



Region 2 Suicide Advisory Board Minutes

Time: Tuesday April 5, 2022 at 10:30 am via Zoom

Welcome & Introductions

Attendees:

Lorrie McFarland (APW), Linda Milardo (APW), Taylor Gainey (APW), Melvin Wells (New Haven Prevention Council), Gerry Baird (Clifford Beers), Kara Sepulveda (Quinnipiac Valley Health District), Michael Awad (New Haven Prevention Council), Michael Makowski (Department of Public Health), Evan (student)

Speaker: Michael Makowski, DPH Epidemiologist, provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting Violent Death Victims Data between 2015-2021. He provided a breakdown of demographics for Region Two in areas of Suicide, Homicide, Victimization, Drug/Substance Use. He provided demographics by towns, race, age groups, *sex, method, accidental overdoses, etc. He said he will share the PowerPoint for full coverage of his presentation.

Mike introduced Evan, a high school sophomore student, who explained how easy it is for minors to have access to marijuana. He explained its popularity, and the implications/problems that arise in school.

Evan was asked if expulsion or suspension bears any weight as a consequence?

He said no because kids are transferred to another high school during that time.

He was asked about restorative justice/community service – and asked if that might be more valuable.

He believes community service would be helpful.

He was asked if they receive suicide prevention information?

He said yes.

He was asked if he thinks it was effective?

He stated that feels like prevention information is just attending another manual meeting / being forced to go.

He recommended that a more personal interaction or an interesting interaction would have a better affect.

He was asked if they had just a media presentation or both media and a person with lived experience?

He said they did have both – a power point and a person with lived experience. But it still wasn't engaging enough.

He was asked if he played sports and if having a panel address students could more useful?

He believes it could have an impact.

He was asked if sports act as a protective factor or is it a cultural thing to use substances?

He said sports is an escape and helps keep him focused and is a security. Off time from sports, students are exposed to more things with peers. In short – that sense of belonging to a group might make one decide to use.

Suicide Prevention Community Readiness Survey: Taylor explained what is in the survey and clarified that this is separate from the community readiness survey that's also out right now. She stated that this will help APW gain insight into what is happening in each community, and she will email it again later this month for everyone to share/complete the survey.

Planning for Suicide Prevention Month:

Kara Sepulveda is a Co-Chair for Out of the Darkness Community Walks and they have recently rebranded their name. They are having a fundraiser on Sun. 10/2/22. For dates and locations – email Kara at KS@qvhd.org. She will also share a flyer.

For the walks, people can also email me to get involved with the planning committee as we meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm via zoom or if they'd like to have a vendor table at the walk itself. Medication Take Back Day is scheduled this month for Saturday, April 30th from 10am-2pm.

Collaboration Updates:

Lorrie McFarland stated that EMS & Paramedics are now required to train for Suicide Prevention and for MHFA. QPR is the most known for suicide prevention and APW has been using that.

Taylor Gainey asked if anyone as contacts with any high schools in our region that would be interested in giving the Brian Dagle Foundation the opportunity to host their LAX2Live Lacrosse game day event, as they're looking to expand to Region 2.

Melvin Wells stated that he knows the coach at Wilbur Cross High School and is willing to connect Taylor. Melvin also coaches Hamden Hall Lacrosse. He is in the process of finding speakers. He asked Taylor to email him the LAX2Live information.

Kara Sepulveda is interested in partnering also. She asked if Taylor could email the information.

Taylor asked if anyone would like to share any other information:

A few stated that getting more people involved in advocacy is the biggest challenge.

Next meeting: Tuesday June 7th at 10:30 via zoom

Respectfully Submitted:

Linda Milardo

Administrative Assistant