Advisory Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 13, 2019
Corporate Offices of Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee
937 Herman St
Nashville, TN 37208

Minutes

Advisory Council Members Present
- Anne Stamps, MA, Center Director, Volunteer Behavioral Health- Plateau Mental Health Center/Dale Hollow Mental Health Center (Advisory Council Chair/Upper Cumberland Regional Chair)
- Brenda Harper, Community Advocate (Advisory Council Co-Chair, Mid-Cumberland Chair, and Outreach Committee Chair)
- Anne Young, MS, CAS, LADAC II, Director of Residential Program, Cornerstone of Recovery (Advisory Council Past Chair)
- John B. Averitt, Ph.D., Cookeville Regional Medical Center, Police Psychological Officer, and Cookeville Police Department
- Phillip Barham, Sales Manager, Lakeside Behavioral Health (Rural West Regional Chair)
- Spencer Bell, MBA, JD, Professor of Law, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, University of Memphis
- Crystal Brewer, Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, McNairy Regional EMS
- Joseph Chatman III, LBSW, MSW, Community Advocate (Montgomery-Houston-Humphreys-Robertson-Stewart County Suicide Prevention Task Force Chair)
- Sherri Feathers, LCSW, Senior Vice President of Specialty Services, Frontier Health
- Nora Fielding, BA., Community Advocate
- Tricia Henderson, LPC-MHSP, Interim Director, Office of the Dean of Students, University of Tennessee Chattanooga (Southeast Tennessee Regional Chair)
- Jon S. Jackson, LADAC II, NCAC I, QCS, Chief Operations Officer, Harbor House Inc.
- Lynn Landrum Julian, MA, Business Development Liaison, Crestwyn Behavioral Health
- Robb Killen, Ed.D., Supervisor of Counseling and Mental Health, Maury County Public Schools (South Central Regional Chair)
- Matt Magrans-Tillery, Assistant Director, Trauma & Addiction, Knoxville Leadership Foundation
- Sandra Perley, Ed. D, MSN, RN, Professor of Nursing, Columbia State Community College
- Sharon Phipps, BS, Public Health Educator II, Hawkins County Health Department
- Jessica Pruett, Information and Assistance Specialist/AAAD Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, Upper Cumberland Development District
• Captain Jeff Shepard, MBA, North Precinct Commander, Jackson TN Police Department
• Jack Stewart, MA, Vice President, NAMI Greene County
• Tim Tatum, MBA, MA, LPC-MHSP, Executive Director, Focus Treatment Centers (Bradley, McMinn, Meigs, and Polk (BMMP) Counties Suicide Prevention Task Force Chair, and Advocacy Committee Chair)
• Katie Valentino, BS, CPRS, Behavioral Health Outreach Coordinator, BlueCare Tennessee (East Tennessee Regional Chair)
• Elvin (Woody) Woodruff, Community Advocate
• Vickie Wilson, RN, Nurse Clinical Liaison, NHC Home Care Sparta/Cookeville Offices

**Intra-State Departmental Group Members Present**

• Michelle Bauer, Suicide Prevention Program Manager, Tennessee Army National Guard
• Cathy V. Blakely, Victim Services Coordinator, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
• Henry Bransford Jr., LPC-MHSP, Tennessee Army National Guard
• Gwen Hamer, MA, Director, Education and Development, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
• Diana Kirby, MS, Project Director, TLC Connect & TARGET 2, Office of Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention, Division of Mental Health Services, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
• Terrence (Terry) Love, MS, CPC (Intra-State Departmental Group Chair), Injury Prevention Manager, Division of Family Health and Wellness, Injury and Violence Prevention, Tennessee Department of Health
• Sherlean Lybolt, MA, Mental Health Programs Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Correction
• Tatum Johnson, RN, Assistant Nursing Director, Tennessee Department of Health
• James Jorlemon, Health Promotion Manager, Benefits Administration, Department of Finance and Administration
• Morenike Murphy, LPC-MHSP, Director, Office of Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention, Division of Mental Health Services, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
• Thom Roberts, RID-CI, Assistant Dean of Center Advancement, Tennessee Rehabilitation Center, Tennessee Department of Human Services
• Shaquallah Shanks, MS., Faith Based and Community Engagement Director, Tennessee Department of Health
• Jacqueline Talley, Treatment Specialist, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
• Janet Watkins, Training Director, AWARE Tennessee, Office of Student Support, Tennessee Department of Education

**TSPN Advisory Council Emeritus Group Members Present**

• Teresa Kimbro Culbreath, Community Advocate (Intra-State Department, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Emeritus Chair)
• Karyl Chastain Beal, M. Ed., Community Advocate (Advisory Council Co-Chair and South-Central Regional Chair, Emeritus)
• Clark Flatt, President/CEO, the Jason Foundation, Inc. (Advisory Council Member, Emeritus)
• Jennifer Harris, MS., Manager of Outpatient Behavioral Health Services, St. Thomas Hickman Hospital (Advisory Council Chair, Emeritus)

**Advisory Council Members Absent**
• Richard Bogle, MSW, Community Advocate (Behavioral Health and Wellness Initiative Taskforce for Hickman-Perry Counties Co-Chair)
• Audrey Elion, Ph.D., Supervisor for Evaluation and Referral Section, Shelby County Juvenile Court (Memphis/Shelby County Chair)
• Mike LaBonte, Executive Director, Memphis Crisis Center
• Jim Lewis, Director of Christian Formation and Family Ministry, Hixson United Methodist Church
• Cynthia W. Lynn, RN, PhD, GC-C, Faculty, Gibbs High School, Knox County School System
• Eve Nite, Director of Business Development, Omni Community Health (Advisory Council Vice-Chair)
• Heatherly Sifford, BS, Trauma Injury Prevention Program Coordinator, Johnson City Medical Center, (Advisory Council Secretary and Northeast Tennessee Regional Chair)
• Becky Stoll, LCSW, Vice President of the Crisis and Disaster Management, Centerstone

