

**Suicide Prevention Council**  
*of St. Joseph County and Surrounding Areas*  
**GENERAL Meeting**  
February 16, 2005

**Next Meeting: March 16, 2005 4pm YWCA**

Present: Laura Medow, Theresa Carrico, Bonnie Strycker, Melissa Ropp, Barbara Carrasco, Morgan Monte, Casey Norton, Ann Thomas, Abbee Smith, Monica Eblen, Ed Friend

A. Introduction/Roster Changes: **look for updated Roster via email**

*New Council Members:*

Casey Norton RN Community Relations: Provider Relations Manager  
403 E. Madison Street, South Bend, IN 46617  
phone 283-1296 cell 261-0256 email: [caseyn@madison.org](mailto:caseyn@madison.org)

Morgan Monte, University of ND Junior interested in young adult suicide prevention efforts. [mmonte@nd.edu](mailto:mmonte@nd.edu) phone 634-2305

Abbee Smith, LCSW Psychotherapist: Intrigue Counseling  
JMS Building , 108 N. Main St., Suite 305 South Bend, IN 46601  
Phone 234-3515 email: [abbeesmithlcsw@aol.com](mailto:abbeesmithlcsw@aol.com)

B. Minutes Reviewed and approved.

C. Old Business:

1. ASIST training planned for Steven Bright: Last week in February
  - a. new ASIST training dates to be set with **Melissa and Steven** once his training is complete; then the Council will begin marketing.(suggested ongoing schedule: May, Aug, Nov, Feb)
2. New council meeting times: alternating months lunch (11:45am) vs 4pm meetings. *New meeting calendar attached to minutes.*
3. Student Projects in Nano's "Dilemas of Suicide" Course at St. Mary's. 3 projects chosen with deadlines of April 21<sup>st</sup>. *Contact project coordinator if you would like to participate in any of the below projects.*
  - a. Council awareness brochures- 2 students working with Rebekah Go
  - b. Screening tool for E.R.- one student working with Keely Paston
  - c. brochure for November 18<sup>th</sup> Survivor Workshop with Frank Campbell - 2 students designated. Laura will coordinate
4. Survivor Workshop November 18<sup>th</sup> -speaker Frank Campbell. Subcommittee developed to review materials and share ideas for the focus of our workshop.

- a. Recent workshop in Fort Wayne: What we know about traumatic loss, grief, and survivor loss. How we can help survivors throughout the lifespan
- b. Designated subcommittee will make a workshop curriculum recommendation to the Council at the next meeting. \*Monica Eblen, Theresa Carrico, Ann Thomas, Abbee Smith\*
  - i. Consider a panel discussion of not only survivors, but area professionals as well: eg. John McIntosh, Dr. V. Thomas Mawhimey (Psychology and Behavioral Family Health specialist), etc.
  - ii. Does council want a partner in presenting the workshop?
  - iii. Need to acquire CEUs for workshop and ASIST prior. *Check with council member agencies for ability to provide for us.*
- c. Council should try to pair an ASIST training session with the workshop; Wed/Thurs November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.
- d. Andi Press expressed interest in sponsoring this in memory of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her father's death by suicide.

5. Hotline (see Jan minutes)

- a. New national suicide prevention lifeline hotline number for printed materials (from S.A.V.E.) is 800-272-TALK
- b. Barbara Carrasco will find out where callers are currently routed to since this is not a local number; then Council can make sure the receiving site of the calls has an appropriate regional mental health referral listing for callers from our area.
- c. Once routing information has been determined we can move forward on our printed materials which will contain both the lifeline number and local numbers previously determined.
- d. Would St. Mary's University be interested in developing a crisis center considering the federal monies now available? (Nano)

D. Committee Reports:

1. Governance committee:

- a. revised ASIST trainers agreement (MOU) was distributed and reviewed by Bonnie Strycker.
  - i. MOU allows us to effectively communicate this community education as a true collaborative effort and defines expectations for organizations as well as trainers who function as ambassadors to the council
  - ii. Feedback requested before next meeting.
  - iii. Final version to be presented by Bonnie at next meeting.
- b. bylaw and policy development:

- i. *All ASIST requests for training are to be forwarded to the council chair, who is to be considered the only designated council representative for ASIST communications. This will enhance our overall communications within the council and outside as well.*
- ii. *council forms requesting money as disbursements or reimbursements were reviewed. All purchasing requests must be approved by Council chair prior to purchase.*

## 2. Education Reports

- a. Council brochure: Rebecca Go working on this with two St. Mary students.
  - i. Format will focus on Suicide Prevention with lesser focus on the council; inserts will be specific to target audiences.
  - ii. [Rebekah](#) will present the brochure ideas for revision suggestions at March meeting.
  - iii. Final brochure will be presented at the next meeting at which time only typos and grammar corrections will be accepted.
- b. ASIST Scholarships- school superintendent meetings through CONNECT will probably not be scheduled in the near future. [Bonnie](#) indicated the best mechanism to accomplish this at this time would be to call the superintendents directly and will get contact information from the CONNECT administrative assistant. [Laura](#) will make these contacts
- c. Teen Resource Cards- tabled. Awaiting clarified phone information

## 3. Research

- a. E.R. suicide risk screening tools- [Keely Paston](#) is working with a St. Mary's student on this and will present progress at next meeting.
- b. Discharge coding evaluation- tabled. Ask [John](#) if he would like to champion this

## 4. Community Collaboration- no report

## 5. Awareness

- a. Website-
  - i. ASIST section needs updating. Take dates out and add "contact Laura Medow 574-220-6381 for next session". [John](#)
- b. News/ Media
  - i. billboard- contact not yet made. S.A.V.E. billboard campaign available. [Laura](#) to follow-up.
- c. Laura shared her PowerPoint detailing the need for suicide awareness, the council and it's local collaborative efforts that was presented that morning at the Community Networking Breakfast to approx 30 participants along with presentations on suicide facts/statistics and an overview of Teen Screen.
  - i. Target audience focused presentations needed for awareness talks.
  - ii. Need Council members to review and refine with Laura for focused presentations.

1. [Ann Thomas and Melissa Ropp](#) offered to assist Laura in creating the focused Powerpoints,
  2. [Melissa](#) will see if Suicide Talk from Livingworks would be of use.
6. Other Announcements/ Discussions:
- a. On March 8 from 8:30-2:30 there will be a workshop on Stress Management, Grieving, Terrorism Stress, and Media Cooperation at Holy Cross College. \$10 fee. Interested parties should contact Ed Friend.
  - b. Monica Eblen expressed her opinion that awareness and educational pieces should shy away from the wording “mental health illness” and instead refer to problems as “issues” (eg. “Emotional issues”). Monica feels the former wording alienates individuals who don’t want to be labeled ‘crazy’
  - c. Out of the Darkness Walk: The overnight walk is to take place in Chicago in July, not during the winter. It is sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention as mentioned at last meeting. Here's the website: <http://theovernight.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=66181>
7. **Next meeting March 16<sup>th</sup> : 4pm at the YWCA. Lunch meetings on alternate months will now be at 12:15 (instead of 11:45) to be most accommodating. . Please note the change on your calendars. Lunch will still be provided.** See NEW CALENDAR attached below.

**Calendar of Meeting Dates: (meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of each month)**

March 16	4pm	YWCA
April 20	12:15	Madison Center (MC) Meeting Room East. Lunch provided
May 18	4pm	YWCA
June 15	12:15	MC Meeting Room East Lunch provided
July 20	4pm	YWCA
Aug 17	12:15	MC Meeting Room East. Lunch provided
Sept 21	4pm	YWCA
Oct 19	12:25	MC Meeting Room East. Lunch provided
Nov 16	4pm	YWCA

Dec 21 12:15 MC Meeting Room East. Lunch provided