

**Connecticut Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative (CYSPI)  
Advisory Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes**

April 8, 2008  
United Way, Wethersfield, CT  
9:00 – 10:30 AM

In Attendance: Allison Case and Andrea Duarte, DMHAS; Amy James, UCHC; Susan Moores, United Way; Aliza Porth and Jessica Resnickoff, Enfield Youth Services; Barbara Sheldon, Parent; and Bill Turek, Consultant (Retired SDE).

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Contract Update

- Screening for Mental Health's contract complete and on it's way to Attorney General's office
- Memorandum of Agreement with DCF still in works to support EMPS collaboration, AMSR Training of Trainers and Community Awareness Campaign. Also allocates funds for travel and lodging expenses for TOT – an intense 3-day curriculum.

High School Component

- Cohort I SOS post-tests in progress. Amy has received positive feedback on program but reports a general misunderstanding of the utility of the evaluation among school coordinators.
- Andrea, Allison and Amy met with SDE Superintendents and Consultants March 24 to discuss project and school performance. Darleen Foley has been identified as our school liaison. Pat Ciccone will assist with planning of a Learning Community for school counselors and mental health professionals and arrange for CEUs.
- Andrea and Allison presented an overview of the project and school expectations to system Principals on April 3, including an excerpt from Friends for Life. Schools also received year-to-date process data. Many administrators seemed unaware of project requirements. A follow-up meeting with Assistant Principals is scheduled for April 10.
- Learning Community for SOS Coordinators is scheduled for May 5 at Wheeler Clinic's Plainville Business Center.
- Wright Tech in Stamford will participate in program activities during 2008-2009. They had previously not been involved because it was uncertain if they would enroll a freshman class or not.

Other

- Marianne has developed a survey for school personnel on suicide curricula and mental health programming. Andrea reported working with Cheryl Stockford and the Mental Health Transformation project at DMHAS, Bonnie Edmondson at SDE and Donna Heins at DPH to see if efforts and interests in behavioral/emotional health, HIV and STD and youth health and risk behaviors can be combined and incorporated with the School Health Profile process in 2010.
- SPRC is in the process of coordinating a conference call with states that have both GL Smith and MH Transformation initiatives to increase collaboration. CMHS will also participate.

Saint Francis Hospital-Quirk Middle School Pilot

- Andrea, Allison and Amy attended ADAPSA team meeting on March 27.
- Staffing changes – Freddie has accepted another position and is leaving Quirk. The Clinical Psychologist on staff will cover his project responsibilities. Jennifer at St. Francis will be out on maternity leave beginning in June. Clinic staff will cover her project-related assignments.

- Unexpended funds created by the delay in start-up of this component of the project will support hiring of staff to follow students from Quirk to Hartford High School.
- Staff continues to utilize web-based data entry system. Once entered, any changes to data must be requested through UCHC's Information Technology Department.
- Due to reported difficulty in obtaining evaluation consent it is anticipated that individual data from this component of the project will be limited and not representative.

#### College Component

- Andrea, Allison and Amy met with CSU schools on April 4. All schools submitted letters of intent to Wheeler in response to the mini-grant RFP.
- WestConn's Counseling Coordinator is retiring and our Grant Liaison is hoping to step in as interim Coordinator. ECSU is expected to make a decision very shortly regarding appointment of Acting Director Anne Patti.
- All schools are now trained on QPR. Central and Eastern just recently completed requirements. Both have scheduled additional trainings for this academic year.
- CCSU and ECSU will also be rolling out SOS this Fall.
- Contract goals for year are 30 staff trained in QPR and 100 new students exposed to SOS.

#### ASIST Training

- United Way is offering 8 sessions total over 2 years. May and October dates are booking up. DCF staff is excited to attend and feedback has been very positive. School nurses and other school staff have been difficult to schedule, as the training requires 2 consecutive full days.
- It is anticipated that a single, 5-day Training of Trainers workshop will be offered in April 2009. Week of April 13 – 17 is currently under consideration.

#### AMSR Training

- Next session to be held October 14. CEUs are only available for SDE/Connecticut Technical High School personnel.
- Andrea received very positive feedback from the project's cross-site evaluator, Macro International, on Training Utilization and Penetration Survey among sample of 10 attendees from October 2007 AMSR workshop and has forwarded a summary to both Wheeler and the curriculum developer.

#### Statewide Awareness Campaign

- 29 letters of intent received by deadline of April 4, including 2 current awardees and 2 prior applicants who were not funded. (List of applicants and state map of agency locations distributed for committee review.)
- Judy Stonger is coordinating review team that will meet May 20 between 9 am and 12 noon at the United Way. Anyone interested in participating in the review should contact her at Connecticut Clearinghouse.
- Andrea is exploring an opportunity to collaborate with CT's MH Transformation grant to access additional dollars for.

#### Funding and Re-Authorization

- Andrea reported that SAMHSA's budget has still not been approved. Richard McKeon, our CMHS GPO has indicated that, if necessary, SAMHSA may move GLSM Act funds out of the agency budget and seek approval separately.
- Strategic planning for re-authorization is underway, including a meeting with school-based health center coordinators on May 13.

Other 2

- Andrea compiled a Project Overview for CMHS GPO to share with Senator Dodd's staff in Washington and will distribute electronically to sub-committee for review and reference.
- Andrea shared letter from Christopher Shay acknowledging receipt of the sub-committee's letter supporting continued funding for GLS activities.
- Andrea reported that recommendations developed at the Youth Suicide Advisory Board's retreat on March 25 are consistent with grant activities and goals.
- Allison is attending the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual American Association of Suicidology Conference in Boston April 16-19.
- Subcontractor annual reports are due to Allison at DMHAS by June 15, 2008.

Upcoming Meetings

June 17; August 19; October 21; and December 16 from 9:00 – 10:30 AM at United Way

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Handouts: February 19 Meeting Minutes