

## MINUTES - 10/7/19 SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

7:30 - 8:30 am

St Andrew's Church

### Present:

Matthew Daniels

McKenzie Staley

Aaron Preece

John Kelly

Bill Lehr

Randy Belton

Melinda Bobo

Jackie Downie

Melissa Harrison

Trisha Scott

### Meeting Notes:

Welcome and introduction of new members, McKenzie Staley and Melissa Harrison.

### Comments from September Suicide Prevention Awareness Month activities and notes to save for next year:

- **Candlelight Walks, what went well:** Excellent turnout for both Piney and Pinedale walks, 55 in Piney and 75 + in Pinedale. Thank you to Aaron Preece for his outreach with youth groups to make these big numbers happen. Thank you to St. Andrew's, Big Piney LDS Church, Pinedale LDS Church and UCC Church for participating in the services afterwards. **Notes for next year:** Pre-walk: Need to have better instructions for where to walk: the sidewalk, the street? Coordinate with Sheriff escort about walking in the street. Post walk: Confer and meet with all speakers for any comments after the walk to be sure all speakers are staying with best practice messages for suicide prevention. Consider all speakers be QPR trainers or QPR trained. Consider offering QPR to area pastors to promote best practices. Consider moment of silence as part of post walk. Consider having youth do talks, prayers, or lead the walks. Follow up with QPR meetings in each of the youth groups (in their own venues).
- **Films, what went well:** Between Pinedale and Big Piney, about 70 people showed up for a total of 4 film showings. All task force members who were present at the films reported good audience engagement in the discussion after the films; BPHS teachers in attendance invited the task force to show documentaries to small classes and provide opportunities for discussion. Films gave excellent opportunity to promote community QPR trainings. Some members reported they felt that "The S Word" was more effective for generating audience conversation than "The Ripple Effect" as it represented more diversity and more people's stories. Matt Daniels noted that there is strong community support for suicide prevention, evidenced by local businesses donating food and advertising. **Notes for next year:** In response to low student attendance at the films, Aaron suggested prepping for student involvement by building partnerships with youth groups and schools. Provide QPR to youth groups. Explore "follow up" curriculum to recommend to schools. Jackie Downie recommended discussing Sources of Strength, and/or other curriculum proposals, with Skyline Academy principal David Shaw. Skyline Academy could possibly be a pilot program. Jackie and Melissa and Trisha will ask to

meet with Mr. Shaw to gauge interest and offer info. Bill Lehr offered his experience that getting community buy in to a comprehensive curriculum can be a 1 year process. Matthew recommended a 1 hour run time for the film to allow more time for discussion. John questioned if 1 film on each side of the county might be enough to prevent suicide fatigue. McKenzie recommended having youth speak at events throughout the year and not wait for next September. Mardy Sleight contributed this feedback via phone: Go to schools in person 2 days before films to promote, use SCSO facebook page to link to the website to promote events; "kids are scared to talk about suicide, they need to know it's OK to ask questions and where to go for help if they need it."

#### **QPR training news:**

12 people trained at UCC on 9/19. Way to go, Jackie and Matthew for getting us started on our goal!

#### **Upcoming trainings:**

**Friday 10/11 at 10 am at Food basket for Food Basket employees.**

**Monday 10/14 at 7 pm at the Church of the Resurrection**

**Tuesday 10/22 at 12:45 pm at Southwest Pioneers Senior Center, Marbleton.** Bill and Mardy will teach, Bill invited anyone from the Task Force to attend and contribute.

Matthew generously volunteered to do tech support in these early trainings to fix power point glitches.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

**November 23: International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day.** American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) will provide documentary that emphasizes hope and resilience. Task force recommended reserving the Lovatt Room for, film, lunch, discussion, event can last 90 minutes to 2 hours.. Melissa is working on getting a link to the film for a preview and will reach out to members interested in previewing.

Some discussion about the MH First Aid Training, Connect Training, ASIST trainings and which of all of these are appropriate for which audiences in Sublette County. John suggested a strength based program that also covers things from these other trainings might be the best option.

Next meeting: November 4 7:30 am - St Andrew's Church

**8:50:** Adjourn formal meeting.

