

WINNEBAGO COUNTY CHILD DEATH REVIEW TEAM  
Meeting Minutes  
November 24, 2014

**PRESENT:** Mary Jo Turner (Winnebago County Health Dept); Erin Roberts (Winnebago County Health Dept); Mary Wiatrowski (Winnebago County Human Services); Vicki Schultz (Menasha Health Department); Teresa Paulus (Winnebago County Health Dept); Kathi Hegrans (Theda Clark Trauma Services); Jenny Wesner (NAMI-Oshkosh); Sarah Bassing-Sutton (Samaritan Counseling Center); Kristin Mahoney (Neenah Joint School District); Courtney Wagner (Oshkosh West High School); Heidi Wheaton (Oshkosh Area School District); Ryan Gauthier (Gold Cross Ambulance); Belinda DeGoey (Winnebago County Health Department); Wendy Schwalbe (Parent Connection); Debbie Peters (Community for Hope); Betsy Wandtke (NAMI-Oshkosh) and Lynnsey Erickson (AmeriCorp member-Winnebago County Health Department).

**GUESTS:** Janelle Collins (University of WI-Oshkosh Nursing Student) and Katie (University of WI-Oshkosh Nursing Student).

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 12:08 pm by Teresa Paulus.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Team members introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 27 2014 MINUTES:** Motion by Mary Wiatrowski to approve minutes. Second by Kristen Mahoney. Motion carried with no opposition.

**REVIEW OF YRBS DATA:** Lynnsey presented the Youth Risk Behavior Survey results to the group as it relates to mental health and suicidal ideation. Team members can access the YRBS data on the Winnebago County/re:TH!NK website. The power point that Lynnsey used is attached to the minutes. A goal of Winnebago County Health Department is to get the YRBS data out to the community which is also one of CDRT's recommendations.

**SUMMARY OF CHILDREN WHO DIED BY SUICIDE IN WINNEBAGO COUNTY:** Teresa distributed a summary sheet and reviewed the number of youth suicide data from 2000 to 2014 including risk factors, manner of death, location and age. Winnebago County has had 23 youth who have died by suicide since 2000.

The team discussed aspects of the data. Questioning on age as is more prevalent in 15-16 year old youth. What is happening sophomore year in high school? Sarah mentioned that national data shows sophomore year also has the highest drop out rates as well as suicide rate. Discussion on why sophomore year is troublesome including relationship issues, more responsibilities yet immature, directed toward career planning, friend group changes and sports teams become more competitive. Data shows 8<sup>th</sup> grade is highest suicide ideation rate.

Members would like additional data from before 2000.

Discussion on the stigma of mental wellness and illness especially from sophomore year of high school to sophomore year of college. A good job is done in the schools with the students but need to reach the parents and families more effectively. How do we engage parents? Areas to stress with parents include: how to communicate with your children; how to approach your kids with risk factors; car communications; AODA issues: and mental wellness discussions with teens about anxiety, stress and depression. Would job site programs work?

Doctors being offered education to open up the conversation with their patients.

ASQ-3 screenings on children which includes mental wellness assessments.

WISE Training: Wisconsin Initiative for Stigma Elimination: WISE is a statewide coalition of organizations and individuals promoting inclusion and support for all affected by mental illness by advancing evidence-based practices for stigma reduction efforts. People with lived experience of mental health challenges strategically sharing their story is the current, primary, evidence-based practice and drives the focus of WISE. We promote the power of story. How do we get parents and families interested in attending?

Changing verbiage: Died by suicide rather than "commit" as commit implies a crime.

The curriculum on mental wellness is taught in Health class but with health classes becoming less common or not required, how do we empower teachers in all subjects to be aware and talk to students about mental wellness.

#### **REVIEW OF THE AUGUST 2013 WINNEBAGO COUNTY CHILD DEATH REVIEW SUICIDE**

**PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS:** Teresa reviewed progress on suicide prevention efforts based on recommendations the Child Death Review Team suggested in 2013. Prevention efforts included: lethal means restrictions with the promotion of gun safety and the availability of gun locks at the Health Dept and WIC offices; Wellness Screenings underway in the Oshkosh School District to 9<sup>th</sup> graders as well as upper classman with a good response. The team suggested a summary of accomplishments be sent out to members.

**NEXT STEPS:** Reconvene a suicide prevention sub-committee for those team members interested. Will meet outside of the CDRT meetings.

**NEXT MEETING:** No meeting in December (Happy Holidays!!) Next meeting will be Monday January 26, 2014 where we will have a refresher on child death review and lunch will be served.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 1:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Belinda DeGoey RN, Winnebago County Health Department