

## Q&A Session following Ms. Jones's Lecture

- Johnson asked about coverage for ambulance rides. Jones explained that this depends mostly on the coverage, if any, the patient has, and admitted this was a question she could not answer fully.
  - She explained that ideally, the local Mobile Crisis Units (MCU) and other responders will intervene long before an ambulance becomes necessary.
  - If an escort to an inpatient facility is necessary, this is usually handled by law enforcement after the crisis responder signs off on the certificate. It is not out of the question for an MCU representative to accompany the patient, but it is relatively uncommon.
- Johnson recalled that when she worked with the Crisis Intervention Center (CIC) in Nashville—this was from 1995 to 2002—their MCU would not respond to calls where alcohol was involved. She wanted to know if this policy was still in place.
  - Jones explained that the system has changed since then. The integration of A&D services with mental health allows an increasing number of professionals to care for patients regardless of their primary concern. Previously, mental health professionals hesitated to intervene in situations where substance abuse appeared to be the defining element, and substance abuse professionals generally did not involve themselves in mental health crises.
  - The integration effort is necessary as it is often difficult to determine which problem, if either, is the primary issue during a short-term intervention—they often interact and compound each other. This way, they can wait for an intoxicated patient to sober up and/or stabilize and then determine what s/he really needs.
  - LaBonte added that the MCU serving Family Services of the Mid-South will not respond to calls where firearms are present. Crisis centers have the authority to draft policies stating that if a crisis call comes from a high-crime area or otherwise contains the potential for endangerment of responders, law enforcement may respond to the call instead. While crisis responders have the necessary skills, they should not be expected to put themselves at risk.
  - Jones noted that TDMHDD has no blanket policy on this issue, recognizing that every center needs to make the arrangements suitable for the areas they serve.
  - LaBonte pointed out that his area is served by a Crisis Intervention Team trained to intervene in situations where suicide is a possibility.
- Yarbrough asked whether calls placed to the statewide crisis number are routed to local crisis stabilization units (CSUs).
  - Jones explained that landline calls are automatically routed to the appropriate agency. Direction of cellular calls is more difficult. Operators at the central call center (hosted by the Mental Health Cooperative) can provide counseling, but their primary role is routing of incoming calls.
- Regarding Shugart's question about future funding, Jones reports that MCU funding looks good for the next fiscal year.
  - For the last several years, TDMHDD has supported an internal workgroup devoted to the restructuring of crisis services. The group has done

- extensive research and review of national and state data, as well as the crisis response systems of other states.
- The workgroup is now planning to present its findings to a larger workgroup of community stakeholders—health care providers, mental health professionals, advocacy groups, social service agencies, TennCare, etc.—to move forward with a redesign of the system, with a goal of presenting the new crisis response program by July 1, 2010. The end result promises to be very different from its current form.
  - The state's MCU system was spared any cuts to its budget for FY 2009, but its leaders are still obligated to consider if funds are going in the right place to guarantee the best outcomes.
  - Johnson emphasized that she never had a bad experience with an MCU during her time with CIC.
  - Barger wanted to know whether MCU and CSU services are available to clients with private insurance.
    - Jones stated that her agency defines limitations of coverage clear in contracts with insurance companies.
    - Ridgway and Shugart clarified that the group was actually interested in billing for inpatient and outpatient coverage.
    - Jones explained that while TDMHDD can use state money for uninsured clients, the department wants to make the most of these funds. For example, if a patient's Medicare coverage will not pay for a CSU stay but will pay for a doctor's visit, s/he is encouraged to bill Medicare for the visit while the state picks up the tab for the CSU.
    - The objective is to use state funds as a last resort, taking advantage of private and federal coverage wherever possible.
    - Jones reports that some CSUs have been very successful at striking agreements with private insurers.
    - However, Barger had a question: if the CSU is the client's best option, but his/her private insurance will not cover CSU visits, can the department work with the insurer to negotiate some form of reimbursement?
    - Jones responded while there are no detailed policies for this scenario, theoretically the department can work with the insurer provided the client meets the necessary criteria.

**TSPN Advisory Council Meeting**  
**Clement Room B, Montgomery Bell State Park Inn**  
**June 3, 2009**  
**3:15 – 4:45 PM**

**Advisory Council Members and Alternates Present**

Pam Arnell, MA, Arnell's Counseling Service (South Central Regional Chair)  
Stephanie Barger, M. Div., Crisis Services Manager, Family and Children's Services  
Jodi Bartlett, Ed.S, MCRT Director, Northern Region, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care Services  
Bernard G. Barton, MA, Pastor, Pleasant Hill Church of Christ  
Sam Bernard, PhD, Bernard & Associates (Advisory Council Chair)  
Vickie Bilbrey, Oak Point, Livingston Regional Hospital  
Carol Burroughs, MSCPS, Henderson County School System (Rural West Regional Chair, Advisory Council Co-Secretary)  
Karyl Chastain Beal, M.Ed., CT, Retired/Community Advocate  
Elizabeth Haren, LPC-MHSP, Utilization Manager, Americhoice  
Jennifer Harris, MS, Hickman Community Hospital (Advisory Council Co-Chair)  
Anne Henning-Rowan, MS, Jackson-Madison County School System, District 1  
Janna F. Herbison, MS, YWCA of Greater Memphis  
Judith Johnson, AAS, CC, Community Advocate  
Michael LaBonte, Family Services of the Mid-South (Memphis/Shelby County Regional Chair)  
Harold Leonard, MA, LPC-MHSP, Indian Path Pavilion (Northeast Regional Chair, Advisory Council Secretary)  
Cindy P. McCroskey, M.Ed., McCallie Middle School  
Linda Moran, Dale Hollow Mental Health Center  
Linda Phipps Harold, Community Advocate  
Kim Rush, Ed.S., LPC-MHSP, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System  
Kandi Shearer, Youth Villages  
Anna Shugart, LCSW, Director, Emotional Health & Recovery Center, Blount Memorial Hospital  
Kathy Strahan, Professional Care Services of West Tennessee  
Tim Tatum, MA, Bradford Health Services (Southeast Regional Chair)  
Ken Tullis, MD, The Psychological Trauma & Wellness Center, Primacy Oaks (Strategies/Outcomes/Evaluation/ Committee Chair)  
Madge Tullis, SPAN-USA  
Misty Yarbrough, BBA, BSW, Statewide Education Coordinator, Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee (Mid-Cumberland Regional Chair)

