

## **Summary of Suicide Prevention Oversight Committee (SPOC) Meeting September 16, 2011**

Eight committee members and two staff members attended the meeting on September 16, 2011. For your reference, the discussion is summarized below:

1. Suicide and Crisis Services (SACS) hotline of the County now has a single number: 855-278-4204. The old 408 and 650 numbers were disconnected on August 24, 2011. However, if callers dial any of the old numbers, they will hear the recording: "The crisis hotline number that you dialed has been changed. The new toll-free crisis hotline number is: 1 – 855 – 278 – 4204. You may also call 911 if you are in a life-threatening emergency."

In July meeting, SACS call volume was presented to SPOC members. (see attached spreadsheet). Some MHD consumers preferred local 408 numbers, and are not willing to shift to the new 855 number. As SACS functioned like a warm-line to such callers, Dr Pena stated that in future, MHD may consider establishing a new warm line.

2. Dr Shashank Joshi, chair of the data workgroup, provided an update on this workgroup. He stated that the discussions so far have shown:
  - The databases maintained by various organizations in the county are disparate. For example, Juvenile Hall still collects data on suicide ideations but VA and law enforcement organizations don't. Further "Suicide Ideation" needs to be defined.
  - There is a consensus amongst workgroup member organizations that they will collect data only on attempts and completions. However, attempts will be classified further based on the severity of the attempt. Also, additional demographic data will be collected, which needs to be further defined.
  - There is a move towards electronic sharing of data between organizations. Discussions have been going on between Coroner's office and MHD for several months as a result of which Coroner's office has modified the data collected to include additional data for suicide deaths such as number of prior attempts. Also, Coroner's office has consulted with County Counsel regarding ability to provide de-identified data electronically to the Suicide Prevention Coordinator.
  - Dr. Joshi recommends trying to standardize on psychological autopsy protocols, to be developed further.

The reason behind discrepancy between numbers reported by State databases and coroner's office were discussed.

3. Michael Donohue of Kara gave an update on the intervention workgroup:
  - Intervention workgroup has met twice so far. Shelly Gillan of Kara and Carlos Aguila of EMQ have volunteered to co-chair the workgroup.
  - All members of the workgroup have been asked to develop a work-plan for their efforts.
  - The group is working on developing the resource directory.
  - For catering to the needs of the younger tech-savvy population, there is a need to develop a small cell-phone application that lists: (a) Contact numbers of three persons (resources) who a person in crisis can call; (b) Suicide and Crisis hotline number; and (c)

911. Anyone who knows of an apps developer is requested to please refer them to SP Coordinator.

4. Update on Community Ambassador Program for Seniors (CAPS) was provided on behalf of Mike Torres of Council on Aging Silicon Valley (COASV). COASV is funding a new program similar to CAPS program in Fremont, which will be called Senior Peer Advocate Program (SPA). The curriculum is being developed and training for first batch of 15 volunteers is expected in early Oct, 2011.
5. Vic Ojakian provided an update of Policy and Governance Advocacy workgroup. Two cities and 37 school districts have adopted or are on the verge of adopting the suicide prevention policy so far. Upcoming free QPR training accounts will be used as an incentive to promote suicide prevention policy in different organizations.
6. Dr Pena provided the background behind California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) statewide projects. Santa Clara County is now a part of Regional/Local Suicide Prevention Capacity Building Program funded by CalMHSA. As part of this program, the county intends to certify its SACS hotline with AAS. The advantage is that the county will follow an evidence-based model, and will get support from experts.

Other projects of CalMHSA were briefly discussed. Free ASIST training for trainers is being provided by LivingWorks as part of CalMHSA grant; 2-3 persons from Santa Clara County including one staff member plans to attend.

7. An update on trainings and other outreach activities of MHD was provided.
8. PEI P5 Suicide Prevention Annual Update is due to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors December 2011. The group discussed what should be in the annual update and process to be used for your input. Outline was agreed upon and SPOC members agreed to review bulleted itemization of accomplishments and efforts, and provide their feedback to SP Coordinator. For your convenience, the report is enclosed again.

The next meeting of SPOC is scheduled for Friday, November 18, 2011, 9-11am.