**Intra-State Departmental Group Members Absent**
• Sirena Y. Bragg-Wilson, MA., Training and Professional Development Projects Manager, Tennessee Department of Children’s Services
• Bruce Davis, PhD, Assistant Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
• Carol Coley McDonald, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Agriculture Melisa Fuhrmeister, Executive Director, Coordinated School Health, Tennessee Department of Education
• Shannon Geames, MA, Assistant Director of Talent Management, Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security
• Melissa McGee, Council on Children’s Mental Health Director, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth

**Ex-Officio Advisory Council Member Present**
• Jackie Cavnar, MBA, COO, Mental Health America of the Midsouth

**TSPN Staff Present**
• Michael Anderson, Upper Cumberland Regional Director
• Kelli Craig, MA, MHC, Southeast Regional Director
• Amy Dolinky, BA, East Tennessee Regional Director
• Tosha Gurley, BS, West Tennessee Regional Director
• Mani Hull, Ed.D., Middle Tennessee Regional Director
• Misty Leitsch, BBA, BSW Zero Suicide Director
• Joanne Perley, MPH, Director of Statewide Initiatives and Development
Scott Ridgway, MS, Executive Director

Guest

- John E. Bazzano, Austin Peay University Field Placement Student
- Brittany Maldonado, Austin Peay University Field Placement Student

Welcome, Remarks, and Introductions

- Chair Stamps thanked all for all they do and welcome. We would like to welcome our new members to the TSPN Advisory Council:
  - Spencer Bell, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, University of Memphis
  - Crystal Brewer, McNairy Regional EMS, Henderson TM
  - Nora Fielding, Community Advocate, Moore Co.
  - Lynn Julian, Crestwyn Behavioral Health, Jackson area
  - Jessica Pruett, Upper Cumberland Development District
  - Captain Jeff Shepard, North Precinct Commander, Jackson TN Police Department
  - Elvin (Woody) Woodruff, Community Advocate
  - Vickie Wilson, NHC Home Care Sparta
- Chair Stamps announced that in your packet is the AC Committees and Objectives, Committees labeled behind room.
- Housekeeping, restrooms located to the right, lunch at approximately 1130.
- Ridgway noted his excitement about the attendance. He welcomed new folks and let everyone know that we will do introductions when Governor’s staff gets here. At this time, he wanted to recognize TSPN staff. He announced that Governor could not be here this morning but does appreciate the Governor’s staff joining us. At this time, Ridgway presented years of service award for TSPN staff and thank them for their dedication and commitment to TSPN.
- TSPN Staff, Amy (4 years), Misty (3 years), Joanne (2 years), and Tosha (1 year). Ridgway announced that we are very honored to have with, and would like to welcome, from the Office of the Governor Office, Joseph Williams, Director of External Affairs. Ridgway ask everyone to introduce yourself, names, organization you represent if any, where you live in the state, if you have lost a love one to suicide, or have lived experience that you would like to share.
- Williams introduced himself as the Director of External Affairs in the Governor’s senior staff. On behalf of the Governor, he wanted to address this Advisory Council but had a conflict in his schedule. He acknowledges that this is important on a personal level and as the Governor as the state. His book, This Road I’m On, and tells a story of suicide in his family. There are four big issues the Governor feels are top priorities: Health and mental health is one of those four. The number one from teachers and educators is mental health and suicidal thoughts. The Governor is encouraged by the work TSPN does, TN is already leading the nation and wants to help be a part to making it great to lead the nation. He informed the group to reach out any time and gave the group his email address: Joseph.williams@tn.gov. From both, thank you for what you do and our state better off because of it.
Chair Stamps thanked Williams again for his remarks. She then informed the group that everyone would now break out into committees, we will meet for about 30 minutes. And then break for lunch before Dr. Lewis, State Deputy Medical Examiner will talk with us.

The business meeting was called to order by Stamps at 12:21.
Chair Stamps welcomed Dr. Adele Lewis, State Deputy Medical Examiner, Tennessee Department of Health. Lewis provided an overview of current Senate Bill 820 as well as previous legislation along the same vein, as this is the third iteration. The current Bill, as introduced, requires Medical Examiners to write a letter and mail this letter as to why a death was ruled a suicide to the family members of the deceased. Dr. Lewis stated that an unintentional consequence would be that suicide reports would be lessened.

Magrans-Tillery commented that this is a focus on suicide, only applies to suicide deaths not homicides, and would increase the stigma. Lewis responded that she is not familiar with any other state having legislation like this. Lewis highlighted that official responses and information on this and the previous iterations of the Bill can be found at www.Notsuicide-tenneessee.com.

Ridgway informed the Council members that Dr. Lewis was the Chief Medical Examiner for Davidson County and was employed with that office for 12 years before moving to the State Office.

Dr. Lewis advised that the department of health is going to work with the sponsor, this family did not have a second layer of appeal, and this scenario excludes a third of suicides that are not autopsied.

Magrans-Tillery asked ‘What can we do to help?’ where Lewis explained that there are four opportunities for an appeal as follows: the person to sign the death certificate but be left pending, after that it goes to a regional forensic center, then to a medical examiner advisory council, and finally, to an independent pathologist. Lewis then detailed that rule 31 mediation allows the family to appear in front of the court to have the manner of death changed.

Dolinky posed a question about what would the recommendation to Medical Examiners be that do not want to call it a suicide for fear of an appeal? Lewis noted that she has not noted this issue and that every county has its own medical examiner and is under its own jurisdiction.

Jackson inquired about the remains of the individual – whether they can still be cremated or buried. Lewis confirmed that there is no issue there.

Tatum suggested that the Advisory Council write a letter proposing that TSPN opposes the language as it is now. Specifically, expressing concern that contacting affected families through a letter could possibly retraumatize the loss and exacerbate the grief of their loved ones.