**Intra-State Departmental Representatives Present**

Carol Boone, Ph.D., EAP Director, Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration  
Pam Brown, MSSW, Director, KIDS COUNT, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth  
Nicole Cobb, Director of School Counseling, Tennessee Department of Education  
Gwen Hamer, MA, Office of the Medical Director, Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities  
Yvette Mack, Director, Adolescent Health & Asthma Programs, Tennessee Department of Health

Thom Roberts, Executive Director, Tennessee Council for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing,  
Tennessee Department of Human Services  
Lygia Williams, MA, Office of Special Populations, Tennessee Department of Mental  
Health & Developmental Disabilities

**Guests**

Jason Brown, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System  
Christy Key, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System  
Sky Moore, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System  
Jessica Spivey, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System  
Forrest Sponseller, Interpreter Services  
Maj. Joseph W. Varney, USA (ret.), Suicide Prevention Program Manager, Fort Campbell  
Amy Vawter, Clinical Director, Carey Counseling Center

**Advisory Council Members and Alternates Absent**

Jennifer Burger, LPC-MHSP, School-Based Program Manager, Centerstone  
Carol Burroughs, MSCPS, Lexington High School (Advisory Council Co-Secretary)  
Linda Ellison, Contact Concern of East Tennessee  
Benjamin T. Harrington, Mental Health Association of East Tennessee (Past Advisory Council  
Chair)  
Micky Roberts, MBA, Director, Blount County Health Department  
Sandy N. Smith, M.Ed, Hamilton County Department of Education  
Joe T. Wood, ADM, SUPV, Director, Lexington City Schools  
Anne Young, MS, CAS, Whittle Springs Middle School (East Tennessee Regional Chair)

**Intra-State Departmental Representatives Absent**

Judith Baker, BSBM/EM, Public Health Program Director, CLPPP, SIDS and CFR, Maternal  
and Child Health  
Rose Boyd, Public Health Educator, Integrated Core Injury Surveillance, Prevention, and  
Control Program, Division of Emergency Medical Services  
Tommy L. Brame, Mental Health Specialist, Tennessee Department of Children's Services  
Sherron Brown, Director, Families First Policy Program, Tennessee Department of Human  
Services  
Laura M. Gatrell, MA, LEAP, Director, Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program  
Mike Herrmann, Director of School Safety and Learning Support Programs, Tennessee  
Department of Education  
Angela McKinney-Jones, Alcohol and Drug Services, Tennessee Department of Mental  
Health and Developmental Disabilities  
Jeanine C. Miller, PhD, PE, Director of Mental Health, Tennessee Department of Correction  
Kimberly A. Moore, Program Specialist, Adult Protective Services, Tennessee Department  
of Human Services  
Pam Townsend, Consumer Advocate, Office of Consumer Affairs, Tennessee Department  
of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities  
Sterling van der Spuy, Division of Workforce Development, Tennessee Department of  
Labor & Workforce Development,

**TSPN/TLC Staff Present**

Vladimir Enlow, Executive Assistant, Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network  
Scott Ridgway, MS, Executive Director, Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network

## **Welcome and Introductions**

- The meeting was called to order by Bernard at 3:26 PM.
- Bernard began by referencing the death of Ed Schneidman, founder of the American Association of Suicidology and a leader in the field.
- He reminded the Council at large of the importance of listening to people in need of assistance rather than imparting judgment.
- That being said, he reminded the group of the brainstorming session for future Fort Campbell projects, scheduled for tomorrow at 10:30 AM. He encouraged members to start thinking of ways to reach veterans, as well as to encourage Varney and other Fort Campbell officials in their efforts.

## **Review of Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

- Minutes from the February session were included in the meeting packet.
- One correction was noted, in the TLC report: Williams explained that the Aggression Replacement Therapy (ART) was intended for youth, while the ASIST training was for adults in conjunction with the Promise for Tomorrow curriculum.
- Herbison motioned for approval of the minutes with this correction included. Barton and Johnson seconded simultaneously, and the motion carried without objection.

## **Regional Reports**

### **Northeast Region**

- Leonard announced that current projects include:
  - Provision of invitations for the Suicide Prevention Ambassador project to local mayors and county executives
  - Dissemination of materials to the regional division of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development
  - Preparing for the regional Suicide Prevention Awareness Event in September
- Leonard mentioned the booth set up at the recent Kid Power event, which had several thousand participants.
- The region was disappointed when one of the largest healthcare groups in the region rejected the rapid assessment poster without any explanation. Instead, members are planning to reformulate the information on the poster into a brochure suitable for provision in doctors' offices, alongside the regional resource directory.
- Regarding the regional walk project, the group has been fortunate to have Phipps Harold's assistance. At this point Leonard turned the floor over to Phipps Harold.
  - Phipps Harold explained that for the last three years, she has organized an annual walk in Warrior Path State Park, intended to memorialize her son Travis, who died in February 2005 at the age of 25.
  - She was intrigued to learn about Suicide Prevention Awareness Month; the event was scheduled for September as this was Travis's birth-month. After she informed TSPN about the event, they developed promotional flyers for it.
  - This year the event will be expanded to incorporate the regional walk project. It will still take place in the Duck Island area of Warrior's Path,

but will include a candlelight ceremony in addition to the usual balloon release.

- Phipps Harold notes that during these events, people will often ask for information on local projects and agencies, so this year TSPN materials and other literature will be provided.
- She and other event planners are available to provide assistance with others' regional events as needed.
- Johnson asked whether permission was needed for a balloon release; she recalled planning an event at the local hospice only to have the facility nix the balloon-release segment. Phipps Harold recalled that her group never asked permission and no one explicitly said it was not allowed.

