter Member of the EscaRosa Suicide Prevention Coalition.

**Jocelyne Fliger** is the CEO of Elder Care Services, Inc., Leon County's lead aging services non-profit. Before coming to Elder Care, she worked as a crisis hotline supervisor at 2-1-1 Big Bend and was a LivingWorks Applied Suicide Interventions Skills Trainer. Jocelyne has her MSW from Florida State University, and a Certificate in Gerontology.

**Gayle Giese** is President and a founding member of the Florida Mental Health Advocacy Coalition, a Board Member of NAMI Florida, and a member of the NAMI Advocacy Group of Broward County. Currently, she leads the Florida 988 Advocacy Group and serves on the state's 988 Planning Coalition. She is passionate about helping individuals and families affected by behavioral health conditions. She advocates to provide a respectful and appropriate crisis and access system, and other behavioral health initiatives. In 2019, she won an EPIC (Exceptional People Impacting the Community) Award from Mental Health America of Southeast Florida. In 2020, she wrote a grant that led to SAMSHA providing Sequential Intercept Mapping workshops for Broward County to kick off the Stepping Up Initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails, and chairs the committee on pre-arrest jail diversion.

**Manuel (Manny) Guevara-Ruiz** is a Veteran Ambassador at the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay. He is one of the two inaugural staff members of the Florida Veterans Support Line established in 2014. Manny is a US Army combat veteran and served during both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom I & II. Manny holds a multitude of skills and knowledge crucial to suicide prevention and interventions.

**Paul Jaquith, LCSW, CAP** is the CEO of Mental Health America of Southeast Florida and Florida Initiative for Suicide Prevention. He serves on a number of boards and committees throughout Broward County including his role as Chair of the Lethal Means Committee for the Broward Suicide Coalition.

**Dr. Kristin Kosyluk**, Assistant Professor - Dr. Kristin Kosyluk is Assistant Professor of Mental Health Law and Policy at the University of South Florida and the Director of the STigma Action Research (STAR) Lab. Dr. Kosyluk received her Ph.D. in Psychology for Rehabilitation Counselor Education from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 2014. Her research focuses on promoting recovery among people with mental illness, with a specific emphasis on understanding and addressing stigma as a barrier to recovery. Dr. Kosyluk has authored 20 peer-reviewed publications and eight book chapters related to her program of research.

**Victoria Krentz** is a first-year doctoral student in the Combined Counseling and School Psychology program at Florida State University. She received her Bachelor's degree in psychology from Florida State University. Ms. Krentz is originally from Buffalo, New York.

**Holly Larkin** is a doctoral student in the Combined Counseling Psychology and School Psychology program at Florida State University. She is a Tallahassee native and received her B.S. in Psychology from Florida State University in 2017.

**Tara Sullivan Larsen**, Central and Southern Florida Area Director: American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

**Kaitlin Leonard**, Research Assistance, James A. Haley VAMC.

**Dr. Karen Liller** is Professor and Director of the University of South Florida College of Public Health Activist Lab. She is the PI of the State of Florida Contract for the Florida Violent Death Reporting System. Dr. Liller has researched injuries for over two decades and has developed and evaluated several injury prevention programs for children and adolescents. She has hundreds of peer-reviewed publications and presentations related to her research efforts.

**Dr. Benjamin Lord, PhD**, Primary Care Psychologist, James A. Haley VAMC.

**Amy McClellan** is the Vice-President of the Florida Mental Health Advocacy Coalition, the co-leader of Advocates for Mental Health South Florida (Miami-Dade & Monroe Counties), and the President of the board for the Key Clubhouse of South Florida, a non-profit organization that provides free recovery, rehabilitation and employment services for adults living with serious mental illnesses. Amy previously served on the Board of Directors of Thriving Mind, the Managing Entity for state-funded mental health and substance use services in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. For over 40 years, she has worked professionally in the nonprofit sector in fundraising, program development, grant writing and public relations.

**Katie McDaniel, MPH**, has over eight years of experience in public health and currently serves as the Senior Environmental Epidemiologist at the Florida Department of Health. Her primary responsibility is oversight of the Office of Public Health Research's epidemiology, surveillance, and population survey unit. In addition, Katie is an active participant in national and state workgroups with a primary focus on environmental health and the prevention of injury and violence.

**Alan Mai, MPH**, is the Senior Injury Epidemiologist at the Florida Department of Health with over five years of experience in public health. His main responsibility is to conduct statewide data surveillance on a wide range of injury and violence prevention topics. Alan is actively involved in the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) along with state workgroups and organizations in preventing injury and violence.