Tatum proposed a motion that we write a letter expressing concern that contacting affected families through a letter could possibly retraumatize the loss and exacerbate the grief of their loved ones. **Chair Stamps announced the motion on the floor for TSPN to submit a letter to the House Bill for the notification of the family. The motion was seconded by Barham and there were no objections; motion passed.**

Lewis suggested all present to Google ‘OSCME Office of the State Chief Medical Examiners’ for more information and resources.
Approval of Minutes from Previous Advisory Council Meeting

- The minutes had been previously circulated to members via e-mail but were also available at this meeting for review.
- Jackson motioned for approval of the September 2018 AC minutes; Tatum seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

Regional Reports

Northeast Region
Jack Stewart, MA, Vice President of NAMI TN and President of NAMI Greene County

- Held Advisory Council calendar year planning meeting with NE Region, the theme for the year is TennesSEE Hope.
- Trainers will attend the Trainer Appreciation Luncheon this month in Knoxville.
- Continuing to work with the Mountain Home VA to present and exhibit at their events and partner for our September event.
- Focus has been on growing regional membership which has resulted in more regional members than in the last few years.
- Mayor outreach has begun to work to get city and county employees trained in QPR; Coordinated School Health staff have also been contacted about training school staff.
- The group works to partner with local colleges and universities, including tying into the ETSU faith community event titled Adoration.

East Tennessee Region
Katie Valentino, BS, CPRS, Behavioral Health Outreach Coordinator, BlueCare Tennessee (East Tennessee Regional Chair)

- Valentino proud of volunteers in her region. Dolinky been doing work on Postvention response team and held a mock postvention. Call/text tree which worked last week at the Smokey Mountain Harley Davidson and doing another today at Greenback Middle School.
- Started a new loss survivor support group in Knoxville.
- Working with support group, Covenant Health, and Makes Cents Jewelry to hold a Survivors’ Day event in Knoxville.
- Working more closely with Veteran serving organizations, faith communities, and manufacturing associations.
- Cornerstone of Recovery will host an East and Northeast Trainer Appreciation Luncheon this month – the luncheon will provide a brainstorming session on creative groups to train.
- Mayor outreach has begun to work to get city and county employees trained in QPR; other training initiatives include Coordinated School Health and Medical Examiner’s offices.
- Belleza Salon and Spa will hold a month-long donation event for TSPN in April, culminating in an event with speakers and resources.
- Frantell’s research about the intersection of suicide and substance use disorders in Appalachia continues.
• Postvention response team is meeting monthly to create protocols.
• Dare to See – benefit concert for TSPN and Punk Talks will take place in March, put on by Johnson University.
• Badflower concert in Knoxville – TSPN will have a table at the concert of this LA band due to songs about suicide.
• Speak Up – Save Lives sponsorship is open statewide.
• September events planning committee will convene during the spring.
• Held Advisory Council calendar year planning meeting with East Region, the theme for the year is TennesSEE Hope.

Southeast Region
Tricia Henderson, LPC-MHSP, Interim Director, Office of the Dean of Students, University of Tennessee Chattanooga (Southeast Tennessee Regional Chair)
• Chair Henderson acknowledge the grateful for work of Kelli Craig in the region.
• Focusing on targeting our first responders this year. Conference is scheduled for Sept 6, 2019 and will welcome a guest speaker on suicide, substance abuse, and first responders.
• In December the region created crisis bags, collaborating with over 20 local organizations and gave them out to the regional health departments, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, etc. receiving a great response on Facebook.
• The Region has gained commitment from regional city and county administrations to work with and train all their county employees.
• The Region is currently working on a coaster project to place 5,000 + coasters sponsored by local businesses throughout the region’s restaurants and bars.
• The Region is currently working on a poster project for college campuses to raise awareness and provide positive quotes around all area campuses.
• The Region is working with an amazing group of leaders in the community for the Embracing Hope event in May. This collaboration is one of a kind and is designed as a mental health awareness day for the region.

Upper Cumberland Region
John B. Averitt, Ph.D., Cookeville Regional Medical Center, Police Psychological Officer, and Cookeville Police Department
• The region is working on organizing a Spring Conference, with a target date of early May and in collaboration with Tennessee Tech University.
• In order to raise awareness and help to solidify TSPN’s presence in the region, meetings are being held with elected leadership in each of the 14 Counties.
• Veteran’s Services of Putnam County is discussing awareness presentations for the region.
• Multiple Rotary Clubs within the region have been receptive to TSPN and invitations to speak have been received.
• TSPN will have a booth at the Blue-Ribbon Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention in April (Cookeville), featuring carnival-style “pick-up ducks.”
• Stamps noted the region is fortunate since November, Mike Anderson, Upper Cumberland Regional Director. Has an office in Volunteer Behavioral Health- in Cookeville, excited to have him in the Upper Cumberland Region.
Mid-Cumberland Region
Brenda Harper, Community Advocate (Advisory Council Co-Chair, Mid-Cumberland Chair, and Outreach Committee Chair)

- Chair Harper provided an update on the progress of reaching out to potential new partner associations to sustain the momentum of past efforts. Associations, such as Realtors, Physical Therapy, and Chiropractic were mentioned as possible new organizations who host annual conferences that TSPN can insert its outreach.
- Given an overwhelming interest in receiving postvention training by members who attended the Jan 2019 Mid-Cumberland regional meeting, a session has been scheduled for Feb 27th. Also given strong interest, a new QPR train the trainer class is scheduled for March 20th.
- TSPN will support the upcoming Healing Arts Project evening of art, music, awards and silent action – Phoenix Art Gala on Feb 21 at VU Hilton Garden Inn.
- Local campuses, including APSU, Belmont, Columbia State, Lipscomb, and Trevecca are partnering working with TSPN to provide student interns and volunteers. TSPN will explore a new grant venture opportunity with the MTSU Center for Health and Human Services in spring 2019.
- To begin engaging more medical practitioners to support our mission, TSPN met with Dr. Biliyar Vedavyasa, a Psychiatrist with TriStar on Feb 5th.

MHRRS Advisory Council Update:

- Chair Harper informed the group that we are continuing to train all the City Employees in the Clarksville Area.
- We are working on our September Suicide Prevention Awareness Conference. The date will be Sept. 27th.
- We have changed the date, time, and location of our monthly task force meeting. We are seeing an increase in attendance as a result. More community members and providers are now able to attend.