### **East Tennessee Region**

- Haren provided a general summary on behalf of regional chair Anne Young, who was unable to attend.
- Since the last meeting the region has focused primarily on community education. It has formed several new partnerships, and the agencies involved have sent delegates to regional meetings.
- Increased involvement with UT-Knoxville in particular is widening the group's outreach efforts.
- Regional members have provided Lifeline and TSPN materials to local health care concerns like Americhoice as well as managed care companies, trying to impress upon them that mental health care is just as important as medical care.
- At this point Haren turned the floor over to Shugart for a report on the Blount County Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Alliance.
- The group has worked closely with Dr. Gilliam, the county medical examiner, in trying to elicit more background information on area suicides during death investigations.
- A subgroup within the Alliance has developed a Powerpoint presentation on lethal means counseling suitable for presentation to businesses, churches, and any venue that allows for community outreach.
- Additionally, 300 gun locks have been donated to the Alliance for distribution.
- Alliance members have contacted their local legislators regarding potential ramifications of the proposed TDMHDD cutbacks.
- Haren closed by reporting that the region may stage more than one regional walk in different locations to allow for better attendance. The prospect of a luncheon has been suggested, and Lakeshore is a possible venue.

### **Upper Cumberland Region**

- Moran reports that Upper Cumberland members are trying to reach out to the community with QPR training to counteract increased suicide reports.
- The *Cookeville Herald-Citizen* recently ran an article on the TDMHDD budget cuts, which have prompted calls to local legislators.
- Regional members projects include:
  - Providing training on depression and the elderly to Adult Protective Services, family caregivers, and nursing home staff
  - Providing resource directories to local schools

- Reserving a booth and offering geriatric depression screening at the health fair this Saturday at Lexington Hospital
- This year's "Light of Hope" event will be combined with the regional walk and will include a balloon release. Preliminary plans involve starting at one location and walking to the luminary site.
- Two versions of a PSA featuring John Anderson and Aaron Tippin are complete and ready for broadcast. One is customized for DeKalb County; the other is for statewide broadcast. Bartlett and Ridgway collaborated on the script for the spot, which runs 1 minute in length.

### **Southeast Region**

- Since February, Tatum and other regional members have been trying to locate "the Lifeline truck". A pickup truck wrapped with the NSPL logo has been sighted driving around the Chattanooga area, but no one at (VBHCS) knows anything about it. Ridgway and Tatum hope to use the truck in awareness events.
- The region sent a delegate to a local physicians' luncheon to provide a lecture on suicide and older adults—part of an ongoing effort to engage physicians in rural communities.
- A few QPR trainings have been scheduled as well, as well as one Mental Health 101 session. Attendance has been low as of late, but only because members are busy with work.
- Dennis Dodson of the Pendulum support group continues to include the regional resource directory, with plans to distribute another 1000 across the area. Tatum is especially impressed considering the expense of the project

### **Mid-Cumberland Region**

- According to Yarbrough, approximately 90 people attended the "Older Lives Count" event on May 28, with turnout mostly generated by word of mouth. Participants were mostly staff members of elder care facilities and nursing homes. She recognized Hamer, chair of the event's planning committee, and Williams for their contributions.
- The region has reorganized and formed subcommittees, including one devoted to older adults. It mailed out roughly 100 packets to local care facilities; only a few of these were sent back, all due to incorrect mailing addresses.
- Speakers at the "Older Lives Count" event, aside from Williams:
  - Zia Wahid, a clinical psychologist with Centerstone
  - Former state Attorney General Paul Summers
  - Granger Brown of the Crisis Intervention Center within Family and Children's Services
  - A local survivor, who provided especially powerful testimony
- It has been suggested that the "Older Lives Count" event be repeated on a quarterly basis, partly to sustain momentum and partly to accommodate people who tried to register after the cutoff point.
- There have not been many QPR trainings lately, but there was a session run for the Williamson County Sheriff's Department, and last week Yarbrough attended the South Central region to provide information on counties on the regional borders. Since there is considerable overlap between services in this area, the two regions may pursue joint projects in the future.

- The second annual Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk is scheduled for noon on September 15 at Centennial Park. Further details are still being worked out, although a balloon release is already planned.
- The region set up a booth at the Children’s Mental Health Day at the Zoo event last month, which had a great turnout.
- Referencing remarks made by Varney regarding increasing domestic abuse reports at Fort Campbell, Yarbrough recalled that she was contacted by the Deputy Superintendent for Metro Nashville Public Schools (in her capacity as Statewide Education Coordinator for the Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee) regarding increased domestic abuse reports. She ended up running between five and eighteen presentations a day for the school’s teachers. She discovered several “horrifying” cases of child and/or domestic abuse, ultimately filing 26 reports with Child Protective Services.
- At this point, Yarbrough turned the floor over to Johnson, who announced that a training session is planned for the Lupus Foundation on June 13. Also, she mentioned attending the “Healing the Hidden Wound” symposium staged by NAMI in Murfreesboro last month, along with Bernard. Ridgway was a panelist at the event, as was Lesley Murray, the Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the Nashville VA. Murray asked Johnson for suggestions on establishing a support group for survivors of suicide attempts.
- Also in Murfreesboro, the region will run a presentation at the Murfreesboro Community Church on June 27. For the record, the church’s pastor rejected the Network’s offer last year.
- Hamer added that Shayla Dix of NAMI is on the planning committee for two suicide prevention programs planned for Clarksville churches on June 13 and 26.

### **South Central Region**

- Arnell recalled that 500 people attended the recent Senior Expo at the Murray County Mall; TSPN had a display booth with literature at this event.
- 60 people attended “How to Save a Life: A Community Response to the Issue” on March 27 in Lewisburg.
- The Giles County Suicide Prevention Task Force continues to run training sessions for the Giles EMS and Police Department.
  - The Task Force has also gained a contact in the local Honor Guard, which performs military burials. On a related note, they have also distributed copies of the veteran’s brochure throughout the county.
- Arnell turned the floor over to Harris for an update on the Hickman County Suicide Prevention Task Force:
  - The Task Force is partnering with Coordinated School Health to train all the teachers in the county. This is the third year this training has been in place; previous sessions were run by the TLC Project. However, several of these teachers were at the first two sessions, and the material has lost its novelty. This year the Task Force is coming up with its own presentation incorporating Youth Risk Behavior Survey data.
    - There will be two sessions: one in July for guidance counselors and one in August for teachers.

- These sessions will use smaller groups and will be participant-driven—trainees will have the chance to present their own data and experiences.
- For Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, the Hickman group plans to have their resource directory included as an insert in at least one issue of the *Hickman County Times* and/or the local shopper. The Task Force is getting a discount from both these publications and is seeking out sponsors for the project. For the record, the paper has about 5000 subscribers.

