

MINUTES: SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE 12/2/2019

7:30 - 8:30 am

St. Andrews Church, downstairs

Present:

Jackie Downie

John Kelly

Melinda Bobo

Melissa Harrison

Randy Belton

Matthew Daniels

Aaron Preece

Trisha Scott

Bill Lehr

Meeting Notes:

- **QPR report:** Over 50 Gatekeepers trained since 9/18, including trainings at medical clinics, UCC Church, Church of the Resurrection, DFS, Food Basket, Marbleton Senior Center, and the Pinedale Library. Trainings scheduled at Skyline Academy for Dec 18 and 19. Jackie and Melinda are scheduled to teach Skyline Gatekeeper trainings. Suggested outreach for next round of trainings: VFW, Bartenders, Ultra and other Oil and Gas Businesses, high schools, Chamber of Commerce - ask the Chamber to promote it to local businesses. Question raised: Is it more effective to teach female and male high schoolers separately, will they be more likely to participate when they are with their own gender? Conclusion reached that QPR is more a brief class than a discussion and it is optimum to work with the school schedule and not ask schools to make special arrangements. Increase effort to meet with Big Piney Superintendent to learn what they need and offer our resources. Bill Lehr agreed to go with Trisha to meet the new superintendent.
- **International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day:** Big thank you to Melissa and Jackie for all their work on logistics to make this happen. 15 people attended. 4 survivors spoke and offered their wisdom, notably: "Don't blame yourself". Some present thought that 4 survivors was a small number, some present thought that the number was not as significant as the connection and conversation. Melinda said that "fighting the stigma" is still huge, word of mouth that this was a safe event will bring more people next year, Melinda also suggested that advertising the length of the film (15 minutes) will help bring people. Those present at the event described the film "Pathways to Healing" as excellent. Suggestions for follow up: Reach out to those who attended to thank them for coming, promote Jackie's group, gauge interest in a Big Piney group, and start an email contact list. Ask the group email what is best time frame for follow up emails? Opportunity to promote "you are not alone" undertone. Trisha will get with Melissa and Jackie to work on a follow up email.
- **Title 25:** Thank you again to Sheriff Lehr, Sarah Hixson from High Country Behavioral Health, and Stan Cannon and Mike Crosson of the County Attorney's office for attending and presenting at this meeting. Task force members reported it was especially useful to learn some practical suggestions for how the task force might support the Sheriff's Office

on mental health crisis calls. The Sheriff recommended “Get Help Now” laminated wallet cards and refrigerator magnets with a short list of local and national resources that LE can hand out. **We discussed the following numbers for the Get Help Now card:**

1. High Country; 2. VA Hotline; 3. SAFV Task Force;

4. Medical Clinics; 5. National suicide hotline numbers, text info, and websites.

Backside of card could have a map/guide for how family and friends can make a plan for getting help. Discussion of having a local crisis line managed by coalition members led to discussion of liability issues. Matthew raised the question: What would be appropriate trainings for coalition members with lived experience? John will look into Peer Specialist training and report logistics at next meeting. Members agreed to look at Wall St. Journal article that Jackie recommended for a model of how community members can work with law enforcement on suicide calls, members also agreed to review the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) model, which trains law enforcement, mental health workers, and community members to work together to “de-escalate” potential Title 25 calls.

Discussion of Peer Specialist training, the CIT model, and the WSJ model will be on the agenda January 6.

8:45: Adjourn formal meeting