

Summary of Suicide Prevention Oversight Committee (SPOC) Meeting May 20, 2011

1. The SPOC approved the charter of the three workgroups: (a) **Intervention**, (b) **Communications**, and (c) **Policy & Governance**. It was agreed that for the Interventions Workgroup, it would be best not to create distinct and separate workgroups based on age groups. Alternate means were discussed to ensure that all ages and other demographic groups benefit from the messaging and community education campaign as well as implementation of intervention strategies.

The SPOC also agreed that the Policy & Governance workgroup would be best served by meeting on an ad-hoc basis, instead of being a standing workgroup meeting, given the slow nature of this type of advocacy.

2. The group members agreed that it would be wise to improve the community's awareness about police officers who have had additional training in mental health (MH) issues, that is, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trained officers, wherever we advertise to call 911 for Emergencies. Recommended wording is **"For Emergencies call 911 and request a CIT Trained officer- someone who has additional training in mental health issues."**

The limited availability of trained CIT officers was discussed and the group decided awareness was an important goal and a good advocacy piece. Kathy Forward of NAMI stated that consumers and family members can be encouraged to call the non-emergency numbers of local PDs instead of 911, when applicable, and possibly prevent a crisis situation.

In support of this effort, the SPOC also agreed to more broadly promote the **Emergency Response Plan** to individuals living with mental illness. Developed jointly by Santa Clara County Mental Health, NAMI of Santa Clara County, and mental health consumers, this form serves to provide a means for family members to communicate about their relative's mental health history pursuant to AB 1424, which requires that all individuals making decisions about involuntary treatment consider information supplied by family members. This form can be used in time of crisis and provided to police officers, judges, and mental health clinicians. www.namisantaclara.org/docs/AB1424-summary.pdf

3. Innovation 7: The relevance of Mental Health & Law Enforcement Post-Crisis Intervention project (INN-07) to suicide prevention was discussed by members who proposed that future collaboration with this initiative may be useful. (overview available at [Innovation Plan Summaries](#))

4. **Suicide And Crisis Services (SACS) Call Volume:** There has been a recent surge in the call volume of SACS. For the past few years, the call volume has been approximately 3000 calls a month. However, **almost 10-15% increase has taken place in the last two months:** SACS received 3,609 calls in March and 3560 calls in April, 2011. Periodically, call volume does increase to this level, but it also follows the outreach efforts made by the Mental Health Dept to promote the new toll free number 1-855-278-4204.
5. Join us in **celebrating NAMI's Family –to-Family education program being recognized as an Evidence Based Practice!** The article announcing this in the NAMI Advocate is attached for your reference
6. We discussed various resources, and the group requested we provide everyone with the following links:
 - After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools from American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP): This is ideal for schools to incorporate it in their crisis plan in advance of a suicide loss.
http://www.afsp.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.viewPage&page_id=7749A976-E193-E246-7DD0A086583342A1
 - Survivor Outreach Program of AFSP: For details, please visit
http://www.afsp.org/index.cfm?page_id=45225B03-FBF2-AEBB-C260FDE7B93D1BCF A local volunteer coordinator for this program (listed on this web page) matches those requesting a visit with a suitable volunteer, who is usually someone who has had a similar loss. Of note is that the write up states, "AFSP volunteers are only able to meet with bereaved families and friends who have personally requested a visit."
 - For Continuity of Care Subsequent to Discharge from an Emergency Department or an Inpatient Psychiatry Unit, the following is an excellent and comprehensive resource:
http://www.suicidology.org/c/document_library/get_file?folderId=236&name=DLFE-331.pdf
 - "Safe and Effective Messaging for Suicide Prevention" from Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) is available at
<http://www.sprc.org/library/SafeMessagingfinal.pdf> Additionally, you may find many other resources on SPRC website very useful.

The next meeting of SPOC will be on July 15, 2011 from 9-11am.