### **Rural West Region**

- Burroughs reports that since the last meeting, doctors across the region have requested additional copies of the rapid assessment poster.
- The region sponsored JACOAs two-day training conference, which featured both suicide prevention and gang violence components.
- Regional members, most notably Strahan, have coordinated several QPR sessions. Burroughs personally supervised training for Lexington County Schools. Additional trainings are planned for the United Church of Christ and Lambeth College.
- For the regional walk project, members are already planning an event at the Regional Hospital in Jackson.

### **Memphis/Shelby County Region**

- LaBonte announced that the region has held two of its four planned specialized training sessions: “Suicide and the Veteran Community” and “Suicide and the GLBTQ Community”.
- The veterans’ program featured:
  - Renee Brown, the Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the Memphis VA, and her staff
  - A presentation by NAMI’s In Our Own Voice troupe
  - Testimony from two attempt survivors, one white male and one African-American female
- The GLBTQ program included:
  - A presentation by Dr. Sharon Horne of the University of Memphis
  - A QPR training session
  - Viewing of the short film “Trevor”, which inspired the creation of the Trevor Project
- LaBonte is very excited about the regional training project, which has reached an estimated 1500 in the Memphis area. The region is running weekly programs for the Memphis Police Department (MPD), not only Crisis Intervention Team officers but regular officers. MPD had committed to one hour-long session every Wednesday for the next 30 weeks.
- Regional members are on the Planning Committee for the Suicide and the Black Church Conference this month, and TSPN will have a booth at the event.
- 1000 teen brochures and health assessments have been distributed through the local school system.
- During the TDMHDD budget hearing, Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts explicitly mentioned the Network after Rep. Larry Miller asked about the impact of the cuts on suicide rates. Miller’s inquiry has been attributed to communications from members in the Memphis/Shelby County Region.

- The regional committees have launched several projects:
  - The Survivors' Committee is distributing resource directories and other materials to local funeral homes.
  - Meanwhile, the Faith-Based Committee is providing church bulletin inserts to churches throughout the city.
- On that note, LaBonte reminded those present of the region's role in piloting the Jason Foundation's faith-based curriculum for churches.
- Finally, the region is still developing the memorial idea proposed earlier.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Advocacy Committee**

- During the February meeting, the Committee met to review and consolidate the veteran brochure; Yarbrough was acknowledged for her contributions to the process.
- The mayoral proclamation document has also been finalized following e-mail transmission by the central office and committee review.

### **Strategies/Outcomes/Evaluations Committee**

- This report was skipped as committee chair K. Tullis was not present.

### **Special Activities Committee**

- Ridgway gave this report on behalf of absent committee chair M. Tullis. He explained that the Tullises will miss the business meeting due to an important appointment, but should make it in time for dinner and the rest of the proceedings.
- The Suicide Prevention Awareness Month event previously scheduled for September 16 at the State Capitol has been scrubbed. The Network's focus will be entirely on the Regional Suicide Prevention Walks. Each event will feature the dedication of a memorial quilt.
- The next Advisory Council meeting will convene on October 28 at the Metro Nashville Police Department's Hermitage Precinct.
- The agenda will follow the same format as prior meetings. Committees will meet at 10:30 AM. Lunch will follow, and then the business meeting. The proceeding should wrap up by 2:30 PM.
- Reminders will be sent well in advance by the central office.
- The logo for the Regional Suicide Prevention Walks is provided in the meeting packet. TLC Project Director Dustin Keller developed the logo in a single afternoon.
- Ridgway explained that the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) stages its Out of the Darkness Overnight walk every summer in Chicago. People attend from all over the country, and the event raises close to \$2 million annually.
- Furthermore, AFSP chapters across the country stage hold walks in October—two were held last year in Chattanooga and Memphis, which the Network helped to promote.
- The money raised goes to the national headquarters to finance suicide prevention research. Local AFSP chapters can apply for a share of the funds, but again only for research projects.

- It is vital to keep everyone straight about the purpose of these walks and prepare for questions from regional members. The project is intended to raise funds to offset the \$18,000 in cuts to TSPN's budget.
  - The anticipated cuts roughly equal the amount earmarked for the Executive Assistant's salary. Fortunately, funds raised by last fall's symposium offset this loss, ensuring that this position is kept through the next calendar year.
- Information on the Regional Suicide Prevention Walks will be rolled out tomorrow. Regional members are encouraged to brainstorm ideas for their events and contact the central office for assistance.
- K. Tullis has challenged each region to raise \$1,837—this number corresponds to the length in miles of Tennessee's borders.
  - Members of the Rural West Region have calculated that this represents only a few dollars per county.<sup>1</sup>
- The Network is seeking statewide sponsors for the event, such as Americhoice, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and Psychiatric Solutions, Inc.
- The logo will be modified so that the website is in the top right rather than the bottom left.
- In response to Johnson's inquiry, Ridgway explained that detailed sponsorship and donation guidelines will be sent out tomorrow.
- Bilbrey requested a digital copy of the logo.
- Ridgway announced that a separate website is being developed to promote the walks; ideally it will allow for online donations.

#### **Intra-State Departmental Group**

- According to Williams, 500 NSPL magnets and wallet cards were provided to the Tennessee Department of Human Services. Another 1000 of each were given to Boone for distribution to EAP interviewers.
- Also, a copy of the fact sheet provided to all interviewers is included in the meeting packet.
- The group set up booths at two EAP health fairs in March as part of EAP Awareness Month, one at Tennessee Towers and the other at Metrocenter. About 500 people attended.
  - Having the quilts on hand proved an "eye-opening" experience for many participants. Many people initially mistook those portrayed as drunk driving victims and were shocked to see how "normal" these suicide victims looked.
- The group has fielded a request to run a stress management workshop in Murfreesboro for the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.
- Boone added that EAP coordinators have requested another training session.
- At this point Bernard presented Williams with an award recognizing her contributions to the Network, especially last fall's symposium.
- Bernard also put forth a proposal to add Varney to the ex-officio group, where he would represent the Department of Defense.

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<sup>1</sup> \$1,837 divided by the 20 counties in the Rural West Region = \$91.85 per county.

- Tatum made a formal motion which was seconded by Haren and accepted without objection.
- Shugart observed that many TSPN members, including those on the Council, have been affected by the armed forces' mental health crisis.