**Ali Martinez, Ed.S., LMFT**, Director, Alachua County Crisis Center.

**Teresa Mathew, MA, MPA, MSW**, has worked in public health for five years and serves as the Program Manager for the Florida Violent Death Reporting System (FLVDRS) at the Florida Department of Health. Her primary responsibility is ensuring the effective implementation of the FLVDRS. Teresa is involved in state and national workgroups addressing suicide prevention and social and economic conditions that impact health.

**Kristin Mathre LMFT**, Chief Operating Officer, Suncoast Center in Pinellas County. Kristin received her Master's Degree from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio Texas and is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. With more than 30 years' experience in community mental health services, she is currently the Chief Operation Officer at Suncoast Center which serves over 26,000 individuals in Pinellas County annually. She is coordinating the Zero Suicide Partners of Pinellas project for the Pinellas County Behavioral Health System of Care Workgroup.

**Dr. Vanessa Milsom, PhD**, Health and Hospital Program Manager, James A. Haley VAMC.

**Alexandria O'Connell, BSc**, University of South Florida, College of Public Health, Graduate Research Assistant and Master of Public Health Student. Strong, successful, background in health marketing, community outreach, project coordination, mental health advocacy, and peer support.

**Dr. Kellie O'Dare** is an Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management with the Institute of Public Health at Florida A&M University. She holds a Ph.D. in Social Work from Florida State University, where she also earned both Master of Social Work (MSW) and Master in Public Administration (MPA) degrees. She has worked in various roles with the Florida Legislature, Department of Health (DOH), Department of Children and Families (DCF), and the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), as well as with several state and national University systems. Dr O'Dare is the spouse of a current professional firefighter/paramedic, and is the niece of Shawn T. O'Dare, firefighter/paramedic killed in the Line of Duty in Miami-Dade County in 1985. Dr. O'Dare is the Founder & Director of the 2nd Alarm Project. The 2nd Alarm Project is a multi-faceted, evidence-based outreach and intervention approach to addressing the behavioral health and substance use needs of first responders (primarily fire, EMS, and dispatch) in the Florida Panhandle. The program's vision is that no first responder will face mental health stigma or go without access to evidence-based, first-responder specific behavioral health resources, and that access to these resources will support mission readiness, preserve the force, and improve the long term health of firefighters, families, and retirees.

**Sandra D. Prewitt**, Suicidologist and Researcher (Global Suicide Prevention Alliance); Biblical Scholar and Pastor (Branch of God Community Church); Trevecca University, Ed.D.; Lipscomb University, M.A.C.M.

**Sitara Rambarran, BS**, is a 2nd year clinical psychology (PsyD) doctoral student at Nova Southeastern University. She graduated from the University of Miami with a BS in Psychology. Her clinical and research interests include severe mental illness, suicide prevention/intervention and trauma. She is a member of NSU's Suicide and Violence Prevention Crew and has contributed to their newsletter and presented on suicide prevention and warning signs to members of the NSU community.

**Jennifer Ramirez**, USF College of Public Health, FLVDRS Team.

**Dr. Keshia Reid**, PI of the Florida Violent Death Reporting System.

**Philip Richmond, DVM, CAPP, CPPC, CCFP** Dr. Richmond is the Founder & CEO of Flourishing Phoenix Veterinary Consultants and practicing medical director of a small animal hospital in New Port Richey. He is passionate about positive culture change and wellbeing in veterinary workplaces. He works toward implementing tools and policy for thriving and flourishing into the profession, especially at critical education and career points. Dr. Richmond is involved in state, national and international projects for the advancement of wellbeing and culture in veterinary medicine. He currently serves as the chair for both the Florida Veterinary Medical Association's Outreach and Professional Wellness & Wellbeing Committees and is a member of several national committees for workplace suicide prevention and veterinary wellbeing. Dr. Richmond is a member of the UF College of Veterinary Medicine wellbeing curriculum committee and is an instructor for the program at the College. Dr. Richmond is published writer and speaker, a frequent veterinary podcast guest, and holds multiple certifications in the fields of applied positive psychology, workplace wellbeing, psychological health & safety, resilience training, behavior change, and suicide prevention. He received an FVMA Gold Star for service in 2019 and was the FVMA Veterinarian of the Year in 2021.

**Esmé (“Ez”) Rodríguez, PhD**, (they/them) is the Equality Florida Statewide Safe & Healthy Schools Senior Manager and a transplant to Florida after 18 years in beautiful and snowy Minneapolis, MN. They are also a Nationally Certified Welcoming Schools Facilitator with the Human Rights Campaign. Ez is committed to working with administrators, teachers, student services staff, parents, and school board members to ensure the creation of safe, equitable, and healthy school environments in which LGBTQ+ and all students can thrive and strive to reach their full potential as whole, authentic individuals. Ez has a Master’s Degree from Boston College and studied their PhD at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Their personal and professional goals are to form coalitions and relationships, which aid in the breakdown of systems which create and maintain oppression, violence, and inequality. Ez is a nonbinary, Latinx educator, activist, and artist. They also taught Gender Studies and Latin American Literature at the university level for 13 years. Ez also enjoys vegetarian sushi, downhill skiing, NFL, and college football. Go Gators!!