South Central Region
Robb Killen, Ed.D., Supervisor of Counseling and Mental Health, Maury County Public Schools (South Central Regional Chair)

- The Jan 2019 regional meeting was attended by 20 guests including Mayor Andy Ogles of Maury County. He invited TSPN to provide a call for action set of steps for Mayors and follow-up meetings will be scheduled for the spring.
- At this meeting, Chair Killen shared about the Maury County’s 3rd annual Mental Health Summit where Scott Ridgway presented and exhibited TSPN materials. He also shared that Regina Perry of Cowboy Up organized a Teen Room at the 8th Ave Boys and Girls Club in Columbia to encourage positive messages of hope. Chair Killen was also pleased to note that transportation personnel completed their 2-hours of suicide prevention training in Dec 2018.
- Also, at the Jan 9 regional meeting, Kelly Tucker raised the issue of needing a larger facility for patients who suffer a medical condition as well as mental health issues simultaneously. The current insurance system separates medical and mental health conditions and many patients with medical issues cannot get the psychiatric help that they need.
TSPN is pleased to welcome Nora Fielding as a new Advisory Council member from the south-central region to offer more representation and leadership. Nora has been engaged with Lincoln county schools given three recent suicides in that county. Ridgway conducted a town hall meeting for about 300 people after the death of these students and has worked closely with the school system staff.

Rural West Region

Phillip Barham, Sales Manager, Lakeside Behavioral Health (Rural West Regional Chair)

- Chair Barham informed the group that the Rural West regional Prevention committee is working on a PSA that is being developed to address Emergency Medical Responders, law enforcement, First Responders etc. Contacts have been made to support this PSA. Brewer, AC Member is putting this goal in action.
- Barham & Townsend have linked with radio stations and they will begin this month sharing SP Awareness and TSPN information, www.talklegends.com.
- TSPN is invited to train at the Gibson County Library hosting several trainings open to all community members. This contact was developed from the SP presentation held on January 25th presenting to the Gibson County Rotary Club.
- TSPN is invited to train all Discovery Park of America directors and staff. This contact was made from the SP presentation held at the Obion County Regional Health Department.
- TSPN West TN Trainer Appreciation luncheon is scheduled for 02/21/19 11a-1:30p at Le Bonheur. Crestwyn is sponsoring the lunch. Casey Vestal is making homemade candies and treats for the trainers. Michael Burnham is providing a Mindfulness Stress Reduction activity. We hope to re-energize and encourage new trainers to learn from seasoned trainers at this event.
- Hidden in Plain Sight: A Collaborative Approach to Mental Health Awareness is scheduled for April 26th at the University of TN at Martin. Barham, RW AC Chairman will present the Status of Suicide Report followed by a panel discussion including suicide loss survivors and attempters.
- Be A HERO (Help. Everyone. Reach. Out) art contest will be in May 5, 2019. Crystal Perry, UU Intern has created the flyer for the event. She has also emailed schools to market the event. This month Crystal will create packets to be delivered to each school including the parent consent form, art entry form, & youth suicide resources. Julian, AC member will help deliver to each school. Perry is a recruitment coordinator for Omni Visions, and she will be sharing this with Foster Parents served by Omni.
- 2nd Annual No One Stands Alone Music Festival is set for September 7, 2019. Musicians are booked. We are search for speakers for the event. The newest logo for this event was created by the same young man you created last years. You can view the new logo on the event Facebook page.

Memphis/Shelby Co. Region

Jon S. Jackson, LADAC II, NCAC I, QCS, Chief Operations Officer, Harbor House Inc.

- Acting Chair discussed that the Memphis/Shelby Co Intervention group is working on Social Media video post sending a message of hope & resources. Last meeting this
workgroup decided to postpone the Social Media postings (Brenner leader of this idea wasn’t present at last month’s meeting). Brenner has communicated with the MS TSPN members encouraging members to share their post before 02/19/19. Also, on 01/29/19 the intervention workgroup supported the VA Community Suicide Awareness event at the VA serving around 400 veterans, family members, and community members.

- He informed the Group that their Postvention workgroup held its first meeting on January 29th at Le Bonheur to begin developing the functions for how the response team will operate and communicate when there is a death in Memphis Shelby County. Five members were present at this meeting, several ideas shared about upcoming events this group would like to implement in 2019. There are 16 total trained responders. Also, January 29th the first Chalk it Out event will be held led by Dr. Sandra Maize in collaboration with Victims to Victory (a community organization serving victims of homicide loss). There are 30 in attendance to this event.

- Prevention workgroup conference sub-committee has begun planning Saving Lives in Memphis Shelby County last month. It will be held at Hope Church again this year as this seems an excellent venue voted on by the MS TSPN Regional Members at last month’s meeting. Date for SLMS is 09/13/19. Breakout sessions included this year with offering CEU’s. Venue is reserved, and this sub-committee will continue planning the conference at each MS Regional meeting.

- TSPN Regional members will attend the Living Well Network Mental Health Breakfast 02/26/19. TSPN is a sponsor and will have a vendor table at this event. Ridgway is also serving on a panel discussion with Renee Brown addressing Suicidology and PTSD.

**Task Force Reports**

**Tennessee Higher Education Suicide Prevention Task Force**

Sandra Perley, Ed. D, MSN, RN, Professor of Nursing, Columbia State Community College

- Co-Chair announced that the Education Task Force is to be commended for the extraordinary work that has come from the group in a very short period, including a sample protocol and outreach document.

- To see all the successes of the task force, visit the TSPN website under the Resources tab: [http://tspn.org/hetf](http://tspn.org/hetf).

- At the most recent meeting, February 1st, Co-chair Ridgway recognized each member of the task force that have served from the beginning of the task force in partnership with TSPN and for the amazing work that this group has accomplished.

- The task force approved the dissemination of the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Higher Education materials as well as pursuing legislation for higher education institutions.