### **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL)**

- Ridgway informed those present of the FCC's 90-day extension of SAMHSA's oversight of 1-800-SUICIDE. Reese Butler of the National Hopeline Network is petitioning to have the line transferred back to its original agency.
- Calls placed in Tennessee to 1-800-SUICIDE will automatically roll into the nearest NSPL call center—with the exception of Peninsula.
- Three weeks ago, VBHCS was selected as a NSPL call center. The last Ridgway heard, the phone lines and caller ID system were being set up. He hopes to have more information soon.
- Ridgway will attend a meeting of the NSPL Steering Committee next week in Washington, DC.

### **Website Report**

- The website statistics report from the last quarter is included in the meeting packet.
- 23,185 hits were recorded during this period, an increase of 9.1% over the previous three quarters. 8,743 hits were recorded in March, breaking the record set in October.
- Ridgway thanked Enlow for assembling the report. Enlow is available to answer questions as necessary.
- Additionally, Enlow compiled state rankings of suicide rates for persons 65 and over for the year 2006.
- With 129 deaths and a suicide rate of 16.68 per 100,000, Tennessee ranked 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Tennessee Lives Count (TLC) Project**

- The meeting packet includes full training totals for the first TLC grant cycle and for the second one thus far.
- 18,550 people were trained during the first cycle, surpassing the project goal of 14,225 and meeting all but a few training targets. Williams, TLC's primary investigator, is grateful for the efforts of Keller as well as former TLC Youth Trainers Lucy Lavender and Tiffany Washington.
- The new grant cycle focuses on youth in the juvenile justice system. 161 people have been trained since February 27.
- The Project has hired two new trainers; one of them has been dismissed and a replacement is being sought.
- In addition to the usual QPR sessions run for TLC, Keller and Youth Trainer Foster Williams ran an ASIST training last week.
- Williams explained that the new training curriculum includes Aggression Replacement Therapy (ART) for juvenile trainees.
- Finally, Steve McNair will appear in a new television PSA for the TLC Project. The spot has been filmed and edited.

### **Older Adult Suicide Prevention Plan**

- Harris and Williams, co-chairs of the Older Adult Suicide Prevention Plan Committee, presented a summary of developments.
- Copies of the draft plan are available for review and feedback.
- Committee members split into workgroups to research organizational strengths and barriers which could affect plan implementation, as well as statistics on older adult deaths.
- Harris pointed out the bibliography, which includes the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the older adult suicide plans for Oregon and Pennsylvania. She thanked Enlow and Ridgway for their efforts in pulling together the final copy.
- The ecological model included comes from the CDC.
- Harris explains that the Committee includes professionals from a wide variety of institutions specializing in older adult care, allowing for “more of a pulse on the elder suicide issue”.
- While the report includes no specific examples, it provides plenty of recommendations for activities.
- A section on behavioral health resources, broken down by region, will be provided on the website for continuous update. The list will include outpatient and inpatient centers as well as support groups for survivors and caregivers.
- Williams also conveyed her thanks to Enlow and Ridgway. Ridgway in turn thanked the Committee members who provided resources for their regions.
- Ridgway plans to use the older adult plan as a basis for an update of the youth plan; this document was developed in 2003 and is only two pages in length.
- Chastain Beal, who proofread the plan document, called the report “outstanding”.
- In response to an inquiry by Billbrey, Ridgway explained that the Council needs to sign off on the report before the Committee can consider ways to publicize it.
- Harris suggested that each region could adapt one or more of the strategies for implementation, possibly generating articles for local newspapers just in time for Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.
- Johnson wondered if the plan could be tied into projects for older veterans.
- Bernard suggested that the Regional Suicide Prevention Walks would be the perfect platform for presenting the plan.
- Chastain Beal motioned for approval of the plan document, Herbison seconded, and the plan was accepted without objection.

### **Advisory Council Emeritus Guidelines**

- Members were directed to the TSPN Emeritus Status Guidelines as located in the meeting packet.
- The Emeritus designation is intended to honor longtime Council members who are rotating off or resigning under good terms.
- Bernard explained that many academic institutions issue this designation to retiring faculty members who have made exemplary contributions to their fields.
- After brief review by the Council, Herbison motioned for approval of the guidelines as submitted. Yarbrough seconded, and the motion was ratified with no objections.

- The central office will develop a nomination form which will be posted on the website.

### **Nominating Committee**

- Bernard announced that Haren, McCroskey, and M. Tullis will need to meet after dinner to review the slate of Executive Committee officers and regional chairs.

### **New Business**

- As copies of the Roles, Structure, Operations, and Selection Process document were circulated for review and signature, Ridgway explained that the document defines the function and responsibilities of Advisory Council members.
- The document is being provided partly so new members can sign off on it, but also for consideration of two Council members who have not fulfilled the attendance requirements.
- One of these members is Sandy Smith of the Southeast Region has missed the last few Advisory Council and regional meetings. Ridgway wants a recommendation as to whether she should receive a verbal warning or letter, or be terminated outright.
- Smith has e-mailed the central office, explaining that she cannot get off work for some of these meetings. However, she has never contacted the central office ahead of time or offered any excuses.
- Ridgway explained that in the past, Council members with attendance concerns have been asked to review the guidelines and contact the central office with explanations for their absences and/or articulations of intent to stay on or rotate off the Council.
- Both Advisory Council and regional meetings are scheduled well in advance. In the event of a scheduling conflict, all the central office asks is that members keep the central office informed.
- It should be mentioned that Smith did respond by e-mail to say that she would not attend last week's Southeast regional meeting.
- In response to Council inquiries, Ridgway acknowledged that two Council members have been dismissed for unexcused absences in the past.
- Barton and Yarbrough both recommended removing Smith and giving her slot to some who can make it to the meetings.
- Tatum pointed out that anyone can miss the occasional meeting, but Smith has not been involved with the group for the last seven months.
- Chastain Beal asked if there was a written policy requiring a warning letter, and if there was a reason why Smith should not be given another chance.
- Moran cited a member of her region who did not participate for nine months but then came back. However, she was reminded that said member had been ill, and that Smith has made no attempt on her own to contact the Network for the last several months.
- Billbrey noted that her response to Ridgway's e-mail could count as contact. Yarbrough offered a motion that Smith should receive a certified letter and that if she does not respond within 30 days, she comes off the Council. Bartlett seconded.

