



Region 2 Suicide Advisory Board Minutes

Time: Tuesday June 7, 2022 at 10:30 am via Zoom

Attendees:

Linda Milardo: APW, Taylor Gainey: APW, Melissa Keilty: Tri Town Youth Service Bureau, Gerry Baird: Clifford Beers, Nicole Mason: APW, Ann Petitti: Beacon Health Options, Amery Bernhardt: Center for School Safety, Anne Bernick: Wallingford Health Department, Nikki Kern: Coalition for Better Wallingford, Courtney Widrick Fitzkee: Town of East Hampton; Dena Miccinello: Durham Middlefield Local Wellness Coalition; Daniela Giordano: Beacon Health Options, Charles Dunn: Essex Ambulance; Melissa Howley: Saybrook Youth and Family

Welcome: Taylor Gainey opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present. Everyone at the meeting gave their name and affiliation.

She introduced guest speaker, Amery Bernhardt and provided an introduction. Amery Bernhardt was recently appointed as the Director of the Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation. He has a passion for school safety and collaboration. Amery retired from the Westchester County Department of Public Safety in New York, where he coordinated the School Resource Officer Program. He received a master's degree in Homeland Security where his thesis focused on school safety. He received a doctorate in management with a concentration in Homeland Security where his dissertation focused on multidisciplinary school threat assessment teams. He has extensive experience in all the phases of emergency management and received his Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) designation from the International Association of Emergency Managers. Amery has published several articles on school safety and multidisciplinary response.

Guest Speaker: Amery Bernhardt presented a power point on **Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation**. (CSSCP) The PowerPoint covered:

- Their mission Statement
- Multidisciplinary approach
- Equity, Collaboration Sustainability
- Their four Goals
- Outreach
- Professional Development
- CSTAG Training
- Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines & training
- Scholarship
- Needs Assessment Focus Group

- Needs Assessment Survey/Spring 2022
- Appreciative Approach

Group Suggestions/Comments on the CSSCP:

- Partnering with others and hearing their thoughts.
- The funding piece and multidisciplinary approach
- Collaborating RSAB and the Care initiative
- The appreciative approach
- Its important to still invest in mental health and postvention
- Language matters – fill in the gaps

Call to Action: Taylor shared the Postvention & Crisis Plan Flow Chart: She asked if the members of the group could please help with identifying: **Who are some people you can identify to be a part of the postvention/crisis response plan?**

Homework: Please fill out this chart if you have suggestions.

<u>Youth Service Bureau (YSB):</u> 	<u>EMPS/Adult Mobile Crisis:</u> 	<u>State and Local Police:</u>
<u>Local Prevention Council (LPC):</u> 	<u>Town CEO:</u> 	<u>APW:</u>
<u>Other Community Connections:</u> Sports Teams Community Groups	<u>Town Departments:</u> Human Services Health Dept./District Park & Rec	<u>Schools:</u> School Resource Office

Postvention Liaison: This person serves as direct contact for family after a suicide or a traumatic event

Family/Spokesperson:	Employer (HR, Employee Assistance Program):
Churches/Spiritual Leaders:	Military/Veterans Organizations:
Neighborhoods:	Support/Connection to Survivors:

What are some potential months you would like to host a postvention training for the members identified above?

Month:

Time of day:

Suggestions:

- Health Departments/Districts to town departments
- A legislative Committee
- Catholic War Veterans in Ansonia may be interested
- American Legions may also be interested
- Municipal community block parties with tables and info
- East Hampton has Ole Homes Day in July that is very well attended by the community
- There are a lot of farmers markets around the state
- Weekly concert series
- Pride Celebrations
- Participation in the Pride Celebrations around the state. There was “1 Word 1 Voice 1 Life” at the Pride Parade in Middletown this past Saturday
- Portland has evening concerts
- Adult & Child mobile crisis

Subcommittees: Taylor stated that they’re looking to create sub-committees for Veterans, LBGTQ+, Policy Committee. They would like to have community forums like AA or Tri-town meetings where they can share resources.

Nicole announced that there is a live event from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention APW Suicide Forum on FB live today from 3-5 pm.

Someone suggested: If you just share the Facebook page, folks can go there, and the live will be on their page.

AFSP has a calendar of events for Walk Teams for suicide prevention.

With there being no further discussion. Meeting adjourned

Next meeting: Tuesday August 2nd, 2022 at 10:30am via zoom

Respectfully Submitted:

Linda Milardo

Administrative Assistant