- As the task force has accomplished its primary goals as a group, the group as approved the task force transitioning to an Ad Hoc committee to be called upon as needed.
The Tennessee Higher Education Suicide Prevention Task Force motions to transition the group to an Ad Hoc committee to be called upon as needed. Henderson seconded and there were no objections; motion passed.

The task force drafted legislation, which will be brought up by the Advocacy Committee. Senator Dickson (Nashville) and Representative Cochran (McMinn and part of Monroe Counties) are sponsoring the bill.

Tennessee Farmers Suicide Prevention Task Force
Scott Ridgway, MS, Executive Director, TSPN

- The Farmers and Suicide Prevention Task Force Press Release went out 11/9/2018 announcing the formation of the Task Force in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture. This press release, along with all others through TSPN are available on our website.
- Having met twice, most recently on January 28th, the task force has already reached thousands in this demographic through exhibits, media, and the enthusiastic engagement of the task force members.
- The three committees, Prevention, Intervention/Postvention, and Research, are all currently working to establish their overall goals as committees to best impact Tennessee producers.
- The keep up with the task force, read the minutes, find out more about this demographic, visit the TSPN website under the Resources tab: http://tspn.org/farmers-and-suicide-prevention.

Veterans Task Force
Scott Ridgway, MS, Executive Director, TSPN

- Ridgway announced that the next meeting is set for March 1st. The group has been divided into three subcommittees, prevention, intervention, and postvention subcommittees. We are continuing to work on plans to reduce veteran suicides.
- He informed the group that Former Commissioner Many-Bears Grinder attended our last meeting and praised TSPN for the work we are continuing to do and wished us all the best of luck.
- He announced that a delegation of 15 individuals from Tennessee that will be traveling to Washington D.C. March 27th-29th to meet with SAMHSA SMVF TA Center (Service Members, Veterans, & their Families Technical Assistance). TSPN staff, Leitsch and Ridgway, have been invited to attend.

Medical Examiner Task Force
Scott Ridgway, MS, Executive Director, TSPN

- Ridgway referred to the packets concerning the NVDRS and that Tennessee received the funding that began October 1, 2018. TDH had its first meeting for the Tennessee NVDRS. This group (the members of this Tennessee Violent Death Advisory Committee are in the packet) will meet quarterly, noting that the first year, Davidson and Shelby County will be the first to roll out the system with expansion taking place in the second year of the system to all other counties.
- TSPN appreciates Dr. Lewis facilitating questions today and continue to partner with the
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to support their training efforts and advocate for increased funding for the office.

- Ridgway shared in the packet the job description for the position, Program Director 1, which will be announced soon. This person will work to implement the Suicide Prevention Act. Currently the Department of Health is vetting this advisory group.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee
Anne Stamps, MA, Center Director, Volunteer Behavioral Health- Plateau Mental Health Center/Dale Hollow Mental Health Center (Advisory Council Chair/Upper Cumberland Regional Chair)

- Chair Stamps reported that the group continues to meet on a monthly basis. Our goal is to carry out action items throughout the year, as you can see with our agenda, we believe this year is an opportunity to reach out to new legislators in your areas.
- She informed the group that TSPN staff is working on the design of a new TSPN lapel pin.

Emeritus Report
Teresa Kimbro Culbreath, Community Advocate (Intra-State Department, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Emeritus Chair)

- Chair Culbreath discussed the brainstorming ideas of setting up the Alumni Emeritus group. The committee will work on a plan to present at the retreat.
- The Emeritus Group submitted a motion approving the nomination of Eileen Wallach and Stephenie Robb to the Emeritus Group. Young seconded and there were no objections.
  - Wallach’s title for Emeritus Group purposes is “Mid-Cumberland Regional Chair Emeritus”, considering her service in this role from 2015 to 2017.
  - Robb’s title for Emeritus Group purposes is “Rural West Region Emeritus”, considering her service in this role from 2005 to 2018.

Intra-State Departmental Group
Terrence (Terry) Love, MS, CPC (Intra-State Departmental Group Chair), Injury Prevention Manager, Division of Family Health and Wellness, Injury and Violence Prevention, Tennessee Department of Health

- Chair Love announced that the Tennessee Department of Health is spearheading three suicide prevention efforts 1) The NVDRS grant 2) The Child Safety Network Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Collaborative with several other states and 3) The Suicide Prevention Act of 2018. The NDVRS grant should provide excellent data for prevention planning. The CSN Collaborative will allow the Tennessee team to learn from about eleven other states’ suicide prevention efforts. The Suicide Prevention Act of 2018 took affect January 1st, which mandates a Department of Health Suicide Prevention Program. The department is in the process of recruiting a group of stakeholders to meet quarterly to review suicide data, examine root causes, existing state and national programs, and identify gaps in prevention in Tennessee. The outcome of the group’s
work will be to produce and deliver a report to the legislature to recommend policies, programs, and practices to reduce suicide in our state.

- The Intra-State Departmental group had a presentation from James (J.J) Joralemon, Health Promotions Manager for the Benefits Administration of Tennessee at the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration. He discussed Healthy Tennessee and its benefits and will join the Intra-State Department Group with TSPN.
- TN Department of Corrections lost an officer last week but did recently approve QPR trainer of trainer training for one staff member.
- The Department of Mental Health (in partnership with TSPN) documented 200 enrolled in Enhanced Services through Centerstone, and over 700 follow up contacts. The Target 2 program trained over 1,000 clinical service providers this past year.
- The TN National Guard lost two guard members last year to suicide. There was a yellow ribbon event last week and there will be an ASIST Training for Guard members at the end of March.
- TSPN Advisory Council members were encouraged to look at the Youth Risk Behavior Survey online at the Department of Education. The latest YRBS survey of students indicated that in grades 9-12, 31% felt clinically depressed last year for at least two weeks. There are several other measures in YRBS that could be risk factors for suicide.
- The Department of Education AWARE grant is in its 5th year and is applying for renewal. The grant has succeeded in training 85 instructors, who provided education to 5,000 in Mental Health First Aid. This resulted in over 14,000 referrals for mental health services. Janet Watkins also reported that over 150 schools applied for Trauma Informed School training and they were able to train 73. The department hopes to expand the number of Trauma Informed Schools next year.
- Love stated a new team has been formed a Child Safety Network child prevention and injury prevention collaborative for Suicide and Self Harm. The goal is to decrease ED visits, fatalities, and hospital visits for 0-18 y/o over 18 months due to self-harm or suicide. One goal is to track QPR training for youth impactors.