- Haren responded to Billbrey’s comment: regardless of the e-mail she sent, the point is she is not attending meetings and the Council should take action. The letter should include a request that she attend the next meeting if she wants to stay on.
- Leonard asked Ridgway what he wrote to Smith; Ridgway told Smith that the Council had missed her at the last few meetings and hoped to see her today, and that he would appreciate hearing back from her.
- McCroskey advised sensitivity in composing the letter so as not to alienate Smith entirely.
- Chastain Beal said that although Council members are volunteers, the Roles and Structures document puts the burden of communication on the Network. She questioned the wisdom of breaking things down into excused and unexcused absences as it seemed “too much like school”.
- Burroughs asked how the distinction was made between excused and unexcused; Ridgway said that it depended on whether or not the member contacted the central office ahead of time.
- At this point Herbison called for a vote on the current motion.
- To recap:
  - The letter is intended as a warning, not a notice of immediate termination.
  - The letter will refer to the time commitment outlined in the Roles and Structures document.
  - The recipient will be asked to demonstrate recommitment to the Council by attending regional meetings and the next business meeting of the Advisory Council.
  - The letter will be sent via certified mail.
  - The recipient will be given 30 days to respond to the letter by any means. Failure to respond within the time limit will result in termination.
- Shearer wanted to know what happens if Smith says she gives a statement of recommitment but does not follow through. Ridgway responded that such lack of follow-through would be considered when she came up for reappointment.
- A vote on the motion followed: 9-8 in favor. The letter will go out
- Bernard announced that this would be the procedure for contacting inactive Council members from now on.
- Ridgway then raised the question of Micky Roberts of the East Tennessee Region, who was reappointed last year but has not attended a single regional or Advisory Council meeting since.
- Shugart corrected him, pointing out that he had attended one meeting of the Blount group.
- M. Roberts has contacted the central office only once, explaining that the responsibilities of his job had preventing him from participating on the Council as he intended.
- Ridgway noted that M. Roberts seems sincere enough and had been on the Council during the Sundquist administration.
- LaBonte recommended following the same policy used for Smith.
- Chastain Beal observed that there are plenty of ways he can participate in the Network without being on the Council, and that is not an “all-or-nothing” proposition. Yarbrough backed her up, saying that any efforts M. Roberts could contribute, even something like distributing brochures, would be enough.

- Ridgway pointed out that M. Roberts has only attended the one Blount meeting, and the group meets in his office building.
- Yarbrough motioned that M. Roberts also receive a letter with the same stipulations as above, with Herbison seconding. A vote on the measure came back 11 in favor, 3 against—the motion carried, and the letter will go out along with Smith's.
- In response to a question from Shugart, Ridgway explained that the Roles and Structures document is circulated for signatures at every retreat.

### **Executive Director's Report**

- Ridgway announced the winners of this year's Regional Suicide Prevention Award winners:
  - East Tennessee: Linda and Larry Drain
  - Memphis/Shelby County: Sally Afflick
  - Mid-Cumberland: Misty Yarbrough
  - Northeast: Harold Leonard
  - Rural West: Dana Cobb
  - South Central: Karyl Chastain Beal
  - Southeast: Tim Tatum
  - Upper Cumberland: Jean Key
- This evening a selection committee will choose the statewide winner. The winner of this year's Madge and Ken Suicide Prevention Award will be announced at each Regional Suicide Prevention Walk, where the appropriate regional winner will also be recognized. Ridgway offered his congratulations to all award recipients.

### **Adjournment**

- Ridgway distributed copies of the Network's conflict of interest form, which should be signed and turned in later.
- Members are dismissed for dinner and are reminded of the White Elephant Gift Exchange, which will begin at 7 PM.
- Following this segment, Varney will screen an Army-exclusive interactive training video.
- The meeting adjourned at 5:14 PM.

**Challenges and Next Steps for Regions and Fort Campbell**  
**Clement Room B, Montgomery Bell State Park Inn**  
**June 4, 2009**  
**10:30 - 12:00 PM**

**Proceedings**

**Next Steps for Regions**

- Bernard called the discussion to order at 10:41 AM.
- He explained that the objective of this session was to brainstorm ideas for the next decade of TSPN. He opened the floor for suggestions on future regional plans.
- Johnson began by alluding to several upcoming health fairs where the Mid-Cumberland Region could set up booths.
- Haren observed that the National Guard units stationed at McGhee Tyson airport are set for overseas deployment in the next six months and will need training.
- Tatum pointed out the value of CIT training and recommended implementing this model at the ground level.
- Arnell plans to contact the QPR Institute regarding a variant of its online training tailored to law enforcement personnel.
- Hamer will continue her focus on providing information about older adult suicide to community gatekeepers.
- Bartlett also plans on getting more information and education to law enforcement and continuing renewed efforts in DeKalb County. Bilbrey added that the Upper Cumberland region needs to sustain its older adult efforts by distributing information at health fairs and holding training sessions at area senior centers. Also, Moran mentioned plans for additional networking and recruiting.
- Starling pointed out that the United Way of Tennessee could be engaged in assisting Mental Health America and its Tennessee branches (i.e, MHAMT). United Way has run a highly successful early reading campaign, and he knows its current president, one Mary Graham, is interested in mental health outreach.
- Bernard reminded those present about the Suicide Prevention Ambassador program.
- Within the Rural West Region, Strahan plans to continue her QPR training efforts.
- Regarding the Memphis/Shelby County region, LaBonte is interested in holding more sessions in churches. He also notes that a majority of people in his area will call the police before a crisis line, so he wants to continue his work with local law enforcement. While he isn't using the specialized QPR training referenced by Arnell, he has managed to build a strong relationship with the Memphis Police Department and CIT director Tim Canady through weekly training sessions. He recalled meeting Canady through the "Suicide and the Veteran Community" event in March.
  - He is excited by the opportunity to bring tools of suicide intervention to the community, especially law enforcement, and looks forward to expanding into the churches, where the majority of clergy, while well-intentioned, are unsure how to help. By teaching them the warning signs and giving them some very basic tools, he can give them that capability.

