

# Summary of Feedback from Regional Youth Suicide Prevention Workshop with County Task Forces/Community Members

November 8, 2010  
Mechanicsburg

Following is the feedback from the presentations on the Student Assistance Program, Child Death Review Team, and Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Grant

## SAP

- Overview of SAP
- SAP's connection to suicide prevention
- Questions raised:
  - Do charter and private schools have SAP programs?
    - Yes
  - Does SAP include educational events for students and parents that market it's availability?
    - Some SAP teams host assemblies, home room orientations, and hand out information at parent nights among other events
  - Is SAP data available to the public?
    - Yes, it is available on the website

## Child Death Review

- Overview of Child Death Review
- Explanation of how CDR and county task forces can partner together
- Questions:
  - How does CDR define a suicide death as "preventable" or "not preventable"?
    - Varies by CDR team and counties because of the availability of resources like mental health centers. However if the child told someone about their plans it is deemed as "preventable." Other "preventable" criteria include whether the child was actively in services and access to means (unlocked gun)
  - Where does CDR gain it's information for data collection from? Is the data kept confidential?
    - All information is kept confidential and is reported in aggregate form in order to ensure this. Information is obtained from a variety of sources (coroner, hospital, etc.)
  - Are families involved in CDR's review and data collection reports? Does family involvement effect the validity of CDR reports?
    - Act 87 allows for parental involvements. Some CDR teams have been approached by families to present information on a child's death.
  - How often does CDR recommendations come out?
    - An annual report is issued and every September recommendations are sent to the legislature
  - What types of deaths are reviewed? Only unexpected deaths?

- All deaths of children up to age 22 are reviewed whether expected or unexpected
- How does one become involved in CDR or serve on the committee?
  - Information available on the CDR website
- Where can the CDR data report be accessed?
  - Data available on the CDR website
- How long is the CDR review process?
  - Varies on a case by case basis (availability of information) and the CDR team (frequency of meetings). Cases are reviewed after the death certificate has been issued which depending on the case can take up to a year or more.

### **GLS Presentation**

- Overview of the PA youth suicide prevention in primary care project
- Introduction of the grant renewal concept that will bring the project to scale through a technical assistance model
- Discussion Questions:
  - Is there potential in reaching out to family advocacy groups?
    - Educating communities about the availability of this product and disseminating it to their local PCPs
  - Could this be taken into Emergency Departments?
    - The BHS could be taken into EDs...it is a standard at the CHOP ED ...however, this would change the focus of the grant
  - Is the BHS available to adult populations?
    - There has been discussion of including adult populations, however the project is funded as a youth focused project
  - Is there potential in linking with health care centers at colleges and universities?
    - These would be possible targets with a technical assistance model and falls within the age range (14 to 24)

### **Interim Topics that were Discussed...**

- PA Juvenile Department Screening Study
  - Around 30,000 screens
  - Found a decrease in suicide ideation, but this was more significant for high school aged males than middle school aged males
  - Found an increase in suicide ideation in middle school aged males
  - Found an increase in males experiencing trauma

In preparation for the roundtable discussion topics, interviews with seven existing task forces across the state were conducted. The following topics were identified as most relevant:

- Establishing and Maintaining a Task Force
- Collaborating with Schools
- Potential Partnerships with GLS grant
- Supporting Survivors
- Event Planning including walks, and conferences
- Communication including web site, newsletter and meetings
- Fundraising

Attendees at the Mechanicsburg workshop chose Networking with Schools and Event Planning as their topics for round table discussions.

### **Round Table Discussions:**

- Networking with Schools
  - Group 1:
    - Strategies
      - Piggyback on mental health programs to address the stigma against suicide
      - Implementing proven programs at little to no cost to address lack of resources
      - Target one school district
      - Offer as an option for students to attend (Parental Permission Forms)
    - Concerns:
      - Parental Resistance
      - Faith Based Schools (Religious Belief)
      - Resources—School & Community (Outreach to kids with information is really important)
  - Group 2:
    - Strategies
      - Adding depression to health education (mental health)
      - Understand “normal adolescent behavior” (teachers & parents)
      - Educate teachers to be trauma informed (Training on how to identify students with trauma issues)
    - Concerns
      - Teachers/Schools fail to see parents as partners
      - Where to fit in extra topics and provide funding for them
      - Getting buy-in from community and schools—other issues take precedence
  - Group 3:
    - Strategies & Concerns
      - Discussion about SAP in relation to consistency and standardization across the state
      - Develop, monitor, update, and publicize school crisis plans annually (SAP monitoring—suicide policy) (PA School Board Association)
      - Education for educators, students, and parents
- Conference & Event Planning
  - Group 1
    - Strategies
      - Approach service organizations/businesses for funding
      - Offer credit to participate
      - Partner with suicide prevention organizations
      - Central location to identify and advertise event (paypsi.org)
    - Concerns
      - Identifying target audience
      - Funding Sources

- Leadership for organization of the event
- Group 2
  - Strategies
    - Getting the word out through networking, email, surveys, websites
    - Topics/Speakers
    - Cost efficient
  - Concerns
    - Cost---sponsors/use of technology (webinars)
    - Getting the word out, attendance of the event
    - Making it memorable with useful information and take away messages/tasks
- Group 3
  - Strategies
    - Seek funding from corporate businesses (Pepsi Refresh Grants)
    - Seek funding from community foundations (Local Banks)
    - Seek an AHRQ conference grant
    - Partnering with neighboring counties to host joint conferences and events
  - Concerns
    - Funding!
    - Obtaining Pepsi Refresh grant votes during January (spreading the word)
    - Providing funding or “seed money” for the ideas that result from conferences or events
- The Media and Suicide
  - Media accountability in reporting suicides in an accurately and with sensitivity
  - Partnering with your local media to discuss guidelines for reporting suicides and inclusion of resources
  - Increase in the use internet media and how this increase the availability of information to children/teens before parents
  - AFSP Media Guidelines were put out in 2001 and are currently being revised