



Alaska Division of Behavioral Health Report to SSPC

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October 7th, 2013

Below is a summary of suicide prevention projects, programs and services that the DBH, Prevention and Early Intervention Services is coordinating throughout the state.

Comprehensive Behavioral Health Prevention Grants

The Annual Behavioral Health Prevention Grantee Meeting was held September 17-19th in Anchorage. The theme was “Healthy Communities Improve Lives”. Among the keynote speakers included, Katie Dively, from the Center for Health and Safety Culture, on the topic of Positive Community Norms; “*The Science of the Positive*”, and Jean Kilbourne, Ed.D. on the persuasion of media; “*Media and its Impact on Addictions, Body Image and Violence*”. A presentation was also given on “What’s New in Alaska Suicide Prevention.” that summarized emerging trainings and resources directed by the Division of Behavioral Health and the Department of Education and Early Development.

In addition, there were multiple suicide prevention workshops including a presentation on the “Qasgic” (Communal House) model that incorporates traditional Yupik cultural practices. There was also a presentation from two Alaska Association of Student Governments council members who helped to produce the suicide prevention film, “Railway of Hope” and two youth leaders involved in “Lead On”, a grass roots youth leadership initiative sponsored by the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Grantees also participated in Grantee Showcase Workshops that included a poster presentation that highlighted their efforts and outcomes towards improving lives in their communities. For additional information, handouts and or presentations given at the annual grantee meeting go to

<https://www.signup4.net/Public/ap.aspx?EID=20134747E>

Summary of Activities:

See August 2013 report for summary of strategies, activities and outcomes. No new information has been received from grantees since last report.

"Juneau Suicide Prevention Task Force", Juneau Youth Services	Suicide Funds \$ 286,512 Total Grant Award \$286,512
Youth Advisory Group. Asa'carsarmiut Tribal Council, City of Mountain Village	Suicide Funds \$ 65,000 Total Grant Award \$65,000
"Nulato Life Project" City of Nulato	Suicide Funds \$ 33,158 Total Grant Award \$ 55,263

Petersburg Mental Health Services, Petersburg	Suicide Funds \$ 36,505 Total Grant Award \$73,01
We Are All in this Together, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks	Suicide Funds \$ 37,500 Total Grant Award \$150,000

<i>"Alaska Careline"</i> , Interior Center for Non-Violent Living	FY14 Suicide Funds \$ 144, 057 Postvention Funds \$ 100,000 Treatment Funds \$ 55,943 GLS Text funds \$50,000 Total Award \$350,000
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Garrett Lee Smith, Alaska Youth Suicide Prevention Project SAMHSA grant

We completed our first year of the Garrett Lee Smith, Alaska Youth Suicide Prevention Project FY2013-FY2015. As described in earlier reports, the program will shift resources towards suicide prevention training, coordination and technical assistance to community groups, agencies and health providers that demonstrate a need for as well as commitment to suicide prevention training. This will allow increased capacity for agencies, groups and coalitions that have been newly formed or who are currently working to enhance a variety of community based suicide prevention trainings.



Summary of Activities:

- Revision of the Alaska Gatekeeper QPR Training Model (2 hr) is now complete.
 - # of QPR master trainers = 2 (3 pending)
 - # of QPR certified trainers = 53
 - # participants trained = 105
 - § Fairbanks 70,
 - § Anchorage- 25,
 - § Bethel- 10
- Next QPR certified training of trainers (TOT) to be held in Juneau, November 13-14th.

- Division of Juvenile Justice finalizing training plan for 90 community probation officers throughout the state. Plan includes protocols for early identification referral, and follow up for adolescents determined to be at risk of suicide.
- Pilot of Careline promotional materials, Text “**4help to 839863**”, continues to be distributed. Evaluation of text service, tracking of youth connected to supports and services and effectiveness of promotional materials underway.

Alaska Postvention Project



Summary of Activities:

- **Connect Postvention Training:** Recent training occurred in Petersburg. No new training of certified Connect trainers scheduled until next summer.
- **Postvention DVD:** Solstice Advertising was selected to produce, direct and film media based materials to address suicide *postvention* in Alaska. The 30 minute DVD will include postvention resources tailored for specific audiences, both rural and urban. First planning meeting to occur on November 1st. First focus group scheduled for December 6th.
- **Survivors of Suicide Loss Ad Hoc Group:** No new information. Working on securing contract with Visions to help coordinate venue and travel for a select group of invited survivors. Survivor group will include both survivors of suicide loss as well as survivors of suicide attempts as aligned with the intent of the Alaska Suicide Prevention Plan.
- **The Alaska Postvention Resource Guide, Helping Our Communities Heal:** The Alaska Postvention Toolkit which includes the guide and suicide survivor resource packet are currently being produced and printed. Guide has been delayed until **October 10th** completion date. Council members will receive a complete toolkit next month prior to International Survivors of Suicide Day, November 23rd.
- **Doorway to a Sacred Place :** Contract is currently being negotiated between the Division of Behavioral Health and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. (ANTHC) to pilot Doorway to a Sacred Place in three pilot rural communities. These communities have already been identified and are building support for implementation of the model. The manual is currently being finalized for print and efforts to seek support for evaluation from the Native American Center for Excellence, Services to Science Initiative has begun. Project will be a three year contract for \$125,000.