- LaBonte has noted that some of the anecdotes shared by the officers he trains can be just as “horrific” as those offered by military personnel. He believes that law enforcement has a greater percentage of survivors and attempters than the armed forces, but many people keep silent because they worry about the effects of disclosure on their careers.
- He also mentioned the Jason Foundation pilot program, on which subject he deferred to M. Tullis.
  - M. Tullis pointed out that outside of a few TLC training sessions, LaBonte has been solely responsible for QPR training sessions in this area.
    - Ridgway mentioned that TLC training figures are kept separate from TSPN’s.
  - M. Tullis announced that she and K. Tullis sat in on a year or more of Jason Foundation planning sessions, where the group developed a program suitable for presentation during a Sunday or Wednesday night church service. She called the development of this program “an amazing process”, with a result that engages participants in their own faith perspectives and ultimately leads to healing.
- Clark Flatt, President/CEO of the Foundation, has said that there are two venues which his agency has had little success infiltrating with suicide prevention information—the churches and, oddly enough, psychiatric centers. Regarding the latter, M. Tullis explains that often the clinicians fear even raising the subject of a negative outcome, and so the stigma persists.
- During his own training sessions, Flatt takes care to trace the religious and legal perspectives on suicide dating back 2,000 years.
- Flatt believes that better communication with faith-based groups is the key to making a great impact on the public at large.
- In regards to the QPR law enforcement training, Arnell described the two components of the session—one for working with the general public and one for counseling other officers.
- LaBonte observed that his sessions are not just professional, but personal since many of the people he trains have immediate lethal means access and stressful jobs. Even families can be affected—one officer confided in him that his wife had died using his own service revolver shortly after her father passed away. These and other stories make him passionate about the training effort.
- Arnell acknowledges that while lately older adults have been the focus of TSPN training efforts, the military and veteran populations also need attention.
- Barton expressed support for church outreach, recalling a minister at a local church who died by suicide and his own struggle to overcome his ideas about suicide. Johnson also offered her support, noting that church environments can be extremely judgmental.
- Bernard pointed out one population not yet addressed but expected to grow in the new future—the unemployed. Tennessee has seen and will continue to see large numbers of people losing their jobs, even within state government.
- Johnson is hoping that Governor Bredesen will take on the crisis by issuing a call for volunteers, as there is a greater need than ever before.
- Meanwhile, Bernard articulated the need for assessment of who is at the most risk and how to reach them before numbers start to increase.

- LaBonte reflected that while the region has organized training sessions for various subgroups, no efforts have been extended to people displaced by the current economy. Considering the high rates of foreclosure in the Memphis area, it is time for a workshop on job loss and suicide.
- Tatum said that staff members at Pine Ridge Treatment Center have been trained in job loss counseling.
- Bernard recommends outreach to career centers and human resource departments; the latter is especially important since these offices are usually responsible for determining who gets fired.
- Boone cited her earlier inquiries within the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the number of depressed and suicidal people calling TDLWD operators, and efforts led by Williams to provide them with information.
- Hamer recalled how TSPN's involvement with health care facilities led to expansion to other venues. She believes the Network's current work with TDLWD should also be expanded across the state.
- The regional discussion closed with a challenge from Bernard to "think outside the box" when it comes to saving lives.

### **Next Steps for Fort Campbell**

- Varney detailed the two most problematic aspects of his work as the base's Suicide Prevention Program Manager:
  - Developing suicide prevention and mental health anti-stigma programs
  - Renewing links with "disenfranchised" members of the base community—family members of soldiers who have died by suicide or been killed in action who are consequently cut off from resources available to families with living service members
- He observes that many people on base are blaming the Army for causing the problems in their lives and their families.
- Chastain Beal recommended support groups as the best and most inexpensive way to build ties. She asked if any such groups for survivors of suicide were in place. Varney explained that there were none operated by mental health professionals, but acknowledged the support groups in place at nine area churches, facilitated by Army chaplains.
  - He also noted that every military organization on the base operates a Family Readiness Group that meets monthly and allows family members of deployed personnel to share information about Army resources. The problem is that these gatherings frequently devolve into gossip sessions, and while these groups theoretically have elected leaders they are often driven by the rank of the family member in question.
- Chastain Beal explained that military families need a safe place to vent, lest it all come out when their deployed loved one returns.
- Yarbrough observed that the key is getting Army spouses into a comfortable setting.
- Haren recommended gatekeeper training for elected officers within the Family Readiness Groups and any figure who acting in a "den mother" role so they can have the tools they need in the event of a suicide crisis.

- Varney noted that every Family Readiness Group for units above battalion level has an established leader who is considered a government employee and is on the federal payroll. This person could be considered a gatekeeper.
- However, Haren recommended training for members of smaller groups—gatekeepers of higher-level groups may not be as supportive of smaller units, and it guarantees greater buy-in that if it comes from the top down.
- Yarbrough observes that widespread spousal and family anger demonstrates a need for change. Flyers promoting these new support groups should be posted everywhere these families usually gather, inviting them to voice their concerns with a facilitator who can “take a lot of punishment”.
  - Varney points out that while there have been town hall meetings on the installation, the family members usually do not say the same things they do when they talk to each other. They are more comfortable venting and even being irrational with their friends. Since the meetings are usually arranged by base leaders, participants often self-censor.
- Strahan recommended enlisting members of particularly strong family units, to see how they handle stress so well.
  - Varney asked how he was supposed to locate and gain access to them; Chastain Beal recommended making them leaders of the new support groups.
- Strahan explained how the base housing plots once common on such installations reinforced the family unit and built supportive neighborhoods.
- Bernard cautioned that the would-be facilitators of these groups need to be able to handle the “emotionality” of the event and provide perspective on “the big picture”. The sniping and rumors likely to come out here are symptoms of an underlying mood of isolation and loss of control. The facilitator needs to exercise what he and other disaster response professionals call “cognition in chaos”: the ability to move people in crisis into a problem-solving mode.
- Strahan explained that Army personnel and spouses are welcome to participate on regional and/or task force meetings. They may feel privileged to receive invites to a non-Army organization.
- She added that the conflicts have lasted so long it becomes easy to forget about them and the need of armed services communities.
- Ridgway recommended staging picnic or bag lunch meetings or support group sessions and seeing who shows up. The press could be invited to cover the event. Alternately, a meeting could be staged in the commissary.
- He added that if only 10 of the participants show up at a subsequent meeting, a viable group can develop from there.
- Varney said that the base’s suicide prevention task force meets every other month. Ridgway recommended involving spouses and community members in the group.
- Bernard recommended forming groups within individual counties rather than involving the regional Network.
- Harris mentioned that several members of the Hickman County Suicide Prevention Task Force had rendered assistance to the co-facilitator of Left Behind by Suicide, the support group covering that county. In response to an inquiry from Ridgway, she explained that providing Fort Campbell staff with material and testimonials

