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2009 Annual Meeting of the Texas Suicide Prevention Council

The Texas Suicide Prevention Council was formed by statewide associations and organizations, which agreed to support one or more of the goals of the Texas State Plan for suicide prevention and local suicide prevention coalitions throughout the state.

Since the last Coming Together To Care symposium one year ago, these groups have been the main force behind the implementation of the Texas State Plan for Suicide Prevention. We now have 15 local suicide prevention coalitions and 18 statewide organizations as members of the Council. The Council, statewide “partners” and the local coalitions have had group conference calls on a quarterly basis and developed formal working committees and operating procedures to promote and coordinate suicide prevention across the state. In addition, last year they updated the Texas State Plan for Suicide Prevention, which is posted on the organization website: TexasSuicidePrevention.org.

The work done by statewide organizations and local coalitions:

- helped to secure the Texas Youth Suicide Prevention grant (which supports the Council and this symposium),
- supported the DSHS crisis services redesign which included the requirement for Texas MHMR crisis centers to be certified by American Association of Suicidology,
- supported suicide prevention gatekeeper training and other prevention best practices
- updated the Coming Together To Care Suicide Prevention Toolkit and added a section on postvention
- formed a postvention task force to assist communities with suicide clusters & contagion
- supported statewide efforts to secure an additional \$55 million in new state funding this year to help individuals avoid mental health crises
- supported outreach and education related to timely collection of suicide data (HB 1067)

Texas Suicide Prevention Council Statewide Members (18 statewide organizations as of August 2009)

Advocacy, Inc.

**American Association of University Women
Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance/Texas**

Governor’s EMS & Trauma Advisory Council

Grant Halliburton Foundation

Jason Foundation at The Oaks

Mental Health America of Texas

Montrose Counseling Center (representing GLBT statewide groups)

National Alliance on Mental Illness/Texas

National Association of Social Workers/Texas

Texas Association of Marriage & Family Therapists

Texas Council of Community MHMR Centers

Texas Department of Family & Protective Services

Texas Department of State Health Services

Texas Health & Human Services Commission

Texas Juvenile Probation Commission

Texas Parent Teacher Association

Texas Psychological Association

2008-2009 Accomplishments for Statewide Organization Members of the Texas Suicide Prevention Council

Public Information & Awareness: 7 Organizations Have Crisis Information /Links on Websites; 18 Received and/or Distributed Brochures & Toolkits; 6 involved in Media Relations

- Crisis line information and/or links related to suicide prevention is included in web sites by Grant Halliburton Foundation, Montrose Counseling Center, MHAT, GETAC, DSHS, Texas Council of Community MHMRAs, and NAMI-Texas.
- Suicide Prevention brochures and toolkits were sent to all statewide organizational members for distribution to stakeholders
- Media relations support with news releases, articles and/or media interviews was provided by Grant Halliburton Foundation, MHAT, NAMI, DSHS , TPA and Jason Foundation

Public education on mental health and suicide issues: All 18 statewide organizations provided public education on various mental health and suicide issues including

- Support/Education for new state funding in mental health,
- Children's mental health initiatives
- Mental health parity issues
- Support/Education for suicide surveillance and timely data including education on HB 1067
- Various statewide rules and regulations

Conference presentations or workshops on suicide prevention: 13 Organizations Had Conference Presentations or Workshops on Suicide Prevention

- The following organizations had one or more conference presentations or workshops on suicide prevention – DBSA, DSHS, GETAC, Grant Halliburton, Jason Foundation, MHAT, Montrose Counseling Center, NAMI-Texas, NASW-Texas, TJPC, TDFPS, TxPTA, and Texas Council of MHMRAs

Gatekeeper training: 10 Organizations Supported Gatekeeper Training

DBSA, DSHS, Grant Halliburton Foundation, Jason Foundation, MHAT, Montrose Counseling Center, NASW-Texas, NAMI, TJPC, and TxPTA supported gatekeeper training & community outreach

Suicide prevention grants: 2 Organizations received suicide prevention grants

- DSHS and MHAT continued work on the SAMHSA Youth Suicide Prevention Project Grant
- DSHS and MHAT received a grant from Title 5 for the 2009 Coming Together to Care Suicide Prevention Symposium
- DSHS received a grant from Title 5 for regional Child Fatality Review Team Workshops to include suicide prevention training
- MHAT received support from Noven Therapeutics for Hispanic Youth Suicide Prevention

In addition, Texas Health & Human Services Commission and Texas Department of State Health Services reports that their organizations:

- Provided training to select LMHAs and SA staff (QPR Suicide Triage)
- Required Health Specialists at Education Service Centers to offer suicide prevention training
- Developed guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Suicide Risk in Texas State Hospitals
- Assisted in making connections among Texas 211 and suicide prevention
- Assisted in making connections between related interagency behavioral health focused groups
- Explored opportunities with interagency activities for appropriate inclusion of mental health/behavioral health screens/assessments.
- Assisted in offering subject matter experts/presenters for training on suicide prevention.
- Ensured that the agency's media/external relations division is informed of best practice protocols for reporting suicide deaths & attempts.

Annual Meeting of the Texas Suicide Prevention Council Local Suicide Prevention Coalition Report

(15 city, county, regional or university members, as of August 2009)

Austin/Travis County Suicide Prevention Coalition
Bastrop County Suicide Prevention Coalition
Brazoria County Suicide Prevention Coalition
Dallas /North Texas Area Suicide Prevention Coalition
I AM HERE Dallas Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition
East Texas (Tyler) Suicide Prevention Coalition
Fort Worth/Tarrant County Suicide Prevention Coalition
Houston Area Suicide Prevention Coalition
Heart of Texas (Waco) Suicide Prevention Coalition
Highland Lakes (Burnet County/Marble Falls) Suicide Prevention Coalition
San Antonio Suicide Prevention Coalition
San Marcos/Hays County Suicide Prevention Coalition
Southeast Texas (Beaumont) Suicide Prevention Coalition
Texas Panhandle (Amarillo) Suicide Prevention Coalition
University of Texas at Austin Suicide Prevention Coalition (in formation)

2008-2009 Summary of Accomplishments for Texas Local Suicide Prevention Coalitions

Coalition Development

6 new coalitions were formed within last year
Brazoria County; East Texas ; I AM HERE (Dallas Youth); Panhandle (Amarillo); San Marcos and 1 University coalition being formed (UT Austin which has new suicide prevention web site <http://cmhc.utexas.edu/bethatone/>)
1 coalition has lost facilitators and needs assistance-- Heart of Texas (Waco)

Coalition meetings and/or Public Awareness Outreach

10 coalitions have regular meetings and/or involvement in Public Awareness Outreach & Media Relations

Gatekeeper training

10 coalitions have assisted with gatekeeper training in their area (ASIST, QPR, Jason Foundation, Yellow Ribbon, or others)

Survivors of Suicide Support

8 coalitions have assisted with survivors of suicide conferences and/or local survivors of suicide groups with a new SOS group started in San Marcos

Surveillance & Data Collection

6 coalitions have been involved in surveillance and data collection projects

Advocacy & Public Education

12 coalitions (including 2 of the newly formed coalitions) have supported public education for the development of mental health and suicide prevention infrastructure by sharing information about mental health parity and other local and statewide issues such as H.B. 1067