

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

Is this project sustainable?

We anticipate that the enhanced relationship with mental health providers will be sustained after this project. CME training in suicide assessment will be available online. If the screening tool is successful, we will seek state support to roll it out statewide.

How will you coordinate better access to care?

The first step is to increase conversations and the general working relationship between medical and mental health agencies. Second, the current referral process will be evaluated and enhanced if needed. Third, local project coordinators will facilitate referrals when needed.

How will this interface with current workflow? What will the burden be on my desk staff?

The screening tool should not disrupt workflow too much. An administrative assistant can log a youth onto the system remotely and the youth can complete the screen while waiting to see medical practitioner. Then, a report will automatically be generated for review before the patient's exam. We can help tailor this process to individual practices.

CONTACT INFORMATION

We know that primary care providers are often overburdened with the presentation of behavioral health problems. The aim of this project is to provide resources and networking that will help reduce this burden by making the assessment and referral process easier.

If you have questions about this project, please contact your local project coordinator.

Lackawanna County

Kathy Wallace (570) 207-9199
kw@theadvocacyalliance.org

Luzerne County

Tara Gallagher (570) 825-9441
tgallagher@mhmr.luzerne.pa.us

Schuylkill County

Linda Wagner (570) 621-2890
linwag@windstream.net



Pennsylvania Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative

www.payspi.org

A Grant funded demonstration project through the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

The views, opinions and content of this publication are those of the authors and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions, or policies of CMHS, SAMHSA, or DHHS.



PENNSYLVANIA'S YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION IN PRIMARY CARE



Pilot sites in Lackawanna, Luzerne and Schuylkill Counties

WHY PRIMARY CARE?

There is a national interest in using primary care to prevent youth suicide. Adolescents turning to primary care providers for assistance with mental health problems and formalized screening can help identify youth at risk for suicide, but primary care providers need support in these efforts. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recently received a SAMHSA funded Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Grant to develop an effective youth suicide prevention program for primary care settings. The project will collaborate with providers to enhance their suicide assessment capacity and increase partnerships with behavioral health services.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project targets several goals, key to successful prevention efforts. Here are the components of the project.

1. Provide training to primary care practitioners on suicide risk assessment and triage.
2. Enhance behavioral health screening in primary care practices by offering a free, web-based screening tool.
3. Provide training to mental health professionals on evidenced-based treatments for suicidal youth.
4. Increase integration of medical and mental health services.
5. Create and support local suicide prevention task forces that support this and other prevention efforts.

BENEFITS TO YOUR PRACTICE

We are looking for practices to participate in this pilot project. Participation would involve trainings with staff, implementation of the web-based behavioral health screening tool, and increasing collaboration between your practice and key mental health partners. We are looking for a wide range of practices to participate.

Direct benefits to your practice include:

- Participation in development of a national model for youth suicide prevention in primary care.
- Free CME trainings for medical staff in suicide assessment, with the potential for ongoing consultations.
- Free access to a web-based behavioral health screening tool.
- Training and technical assistance for staff relating to the behavioral health screening tool.
- New computer for behavioral health screening tool (limited supply).
- Assistance in strengthening collaboration with local mental health services.
- Follow up tracking of referred suicide patients to assist them with accessing services needed.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What will be required of my health center if we participate?

First, you will need to set aside two lunch time hours for staff training in suicide prevention and use of the behavioral health screening tool. Secondly, you need to be willing to integrate the behavioral health screening tool into your practice. We are also trying to evaluate the screening tool, so we will ask for your permission to recruit your patients into an evaluation study. Lastly, we will ask that you send us a monthly count of adolescent patients, so that we can evaluate the penetration rate and report to our funding agency.

What about liability? If I increase my identification rate, won't I increase my liability as well?

Yes, standardized screening will likely identify more youth at risk for suicide. Early identification to prevent suicide attempts is the goal of this project. Liability will be the same, but we hope you will identify more patients in need of services. Our commitment to increasing your linkages with mental health services is intended to offset that burden.

How will HIPAA standards be maintained?

All aspects of this project are designed in compliance with HIPAA. Consent will be obtained for the screening tool and patient tracking and release of information forms will be used as needed.