- from county task forces would demonstrate that community involvement in the problem has worked in the past and can work at Fort Campbell.
- She noted that the people involved were really moving the group forward and were capable of helping establish a support group for the families of those lost this year.
  - In response to an inquiry from K. Tullis, Varney explained that the base's task force meetings are generally closed due to the sensitive material discussed. Civilians require special invitations. K. Tullis recommended opening the group up to the public to develop a community response. People interested in attending can let the task force know in advance and fill out any necessary paperwork.
  - Strahan suggested holding meetings off base to allow for greater public access. Varney replied that the only obstacle here is finding a willing venue.
  - Barger commented that Army personnel and spouses she has worked with feel like the Army doesn't care about them and often resist involvement in projects organized by the Army. Use of the Network's grassroots training model can help here. She recommended that the facilitator should have an interest in suicide prevention but should not hold a formal leadership position.
  - For the benefit of his civilian audience, Varney offered a brief explanation of the organization of the base:
    - Fort Campbell has 29,000 personnel, consisting of roughly ten brigades.
    - Each brigade has between two and five battalions (52 in all).
    - Each battalion consists of three to six companies (254 in all).
    - Each company has four platoons.
    - Each platoon has three squads.
    - Each squad has two teams of between three and five soldiers.
  - That being said, Haren recommended starting at the team and squad level.
  - She also reminded Varney that he does not have to take on sole responsibility for the recommended changes and the Network is willing to provide assistance and support as needed.
  - She also recommended that in getting the effort started, he should make people feel like they are doing the work. Part of the reason people are pulling away from the Army is that they are being told what to do as opposed to doing it for themselves.
  - Barton, in turn, reminded the Council that the Army has certain restrictions and requirements which must be respected.
  - This, Strahan explained, is why she recommended off-base meetings to get around these regulations.
  - Tatum mentioned that the Network can provide logistical support and training credentials.
  - Yarbrough emphasized the need for stigma reduction. Bilbrey observed this is a universal concern.
  - Yarbrough also argued for the inclusion of personal stories—from both sexes.
  - Ridgway encouraged Varney to reframe the question of Fort Campbell's next steps: if he had unlimited money and unlimited resources, what would he do with it?
    - He explained that while he and the Network are offering their full support, there must be people on the base who can work from within.

- Varney explained that the base’s primary needs are awareness and education. He also needs ways to sell the idea of suicide prevention to high-ranking officials and to family members. The latter could be engaged by either offering support group efforts as a complimentary service or making it a prerequisite for other services.
- Varney admitted that many base families are used to being handed everything and, in fact, expect it. For example, staff and family members often receive free child care and vacation days in exchange for participation in training sessions.
- Chastain Beal reminded those present of the availability of POS-FFOS, stating that involvement in the forum will make a “tremendous difference”.
  - Phipps Harold pointed out that she would not be involved with TSPN today if it were not for POS-FFOS. She has observed, from personal experience, that people who lose loved ones to suicide are typically close to suicide themselves. Sites like POS-FFOS offer these people an immediately accessible connection to people who understand, and a space to express emotions that will otherwise “eat you up inside”.
- Varney acknowledged that many of the people he works with are resistant to open displays of emotion. Families who have lost people tend to fade away to the point they are no longer affiliated with base functions.
- Haren observed that suicide does not affect just the immediate family, but can fracture and pull apart the entire community.
- Bilbrey recalled seeing a “Good Morning America” segment about two women who are launching a nationwide bus tour, meeting with widows and widowers of war dead—in essence forming a kind of nationwide support group.
- Tullis recommended promoting POS-FFOS and similar resources all over Fort Campbell, with an emphasis on people who have drifted out of the base.
- Johnson recommended staging both open and closed meetings of the base’s task force. Strahan suggested incorporating QPR training into one of these sessions.
- Noting the increase in family violence referenced by Varney earlier, Herbison recommended the counseling services available through the YMCA. Some of these centers offer shelters for domestic violence victims.
  - Barger wanted to know if any of these facilities offered services for special classes of victims, such as men victimized by their wives or members of same-sex couples. Herbison was unable to provide specifics.
- Barton complained about the persistent negative coverage about the veteran mental health issue and recommended publicizing efforts to help soldiers, thereby improving morale.
- Speaking from his experiences with a support group for Vietnam veterans, Barton also wondered if merely venting concerns was really helpful to survivors.
- In response to an inquiry from Mack about making support group participation mandatory to receive benefits, Varney explained that there was precedent for such a requirement, even if it only involved attending one meeting.
  - However, Bernard questioned whether forcing people into the groups was advisable.
- Bernard referenced the Network’s alliance with Teddy Carr in Memphis and suggested outreach through local radio.
- Varney summarized his needs and those of the base:

- Assistance with stigma reduction
- Assistance with suicide prevention awareness
- Support for survivors
- Reintegration of families of suicide victims into the base community
- He concluded by saying that right now little real action is taking place, and most people are just “upset and grumbling” about the suicides and the situation on the base as a whole. He hopes to work with TSPN to launch and facilitate new programs on the base.
- Bernard encouraged members to consider how they could support Fort Campbell and the Network’s newest ex-officio member, calling those assembled at this meeting “Joe’s Army”.
- Bernard closed by thanking Varney for his participation in this year’s retreat.

### **Closing Remarks**

- Ridgway reminded Advisory Council members to turn in their conflict of interest forms.
- Participants were asked to cooperate in picking up trash and reminded to leave their name tags on the registration table.
- Assistance will be needed in dismantling the quilt stands.
- Minutes from this meeting should be available sometime next week. Upon completion, they will be sent out for corrections and editing.
- The next Advisory Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 28, in the Community Room of the Metro Nashville Police Department’s Hermitage Precinct as per the website.
- The February meeting is yet to be scheduled; the location will depend primarily on facilities’ willingness to provide a microphone.
- The Tullises will meet briefly with Ridgway to discuss the committee’s selection for the Madge and Ken Tullis Suicide Prevention Award. All other members are dismissed for lunch, with the reminder that members will pay their own way for lunch at the inn restaurant.
- The retreat was adjourned at 11:58 AM.