

MINUTES 4/6/2020 Suicide Prevention Task Force

7:00 - 8:30 am

Via Zoom

Present:

Carolyn Normington

Bill Lehr

John Kelly

Melinda Bobo

Aaron Preece

Jackie Downie

Aaron Preece

Mardy Sleight

Matthew Daniels

Trisha Scott

COVID updates:

Schools: Carolyn will be holding Zoom meetings with middle school students to meet counseling needs. All school mental health crises will be referred to High Country. Sub 9 school schedule is on their website.

Churches: Melinda reported that some churches are holding online services. Melinda observed that there is a hunger for people to see each other. Mardy reported that youth groups are meeting over Zoom.

High Country: No observed increase in call volume due to COVID. Most clients are being seen via Zoom or telehealth.

Wind River Mental Health Advocates: Meetings are every Thursday 7 -8 pm, via Zoom. Call Hank Williams to be put on the Zoom invite: 307-360-7926. This is a peer-to-peer support group and qualifies as sober support for those needing sober support hours.

Public Health: All agencies part of the COVID Emergency Response are required to have a mental health plan for employees in place. Public Health staff is doing scheduled mental health check-ins as a team, twice a week.

Community: Travis Bingham is interested in a plan for mental health support for first responders when there is need. Randy is interested in getting "wellness in a time of COVID" info onto social media sites.

Agenda Items:

- **QPR:** Questions discussed: Can QPR be adapted to offer remotely? Will there be a demand? Some members say it is more relevant/important to focus on basic needs assistance, right now. If we do continue to offer QPR during this time, who should we be reaching out to? Can employees get paid by their employers to take QPR? Can QPR be classified as workforce training for servers and hotel employees? No consensus was reached. We want more information. By Friday this week, Trisha and Matthew will look into adapting the QPR powerpoint to a zoom format. Trisha and Matthew will contact the Chamber and ask Darrin if the Chamber would partner with the coalition to reach out to businesses to assess interest. Mardy will initiate contact with Big Piney youth groups to assess interest in QPR via Zoom.

- **Focused message:** Trisha and Deanne have focused mainly on getting information on basic needs resources out to the entire county over these media platforms: direct mail, social media, newspapers, Pinedale online. Members of this group expressed interest in beefing up that presence with radio, to promote home loan and rent assistance; videos of local bankers promoting loan forbearance programs that could be housed on the website and that churches can share with their members; a “community check-in” via zoom, for frequently asked questions related to basic needs information; and adding the local 209 and state 211 call line info to Bob Rule’s hourly radio coronavirus update. Trisha will visit with Bob Rule before Friday and report.
- **Don’t reinvent the wheel:** The task force wants to support and actively promote the basic needs assistance information coming out during COVID-19 because connecting people to basic needs decreases suicide risk.

Members agreed to review meeting notes and share info updates via email on all action items over the next 2 weeks.

8:45: Adjourn.