

Susquehanna County

Suicide Awareness Initiative

Findings

March 2016

**ESTABLISHED BY RESOLUTION OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Lackawanna-Susquehanna Behavioral
Health/Intellectual Disabilities/Early Intervention
Program**

SUICIDE AWARENESS INITIATIVE

INITIATIVE LEADERSHIP

Commissioner MaryAnn Warren

Susquehanna County

Jeremy Yale, Administrator

Lackawanna-Susquehanna Behavioral
Health/Intellectual Disabilities/Early
Intervention Program

Mission and Purpose

- The Lackawanna-Susquehanna Behavioral Health/Intellectual Disabilities/Early Intervention Program is charged with establishing a group of private and public professionals and community leaders to **study** suicide among youth (15-24 age group) in our community.
- Dramatic increase in youth suicides reported in 2013.

Participants

Facilitator	Rosemary Broderick, FACHE	The Advocacy Alliance
Education	Carol Boyce Ken Cuomo Karen Voigt Bronson Stone Matt Button Brian Mallery Jessica Aquilina Matt Nebzydoski	Supt. Montrose Supt. Elk Lake Supt. Mt. View Supt. SCSD Supt. Blue Ridge Principal, Elk Lake Supt. Forest City Principal, Blue Ridge
Clergy	Rev. Charles Cesaretti/Rev. Jason Clapper	Faith Based

Participants

<p>Government</p>	<p>Lance Benedict Brianna Hollenbeck Anthony Conarton Bob Klein, Esq.</p>	<p>Sheriff Deputy Sheriff Coroner District Attorney</p>
<p>Substance Disorders</p>	<p>Bo Hoban</p>	<p>Drug/Alcohol</p>
<p>Behavioral Health/ Health/Human Services</p>	<p>Marie Onukiavage Sal Santoli Michelle Graziano Rex Catlin Sara Sadornato Mary Wetherall Mike Zimmerman Kim Merithew Dr. Peri Rosen Dr. Christine Wydeen</p>	<p>NAMI Scranton Counseling Center Children and Youth Services Endless MT Health System Barnes Kasson Health System NE Community Health Center Family Services Association The United Way of SC Garrett Lee Smith Program NE Community Care Behavioral Health</p>

Participants

Business	April Kirkpatrick	Bartron Myer Funeral Home
Parent	Dan O'Rourke	Community
Grassroots Advocacy	Victoria Cleeton Douglas	STOP
Student	Shane Visneski	Mountain View School District
Emergency First Responder	Kimberly Tuttle	NE Community Health Center
Media	Sandi Raub	The Rocket

Objectives:

- To **assess** current suicide prevention and intervention services and programs in Susquehanna County;
- **Consider** national and state plans and legislation passed in the Commonwealth and other states;
- **Identify** innovative evidence based programs and best practices;
- **Promote** measures that support and facilitate prevention;

Objectives

- **Seek out initiatives** that offer the greatest potential for youth suicide prevention and preventive measures that will have a lasting impact;
- **Study factors** which contribute to the incidence of youth suicide; and
- **Identify untapped resources** for improving behavioral health services and other community based measures which add to quality of life for the youth of our community.

Process

- Six Meetings – October 2015 – March 2016
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- Fact Finding/Information Gathering
- Internal Discussion/SWOT/Priority Setting
- Formal Committee Recommendations
- Presentation of Report

TIMELINE

October	Introductions Mission and Statement of Purpose
November	Information Gathering Education Stakeholder Input
December	Continued Education and Stakeholder Input
January	SWOT Analysis
February	Identify Compelling Strategies
March	Develop Formal Recommendations

SAI

**RECOMMENDATIONS
AND
PRIORITIES
FOR ACTION**

Focus Areas

- Awareness
- Access
- Advocacy
- Applications
- Accountability/Sustainability

Priorities

- ❑ **Promote Community Awareness** about Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Post intervention Efforts
- ❑ **Build Community and Organizational Capacity** to help suicide youth and their families through the use of evidence based screening tools and programs.



Priorities

- ❑ **Support long term sustainable efforts by working with the Systems of Care Committee to provide stewardship of the SAI plan.**
- ❑ **Support and expand school based and student driven efforts.**

Team I	Team II	Team III
<p>Promote 2-1-1 help line as a viable conduit to youth suicide prevention support.</p>	<p>Expand Awareness/Knowledge of Current Services</p>	<p>Promote Awareness of Suicide Prevention efforts in Susquehanna County</p>
<p>Address Access Issues for Youth (via website, Facebook, smartphone application and other ties to social media.)</p>	<p>Expand Training Initiatives in Suicide Prevention</p>	<p>Build organizational capacity; and reorganize the continuum of services to ensure access to quality treatment and resources and long term sustainability</p>
<p>Sustain effort of SAI through messaging/slogan contest/engagement of youth and the broader community.</p>	<p>Expand Access – focus on transportation (to needed services) and financial barriers (affordability.)</p>	<p>Address transportation and access issues faced by Medical Assistance and non Medical Assistance population</p>

Team I	Team II	Team III
Apply important evidence based tools in clinical settings	Address Stigma of mental health, LGBT, diversity issues, etc., which often prevent people from reaching out for help and expand cultural awareness of what is normal.	Enhance clinical engagement – workforce retention/provider network/learning collaborative for maximum benefit of formalized treatment.
Promote knowledge, visibility, promotion and partnerships in youth suicide prevention	Ensure accountability, relevance and sustain the momentum of the SAI effort.	Emphasize integrated approach to System of Recovery in MH, Depression and Substance Disorders.

Other Considerations

- ❑ **Support Family and Community - Focus on Family Values/Neighborliness – Community Center – Support Groups**
- ❑ **Health Care – Behavioral Health Services**
Continued collaboration among providers and ongoing education and training of health care staff and emergency first responders (NAMI and others.)
- ❑ **Philanthropy – Endowment Fund** - to fund ongoing efforts, particularly student driven initiatives.

Next Steps

- **Engage the services of a qualified professional** to work with the Systems of Care Committee in 2016-2017 to ensure the recommendations of the SAI are implemented on a timely basis and to:
 1. **Facilitate awareness**, education and training of providers, support groups and the general public.
 2. **Coordinate a community campaign** to raise general awareness of youth suicide prevention and intervention services including 2-1-1 information and referral services and behavioral health programs.

Next Steps

- 3. Support school based efforts** including the utilization of Garrett Lee Smith Program resources and evidence based tools and aid student driven initiatives.
- 4. Work with the Systems of Care Committee on efforts** to build organizational capacity and use of evidence based tools and best practices.
- 5. Foster the development of other recommendations put forth by the SAI** to address youth suicide as a major public health concern.

Suicide Awareness Initiative

***Written recommendations submitted
to the Board of Commissioners –
March 2016.***

***Thank you for the opportunity to
serve.***

SAI

Questions?