Advocacy Committee

Tim Tatum, MBA, MA, LPC-MHSP, Executive Director, Focus Treatment Centers (Bradley, McMinn, Meigs, and Polk (BMMP) Counties Suicide Prevention Task Force Chair, and Advocacy Committee Chair)

- Chair Tatum announced that the group revised and made edits to the 2019 September Suicide Prevention Month Proclamation. You have the proclamation in your folder.
  - The Advocacy Committee submitted a motion to approve the 2019 September Suicide Prevention Month Proclamation. Stewart seconded and there were no objections; motion passed.
- Committee Chair Tatum reported there is going to be an amendment, to make it from five years to four years, for the Ken and Madge Tullis Suicide Prevention Act of 2017 Sen. Richard Briggs (R-Knoxville) and Rep. Sam Whitson (R-Franklin).
  - The Advocacy Committee submitted a motion to approve the amendment, to make it from five years to four years, for the Ken and Madge Tullis Suicide Prevention Act of 2017. Magrans-Tillery seconded and there were no objections; motion passed.
• The group have reviewed the Higher Education Bill that Dr. Perley referred to earlier. The task force approved the legislation that Senator Dickson (Nashville) and Representative Cochran (McMinn and part of Monroe Counties) are sponsoring.
  o The Advocacy Committee submitted a motion to approve the Higher Education Bill. Valentino seconded and there were no objections; motion passed.
• He referred the group to your packet, you have three resolutions, the first one is the Natchez Trace Bridge Resolution,
  o The Advocacy Committee submitted a motion to support both the Natchez Trace Bridge Resolution, Stewart and there were no objections; motion passed.
• The second one is the Three Digit National Suicide and Mental Health Crisis Hotline Resolution,
  o The Advocacy Committee submitted a motion to support Three Digit National Suicide and Mental Health Crisis Hotline Resolution, Valentino seconded and there were no objections; motion passed.
• and the final one is Recognizing Teen Suicide is as a Health Crisis in Tennessee Resolution.
  o The Advocacy Committee submitted a motion to support and the Recognizing Teen Suicide is as a Health Crisis in Tennessee Resolution. Julian seconded and Chatman asked about the stats, Ridgway informed him that they were national statistics. there were no objections; motion passed.
• Staff had delivered to all member of the General Assembly, a copy of the 2019 Status of Suicide Report that was accompanied with the Press Release.
  o The Committee discussed how TSPN can engage legislators and provide them with goodies when TSPN regional members visit them on the Hill, to be called community collaboration for suicide prevention, Roundtable with Legislators about Suicide, Collaborative on the status of suicide, status of suicide summit, plain talk on suicide awareness, Exchange on status of suicide:
    ▪ TSPN Regional Directors set up regional legislative light morning reception.
    ▪ Hold this event on a Friday because legislators are back in their districts
    ▪ Schedule this event soon
    ▪ Invite TSPN regional members and all legislators in your region to attend (close to 40 new legislators this year)
    ▪ Secure one sponsor in each region. Stamps would check with Volunteer to sponsor Upper Cumberland event and Nite would check Erlanger Behavioral Health Hospital to sponsor Southeast.
    ▪ This could be a roundtable event to engage legislators to discuss their feelings about suicide, prevention efforts, the need for funding and how they can support TSPN.
• Chairman Tatum announced that the committee has received notice of the Red Flag legislation with everyone receiving this via email on Monday of this week and were asked to review and the committee has reviewed and are supporting the bill.
  o Averitt addressed the group, focusing on the usefulness of the legislation to limit access to firearms, specifically in terms of the mentally ill.
Stamps noted that in the Executive Committee the consensus a direct tie to murder suicide cases.

S. Perley noted her concerns with the bill, in reference to the lack of suicide prevention activities associated with all parties involved beyond that of means restriction. Murphy pointed out that in the bill, the clerk of the court is to create a list of crisis intervention services at some point in the process.

Ridgway noted that TSPN could endorse this bill with speculations, to include that suicide individuals receive support, including intervention and crisis services resources.

Graham noted the successes of similar legislation with crisis teams in the West Coast, informing the group that the law is not used often but has been helpful when working with suicide individuals, particularly those with psychotic symptoms.

Shepard, referenced domestic abuse situations, noting the large number of barriers that are already faced by those that enforce such legislation.

The Advocacy Committee along with the Executive Committee submitted a motion to support the Red Flag legislation. Stewart seconded. Zero in favor, all opposed; motion failed.

Chair Tatum submitted a second motion to support the Red Flag legislation support legislation with stipulations, Magrans-Tillery seconded. In favor. Opposed: S. Perley. Motion carried.

Below are the following stipulations:

- Mental health resources for both parties, victim or perpetrator.
- Provide crisis resources, and for those that may be suicidal or for families that have loved ones that are suicidal provide resources for those in suicide
- Discretion of first responders

Outreach Committee
Brenda Harper, Community Advocate (Advisory Council Co-Chair, Mid-Cumberland Chair, and Outreach Committee Chair)

- Chairman Harper announced the beginnings of the April 2020 Symposium.
- Chairman Harper and the committee also began discussions for Suicide Prevention Awareness Month 2019.
  - The Southeast and MHHRS already have dates set for 2019.
- The group discussed the International Suicide Loss Memorial Wall at the TSPN main office. We appreciate Eileen Wallach to assist with the application of the plates and signage. TSPN will be hosting an open house for this wall. Karyl Chastain Beal will be working with Ridgway to plan this.
- TSPN is now taking new applications for the 2019 Memorial Quilt. karylofcolumbia@cs.com

Strategies/Outcomes/Evaluations Committee
Anne Young, MS, CAS, LADAC II, Director of Residential Program, Cornerstone of Recovery (Advisory Council Past Chair)

- Committee Chair Young showed everyone a copy of the revised Tennessee Strategy for
Suicide Prevention pamphlet (a.k.a., the state plan).