**Stephen Roggenbaum**, current FSPC Chair and previous faculty member at the University of South Florida. Mr. Roggenbaum has been involved with FSPC since 2002. He has been the lead of the FSPC Conference program committee for the previous five conferences and served as the Newsletter Editor since August 2016. He has been involved with suicide prevention-related activities (grants, projects, task forces, committees, advisory positions) since early 2000s and has presented on suicide prevention at numerous local, state, and national conferences. He served as one of four gubernatorial appointees on the Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council for two terms.

**Abraham Salinas Miranda, MD, PhD, MPH**, University of South Florida, College of Public Health, Assistant Professor, Director of Harrell Center for the Study of Family Violence and Associate Director for the USF Center of Excellence in MCH Education. Strong, successful, background in adverse childhood experiences, family violence prevention, epidemiology, and community-based participatory research to address health inequities that affect marginalized groups within Hillsborough County.

**Cory Smith, MSW**, has been with the Florida Department of Health since 2018. She currently works with the Violence and Injury Prevention Section as the Suicide Prevention Coordinator. With experience in substance abuse and mental health, her primary responsibilities are to develop and implement suicide prevention strategies including education and awareness, training, program and policy development, program evaluation and collaboration.

**Kevin Sosa, Ed.S, LMHC**, Training Coordinator, Alachua County Crisis Center.

**Katherine Sperry** is the Suicide Prevention Program Supervisor for the Department of Veterans Affairs, North Florida South Georgia, she is the VISN 8 Lead Suicide Prevention Coordinator and the Reach Vet/ Post Discharge Engagement Supervisor. Ms. Sperry is a licensed clinical social worker and has worked in mental health for over 20 years. She is a graduate of West Virginia University with a Master’s Degree in Social Work. She began her career in child welfare, specifically as the initial responder to allegations of child abuse, then working to become a forensic sexual abuse interviewer, supervisor and expert court witness in child maltreatment. She has provided crisis intervention, family and marriage therapy, has completed a three-year training course through the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centers focusing on Structural Family Therapy, Dialectical Behavior Therapy and completed Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Treating Depressed Veterans. She is credentialed through the National Association of Social Workers as a Certified

Advanced Social Work Case Manager (C-ASWCM) and a Certified Advanced Children, Youth, and Family Social Worker (C-CYFSW) and also as a Qualified Clinical Social Worker (QCSW). Ms. Sperry was selected in both 2016 and 2020 by the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Director of the suicide prevention program to complete a tour with the Veterans Affairs Central Office (VACO) for program improvement. Ms. Sperry travels throughout the nation speaking about Veteran suicide. She and her husband reside in Brunswick, Georgia with their 8 year old son, William.

**Dr. Carla Stumpf Patton, LMHC**, serves as the Senior Director of Suicide Postvention Programs at the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), where she oversees programs and services provided to military families after a suicide loss. As a subject matter expert in the areas of grief, trauma, and suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, she is a registered ASIST trainer in suicide first aid, and is trained in Psychological Autopsy Investigations and Crisis Response Planning. Dr. Stumpf Patton holds a B.S. in Psychology, an M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Guidance Counseling, and a Doctorate of Education in Counseling Psychology. Her dissertation research focused on military families bereaved by suicide, and was a key contributor in the development of the TAPS Suicide Prevention Model™. Dr. Stumpf Patton is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, a Certified Fellow Thanatologist, a National Certified Counselor, a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional, a Florida Qualified Supervisor, and a counseling educator in higher academia. She is the surviving spouse of Sergeant Richard Stumpf, an Active Duty U.S. Marine Corps Drill Instructor and Gulf War Era Combat Veteran who died by suicide in 1994, several days before their only child was born.

**Dr. Nicholas Thomas**, USF College of Public Health, FLVDRS Team.

**Jennifer Tran**, Doctoral Candidate. Jennifer earned her Bachelor’s in Neuroscience and Psychology at Smith College in 2013 and then received a Master’s in Community Agency Counseling at George Mason University in 2018. Through her experiences and education within the counseling field, she developed a passion for social justice and a pursuit for policy change. Jennifer had a desire to continue her education and make a difference as an advocate and leader within the mental health field. She is a current graduate student success fellow and doctoral student studying Behavioral and Community Sciences at the University of South Florida. Jennifer’s current research interests include stigma (stigma resistance, self-stigma, public stigma, and structural stigma) within the LGBTQ+ community. She has a particular interest in the intersection of identities and how this impacts individual’s experiences of stigma (i.e., LGBTQ+ individuals living with mental illness). Through her research, she hopes to contribute to policy changes and combat stigma affecting marginalized individuals and communities as well as empower those individuals and communities to advocate for themselves as well.

