

## Suicide Prevention Action Team – Large Group Meeting March 17th, 2026

**Attendees:** Lindsey DeVries, Carri Ciske, Chris Wardlow, Lauren Cowell, Sheryl Dingman, Sarah Bassing-Sutton, Nanan Diop, Taylor Connell, Jenny Wittenburg, Kate Yates, Tricia Plutz, Liz Rosin, Kayla Rodriguez, Kylie Kostka (filling in for Sherri DeWilde), Nick Ross, Christi DeChamps, Sarah Ceccon, Marissa Stapelfeldt, Renee Kasuboski, Michele Crawford, Stephanie Thiede, Justin Allen, Adam Nagel, Scott Radtke, Burgundy Biletski, Caitlin Reider

- I. **Presentation: Caitlin Reider Vander Velden MS, SAC, Substance use Counselor from Thedacare – increased risks of suicide with cannabis use among adolescents and young adults (Main Takeaways)**
  - a. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for individuals ages 10-14 and the third leading cause of death for individuals for 15-24
  - b. 39.7% U.S. High School students reported persistent feelings of sadness and hopelessness
  - c. Peer relation and accessibility are related to increased Cannabis use among Youth
  - d. Youth using Cannabis are twice as likely to experience suicidal ideation and 2.3% higher odds of suicide attempts compared to non-users
  - e. We do not have enough adolescent substance use providers in Fox Valley
- II. **Death Review Recommendations → Current Progress or Opportunities**
  - a. We will be looking at some Death Review Recommendations when we gather as a large group to ensure we are staying up to date on task completions
  - b. *(School Based rec.) “Consider providing additional resources to students when approaching the end of the school when stress may be elevated”*
    - i. QR code of resources? Like Street Smart Card from Boys and Girls Club
    - ii. Keep workload on school staff light as possible
    - iii. HOPELINE is on the back of all state of WI School ID’s
    - iv. HOPELINE Posters are posted in Kaukauna High School
    - v. 988 will transfer calls to the HOPELINE, as there is no time limit
    - vi. Jefferson, Dunlap, and Edison Elementaries participate in a "Community Schools Program" which provides a resource navigator embedded in the schools full time to help families access resources. They have more capacity than other roles like counselors and social workers
    - vii. How can we get important information about Youth Suicide and Risk Factors communicated to parents? Highest Risk Months May & October
    - viii. Mapping out those student services leaders in our counties: AASD: Laura Jackson, Executive Director of Student Services
    - ix. Partnering with Wellness Screen tools that are in some local schools
- III. **Website Updates (CHECK IT OUT!)**
  - a. <https://www.newmentalhealthconnection.org/>
  - b. Under “Initiatives,” “Project Zero” → Suicide Prevention Action Team
  - c. Suicide Death Teams are growing!
  - d. Tri-County Adult Suicide Death Review 2022-2025 Summary Report

- i. <https://www.newmentalhealthconnection.org/reports/>

#### IV. 2026 Meeting Content

- a. *Large group meetings will include an education topic that will include the child and adult death review teams to attend*
- b. April: Subcommittees Meet
- c. May 19<sup>th</sup>: Large Group Meeting w/ Sleep Education Topic
- d. June: Subcommittees Meet
- e. July 21<sup>st</sup>: Large Group Meeting w/ Education Topic
- f. August: Subcommittees Meet
- g. September 15<sup>th</sup>: Open House
- h. October: Subcommittees Meet
- i. November 17<sup>th</sup>: Large Group Meeting w/ Education Topic
- j. December: Subcommittees Meet

#### V. SPA Open House

- a. September (Suicide Awareness Month)
- b. Opportunity to share work that each subcommittee is doing
- c. Planning committee had first brainstorm meeting
  - i. Looking at after work time frame
  - ii. Community for Hope supplying food, beverages, and will assist in creating marketing for event!

#### VI. Subcommittee Updates

- a. Digital Media Safety: Youth & Caregivers Subcommittee
  - i. Letters were mailed to contacts
  - ii. Toolkit of resources for schools is being created
  - iii. Met with Menasha School District, looking to begin a campaign in Spring 2026
  - iv. Follow-up contacts made via email encourage a campaign around healthy social media use. Received some contact back.
  - v. Chris Warlow attended ThedaCare SYNC initiative meeting → potential partnership. More details to come!
- b. Gender Affirming Care Subcommittee
  - i. Established SMARTIE goals
  - ii. Made connections with local universities & began conversations with counseling programs to ask about LGBTQ+ curriculum in counseling programs (if any)
  - iii. Drafted letter, code of ethics/obligation
  - iv. Printed off copies of Passport to Health tool to distribute in tri-county area
  - v. Vetted list of providers → potential project
- c. Handle With Care Subcommittee
  - i. Proceeding with Outagamie County Sheriff's Office schools (Shiocton, Seymour, Freedom, Kimberly)
  - ii. Strong support from Oshkosh, who is already doing it (and is doing well there)

- iii. Meeting with Jennifer Skolaski
- d. Lethal Means Safety Subcommittee
  - i. Gained access to list of firearm sellers in the tri-county
  - ii. Working through list to rule out individual sellers vs stores
  - iii. Began contacting gun stores
  - iv. Opportunity: adapting goal to include education on safe gun storage
  - v. Project Safe Guard is now the ONLY group working in this realm
- e. Peer Support/Community Gatekeeper Subcommittee
  - i. Audit of current peer support roles & support groups available in tri-county area
  - ii. Looked for alignment in other community initiatives
  - iii. Looking at advocacy/education on benefits of peer support
  - iv. Proposed to table this subcommittee due to capacity/priority
- f. Recommendations Subcommittee
  - i. Looking to add additional committee members!
  - ii. Updated list of adult suicide & child death review lists
  - iii. Reached out to local organizations/community members to fact find what work is currently being done on recommendations in the community already
  - iv. Identified potential future partners for some recommendations
  - v. Sample of recommendations published on website and in a separate Project Zero report

## VII. Networking

- a. CESA 6 will be providing free statewide training to School based mental health workers. More information to come!
- b. March 31<sup>st</sup> is Trans Day of Visibility-Strike a Pose Appleton Event-Link for Details below:
  - i. <https://www.facebook.com/roomtobesafe/posts/pfbid02tXWCgEAg21e1gEjvJkwvEBbN13nLmr1eUSvmUQjbgLFhjbuMPMDKKM5A21U81QTyI?rdid=eqSEDMw3dgKuFqOT#>
- c. Reasons to Stay
  - i. A website created as a global suicide prevention project, a space to remind us we are not alone!
  - ii. <https://reasonstostay.co.uk/>