- The Strategies/Outcomes/Evaluations Committee provided the revised Tennessee Strategy/State Plan for Suicide Prevention, noting improvements in specificity, timelines, and wording which would take effect July 1, 2019.

- 5D, Page 6A, page 9 under 11, and TNNVD, page 10 a, b
  - The Strategies/Outcomes/Evaluations Committee motioned for approval of the revised copy of Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention. Chatman seconded and there were no objections; motion passed.

- Finally, the Committee is discussed the new branding and look of the TSPN brochure and flyers. There are copies being distributed. We are very impressed with the new look and branding.
  - Strategies/Outcomes/Evaluations Committee and the Executive Committee motion to accept the with the corrections and changes to the new TSPN brochure and flyers. Chastain-Beal seconded and there were no objections; motion passed.

Other Business

Zero Suicide

Misty Leitsch, BBA, BSW, TSPN, Zero Suicide Director

- Leitsch informed the group that TSPN is currently have 27 agencies involved in the Zero Suicide Initiative
- I have had meetings with other agencies, and we are very close to bringing on the remaining 3 agencies. I am waiting to hear back from 3 (Journey Pure, Mercy, The Next Door).
- Since our last Advisory Council meeting, I have outreached to 25 different agencies. Out of those 25, we have signed on 4 new agencies (Cumberland Anesthesia, Revivalist, Health Connect, Soldiers, and Families Embraced).
- I have provided Technical Assistance on 108 separate occasions.
- I am working with Dr. Kelly Posner to develop/modify CSSRS training for Clinicians, to hopefully include scenarios and what if situations. Several agencies across the state have expressed interest in this.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline & Crisis Text Line

Scott Ridgway, MS, TSPN, Executive Director

- Ridgway informed the group that the recent call volumes from the Lifeline are included in the meeting packets; these were received from the Mental Health Association of New York City, which maintains the Lifeline’s national switchboard.
  - This handout shows that 12% of calls bounced to an out-of-state call center. The number of bounced calls has remained stable even as Tennessee call centers take on more calls overall.
  - The handout also provides information on the seven centers currently taking calls within Tennessee.
• Ridgway was advocating for more involvement and participation with the state (TNDMHSAS) at a recent GLS grant meeting about possibly rolling the number to the Statewide Crisis Line.

TDMHSAS Update
Morenike Murphy, LPC-MHSP, (Office of Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention, Division of Mental Health Services, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS), Director)

TDMHSAS Suicide Prevention Grants
• Final year of GLS connect grant, partnered with TSPN and CRI Centerstone of Tennessee, are applying for another round of funding for 5-year grant.
• Closed out Target 1, highlight, Misty and Centerstone follow up services, highlight reported, 70-page final report by Kirby to SAMHSA, the evaluators found that estimated cost savings for suicide inpatient was 3.3 million dollars. Subtract the grant amount, 2.7 million in cost savings. Looking at in TN, 2016 average charge 26,975 for inpatient hospitalization.
• Statewide policy and planning council yesterday, questions posed to Commissioner. The department, how we transport individuals in psych emergency and needing inpatient care, law enforcement isn’t the best way. As a result of conversations with multiple state departments, advocacy and consumer groups, Sheriff’s Association, and other key stakeholders, an Alternative Transportation Workgroup was form. Deputy Commissioner Matt Yancey serves as a convener and facilitator. Several stakeholders representing various agencies are participants. The workgroup’s mission is to create a report with options for consideration related to the creation of a statewide system to conduct a safe, second transport in the most humane, safe, efficient, and cost-effective way for persons who meet criteria for emergency, involuntary commitment. At this juncture no one knows where this will go.
• Budget hearings, Dept budget requests. The Governor had several questions. Among the Requests: 500k youth and adult mental health awareness and promotion, with a priority in suicide prevention.
• Mid-year data: July-December, 60k crisis calls, 17% from youth; of those 39k resulted in a face to face, 15% youth. 59% of 39k face to face was because of suicidality.
• Over 5k to crisis stabilization and 1,400 crisis rescue services
• Ensure the provision of crisis services in the continuum and improving the publics per…partnered with TAMHO for the development and implementation of a crisis services campaign. Mental health crisis line commercial. Featured the faces and voices of Centerstone crisis call talkers. Got a 30sec spot during the Grammys.
• Frontier Health, East TN, moving to new building, going have a separate entrance for their walk-in center and a children’s walk-in center. Sherri Feathers informed the group that Frontier Health purchased a new building in December.
• December/January was reporting season for TLC-Connect and TARGET2 grants. We submitted 8 separate reports in compliance with our federal grant requirements including an approximately 70-page Close-Out Report for TARGET1, which was in a one-year No-Cost Extension during FY18.

Executive Director’s Report
Scott Ridgway, MS, Executive Director, TSPN
The meeting packet includes minutes a summary of the latest available youth suicide data, as provided by the Department of Health:

- According to the CDC, suicide is the tenth-leading cause of death in the United States and the second-leading cause for Americans aged 10-24. It is the 9th leading cause of death in Tennessee.
- In 2017, Tennessee’s suicide rate was up by 6% over the previous year, from 16.2 per 100,000 to 17.3. There were 1,164 recorded suicide deaths, up 64 from the previous year. Tennessee’s suicide rate is 16% higher than that of the nation at large.
- Data indicates a dramatic rise in teen suicides. There were 51 suicide deaths among children 17 and under in 2017—there were 41 recorded in 2016. Please refer to the data sheet in your packet.
- Received 2017 Suicide Death data from the Department of Health. (Please see attached) TSPN hand delivered the 2018 Status of the Suicide Report to legislators last week.
- There have been twenty-one (21) school age deaths since the beginning of this school year, in August 2018. The most recent is a High School student in East TN.

