On the Horizon: Suicide Prevention Efforts in 2022

The Office of Mental Health Coordination
The Office of Mental Health Coordination

**Mission:**
- Collaborate with stakeholders to improve policies, programs, and systems to achieve positive behavioral health outcomes for all.

**Vision:**
- Cultivate multi-system collaborations to improve the behavioral health system in Texas.

**Values:**
- Collaboration;
- Cultural humility;
- Integrity; and
- a Trauma-informed lens.
The Office of Mental Health Coordination

OMHC Teams

• **Stakeholder Engagement and Strategic Planning**: Coordinates with partners to address gaps in support services and oversee several committees and workgroups.

• **Policy, Systems Coordination, and Programming**: Oversees initiatives, including suicide prevention, Texas System of Care, Community Resource Coordination Groups, Trauma-Informed Care, and Mental Health First Aid.

• **Statewide Opioid Coordination**: Ensures opioid services are addressed in a coordinated and comprehensive approach.

• **Veterans Mental Health Coordination**: Oversees Texas Veterans and Family Alliance Grant, Mental Health Program for Veterans, and veterans suicide prevention initiatives.
HHSC Suicide Prevention Team

- Lillian Nguyen: Director of Policy, System Coordination, and Programming
- Tammy Weppelman: State Suicide Prevention Coordinator and Team Lead
- Bethaney Myers: Suicide Care Coordinator
- Laura Hernandez Gold: Suicide Prevention & Project AWARE Co-Coordinator
- Jennifer Haussler Garing: Suicide Prevention Data & Outcomes Coordinator
- Jennifer Crutsinger: Suicide Prevention Youth Grant Project Coordinator
- Tara Reyna: Veterans Suicide Prevention Coordinator
IDD-BHS Suicide Prevention Efforts

**Suicide Prevention Administrative Structure**
- Veterans Suicide Prevention Coordinator
- Statewide Suicide Prevention Coordinator
- Suicide Safe Care Coordinator
- Youth Suicide Prevention Grant Project Director
- Suicide Prevention Policy, Programs, and Outcomes Specialist
- Project AWARE / Suicide Prevention Specialist

**Suicide Specific Initiatives**
- Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among SMVF
- Mayor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among SMVF
- Resilient Youth, Safer Environments (RYSE)
- Suicide Care Initiative Block Grant Project
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Expansion (NSPL)

**Behavioral Health Programs & Services**
- Outpatient Mental Health Services
- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services
  - Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral Services (OSAR)
  - Residential SUD Services
- Crisis Services
  - Crisis Hotlines
  - Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams
  - Crisis Facilities
- Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital Services
- Disaster Behavioral Health
- Jail Diversion

**Behavioral Health Programs**
- Mental Health Program for Veterans (Gov. Code §434.352)
- Texas Veterans + Family Alliance (SB 55-84R)
- Community Mental Health Grant Program (HB 13-85R)
- Grant Program for Justice-Involved Individuals (SB 292-85R)
- Healthy Community Collaboratives (SB 58-83R, SB 1849-83R)

**Data Analysis**
- Suicidal Thoughts
- Suicide Attempts
- Suicide Death
- LMHA/LBHA Performance Measures (Form Y)

**Reports**
- Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan (HB 1 Article IX, Section 10.04-84R)
- Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council Legislative Report on Suicide
- Short-term Action Plan to Prevent Veteran Suicides (SB 578-85R)
- Long-term Action Plan to Prevent Veteran Suicides (SB 578-85R)
- Summary Report on Suicide (HB 3980-86R)

* These programs and services are not all suicide prevention specific; however, suicide prevention is a desired outcome.

◊ The reports provide specific information or recommendations which may be implemented through policy, administrative action, or funding action.

**Color Legend:**
- Office of Mental Health Coordination
- Veterans Mental Health Coordination and Programs
- Policy, Systems Coordination and Programming
- Stakeholder Engagement and Strategic Planning
- Behavioral Health Services
OMHC Suicide Prevention Team Efforts

• Suicide Care Initiative: Implement the Zero Suicide framework in the public mental health system.

• Resilient Youth Safer Environments (RYSE): Create comprehensive suicide safe early intervention and prevention systems aimed at supporting youth-serving organizations in the Galveston County area.
OMHC Suicide Prevention Team Efforts

• Enhance availability printed suicide prevention materials through updated Zero Suicide toolkit and other suicide prevention one-pagers.

• Provide training and technical assistance in suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.
  ▶ ASK about Suicide to Save a Life
  ▶ Counseling on Access to Lethal Means
  ▶ Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
  ▶ Specialized presentations to meet the needs of requesting audiences
Suicide Prevention Subcommittee

- House Bill 4074: Requires SBHCC subcommittee to collect suicide/suicide prevention data and to identify how data are used to make policy.

- Senate Bill 1, Article IX, Section 10.04(f): Requires update on legislative report from H.B. 3980, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019; the report shall include data and recommendations specific to suicides among veterans and foster youth in the state.
Thank you

Courtney Harvey, PhD
Mental Health Statewide Coordinator and Associate Commissioner
Courtney.Harvey@hhs.texas.gov
512-380-4322