**Rolando Trejos**, USF College of Public Health, FLVDRS Team.

**Alina Valenzuela** is a Senior Human Services Program Specialist with the Department of Children and Families and is specialized in suicidality and art therapy. She has a BFA from the Columbus College of Art and Design.

**Mary VanHaute**, Suicide Prevention Trainer/Consultant, St. Petersburg College, member of the FL State 988 Coalition, Florida’s First Responder Suicide Deterrence Task Force, QPR Master Trainer, Battle Buddy to Family Member Consumers of Mental Health Services.

**Chief Charlie Vasquez** is a proud member of the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority where he serves as the highest ranking law enforcement officer ensuring the public safety and security of Tampa International Airport. Prior to assuming this position, he served 24 years with the Houston Police Department. He currently serves in a leadership capacity with the Florida Police Chiefs Association and is member of Florida's First Responder Suicide Deterrence Task Force.

**Damian Watson, LCSW**, Veteran Councilor. Licensed Clinical Social Worker Damian Watson currently serves as the Veteran Councilor for K9 Partners for Patriots. A U.S. Army Veteran, Damian graduated with his Masters of Social Work from Florida State University. With over 10 years of experience in the mental health field, Damian brings a unique perspective to K9 Partners for Patriots. His experience includes behavioral health in hospital settings, hospice settings, pediatrics, and much more. Additionally, he's certified in Case Management, Crisis Prevention Intervention and Functional Assessment Rating, Damian lives in Spring Hill, Florida with his Wife, Son, and 2 rescue dogs.

**B. Michelle Wilks**, Doctoral Candidate. Michelle earned her Bachelor's in Psychology at the University of South Florida in 2016. During her undergraduate career, she participated in the Psychology Honors Program, where her passion for research began. Currently, Michelle is a doctoral candidate in USF's Behavioral and Community Sciences Ph.D. Program. With her mentor, Dr. Kristin Kosyluk, she has worked closely with This Is My Brave in the evaluation of their contact-based approach to reducing mental illness stigma. Michelle's current work includes reducing all forms of mental illness stigma in high school and college populations. Through her research, she hopes to engender a shift in the current culture surrounding mental illness to become more accepting and empathetic. Thus, creating an atmosphere where youth are unafraid to seek help for their mental health struggles before a crisis occurs.

**Beverley Wilks, MSW**. FDOE/USF School Social Work Consultant Bureau of Student Support Services (BoSSS).

**Ellsworth "Tony" Williams** is the founder and president of Veterans Counseling Veterans, Inc.

**Rev. William Wright**. Pastor/Chaplain Pastoral ministry for 28 years; First Responder Chaplain for 21 years Pursuing Master of Arts in Psychology and Christian Counseling (Spring of 2022), Trainer for PTSD Awareness & Suicide Awareness and Intervention for First Responders (law enforcement, fire, EMS, dispatch), Member of FSPC and EscaRosaSPC.

**Dr. Zachary Zuschlag, D.O.**, Primary Care Psychiatrist, James A Haley VACM; USF Psychiatry Faculty.

# Thank you

Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition would like to thank Molina Healthcare for their sponsorship of the 2022 Florida Taking Action for Suicide Prevention conference poster session and networking breaks.



We extend a very special thank you to FSPC's 2022 Florida Taking Action for Suicide Prevention conference reviewers and committee without which this conference would not be a reality.

**Committee:** Paula Edwards, Rene Favreau, Myrtice Landers, Stephen Roggenbaum, and Jody Smith.

**Our crackerjack review team members:**

Jane Bennett, Ali Martinez, Matt Michaels, and Susan Morgan.



## FSPC Officers

Chair	<b>Stephen Roggenbaum</b>
Vice-Chair	<b>Paula Edwards</b>
Treasurer	<b>René Favreau</b>
Secretary	<b>Myrtice Landers</b>
Assistant Secretary	<b>Jody Smith</b>

The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition (FSPC) is represented by numerous wonderful ambassadors. Officers and Regional Directors serve as a contact for various Florida regions providing information, responding to inquiries, networking with local contacts, and advocating for effective prevention initiatives.

## FSPC Regional Directors

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<b>Pam Mezzina</b> pam@bigbendhospice.org	R2 (Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf Homes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla, Washington)
<b>Ali Martinez</b> amartinez@alachuacounty.us	R3 (Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Putnam, Suwannee, Union)
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<b>Vacant</b>	R14 (Hardee, Highlands, Polk)
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