The meeting packets include a chart showing suicide death numbers and rates for select youth age cohorts, as well as state rankings compiled by the American Association of Suicidology for 2016 and 2017.

- Ridgway stated that when he started as Executive Director of TSPN, Tennessee’s suicide rate was ranked 13th highest in the nation according to the American Association of Suicidology. In the most recent rankings (2015, 2016, 2017), Tennessee was at 22th highest. This is thanks to the hard work and impact of TSPN volunteers and partner organizations across the state. If not for this hard work, our state’s ranking would likely be even worse.
- Thanks to the Jason Foundation, the latest information concerning suicide in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which is conducted every two years, highlighted increases in “feeling unsafe” and “bullied at school” as indicators which are likely related to suicidal thoughts or attempts. Ridgway noted the potential role of social media in these phenomena. YRBS data is derived from self-report surveys from high school students.
- The statewide Child Fatality Review Board report for 2017 was recently finished and has been published. The report includes state recommendations for child fatality prevention based on input from local Child Fatality Review Boards. This latest report includes a recommendation regarding youth suicide prevention, specifically encouraging schools to take advantage of suicide prevention curricula such as QPR, LEA Checklist, and Youth Mental Health First Aid. The recommendations cover not only suicide but all forms of “intentional violence”—that is, suicide and homicide taken together.

As Chairwoman Harper mentioned about the new location of the International “Faces of Suicide” Memorial Wall, our goal is to eventually find a public place for this wall. We will continue to work with Metro Government to secure this. Thanks to Karyl Chastain Beal, and Ronnie Beal for their continued involvement and passion for the Wall.
• Ridgway had meetings with the TDMHSAS Rob Cotterman, Assistant Commissioner for Mental Health Services, and Bev Fulkerson, Deputy Commissioner for A&D, Division of Substance Abuse Services and attended the Budget Hearing for TDMHSAS, about possibly securing more funding for TSPN operations.
• The current list of Council members and terms has been provided. Members should e-mail the TSPN central office if they notice any inaccuracies. Ridgway noted that he is working with the Governor’s office to fill one vacancy and prepare for several forthcoming rotations off the Council I September 2019. He met the new staff in the office of Boards and Commission.
  o The Advisory Council and Intra-State Departmental Group rosters as they currently appear on the website; again, all corrections should be noted on the printout currently circulating submitted to the TSPN central office.
• The Phone application for Android is ready for download through the App store. The Apple, for I Phones, app will be ready for launch quite soon.
• TSPN is excited to work towards the annual Speak Up Save Lives event, with sponsorships now available.
• TSPN has raised over $11,000 in the last six months through Facebook.
• TSPN is excited to announce a partnership with National Association of Social Workers Tennessee Chapter to have CEUs available for all trainings, including QPR, ASIST, etc.
• As of this week, we have 389 license plates reserved. We must reach 1,000 reservations before July 1, 2019. There are 3 Emeritus, 5 Intra-state Department, 9 Advisory Council, and 5 staff reservations. Please help us spread the word to get more reservations for this license plate. If each person presents here today found one person to get the license plate; if all 75 TSPN representatives could get on other reservation, we will be well on our way.
• CONNECT Grant will end September 30, 2019. The grant total is 200,00 and funds two full positions along with materials. The Department of Mental Health plans on applying for the Garrett Lee Smith Grant again. CRI, Centerstone, and TSPN had a meeting to brainstorm about concepts the next grant with Director Murphy and Kirby.
• Natchez Trace Parkway Bridge Barrier Committee has been formed to focus on a barrier on the bridge due to the deaths by suicides. Ridgway, Trish Merelo, and Stoll are Co-Chairs of this committee.
• Ridgway met with Joseph Williams- Governor-elect transition team member on Wednesday, 1/2/19 about TSPN and the rise of Youth suicide and need for funding for suicide prevention.
• Ridgway announced that the suicide and ethic curriculum/training course and the activities are completed, TSPN will soon test this curriculum before rolling out.
• Ridgway has participated in the on the State Infrastructure committee with SPRC funded by SAMHSA, which is still in draft form, that will provide in depth suicide prevention suggestions and efforts.
• Make Your Voice Heard, Join Us for NAMI TN's Day on the Hill. Wednesday, February 20, 2019 | 10am, Cordell Hull Building, 8th Floor, as rates of suicides, opioid overdoses and other diseases of despair continue to climb in Tennessee, the fight for a better funded, more humane mental health system is more important than ever. We will be advocating to improve mental health policies and services in Tennessee and urging lawmakers about the importance of supporting our communities.
Also, TCCY’s 31 Annual Children’s Advocacy Days, March 12 and 13, 2019, War Memorial Auditorium, Nashville, TN.

Behavioral Health Day on the Hill is March 20th at War Memorial Auditorium, Nashville, TN.

Ridgway acknowledged the contributions of the Network staff for their continued service to the Network. Mike Anderson, as the new Upper Cumberland Regional Director based out of Cookeville, started November 15th. At this time, I would like to recognize Amy Dolinky for her four years of service.

Ridgway also acknowledged the continuing work of field placement students Brittany Maldonado and John Bazzanoas from APSU.

I will be on Vacation April 8th-15th

Each region should continue to press this on media and sharing to get these numbers up. We currently have 386 signed up.

Adjournment

Members were asked to mark their calendars for the next business meeting,

The next meeting will take place during the Advisory Council retreat at Montgomery Bell State Park Inn on June 5-6.

The September meeting will take place at Trevecca Community Church (335 Murfreesboro Pike in Nashville) at 1 PM on September 11 at 1 PM, following the Suicide Prevention Awareness Day program.

Next Advisory Council Meeting
2019 Advisory Council Retreat

Wednesday, June 5th starts at 1pm - Thursday, June 6th ends at noon
Montgomery Bell State Park Inn, 1000 Hotel Avenue, Burns, 37029

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:19 PM.