



**GOVERNOR'S
COMMISSION ON
SUICIDE PREVENTION**

MARYLAND

Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention Meeting
January 20, 2021 1:00pm-3:00pm

Commission Members on Phone

Robert Anderson	Department of Juvenile Services
Donna Barnes	National Organization for People of Color Against Suicide
Ed Bartlinski	Police, Local Corrections, or Fire and Rescue
Lynda Bonieskie	Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Shameka Burke	LGBTQ Community
Dana Burl	Department of Veterans Affairs
Jada Carrington	Representative of Young Adults
Amanda Celentano	Department of Aging
Janel Cabbage (Chair)	Behavioral Health Administration
Johanna Dolan	Substance Use Recovery Community
Christina Drushel-Williams	Children and Youth Division, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
The Honorable Adelaide Eckardt	Member of the Maryland Senate
Monica Guerrero Vazquez	Hispanic/Latino Community
Kevin Johnson	Faith Community
Amy Kulp	Suicide Prevention Group
Jennilyn Landbeck	Family Member
Georgette Lavetsky	Deputy Secretary Public Health
Cynthia Macri	Asian American/Pacific Islander Community
Lynne Muller	Maryland State Department of Education
Dustin Richardson	American Indian Community
Kirsten Robb-McGrath	Department of Disabilities
Maura J. Rossman	Local Health Officer
Gabrielle Ryder	High School Representative
Susan Schwarten	Survivor of a Suicide Attempt
Kristin Washington	Representative of Active/Former Armed Forces Member
Holly Wilcox (Vice Chair)	Academic Community
Eileen Zeller	Mental Health Association of Maryland

Workgroup Lead

Lanny Berman	Suicide Fatality Review Workgroup
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Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Staff

Natalie Miller	Behavioral Health Administration
Indu Radhakrishnan	Behavioral Health Administration
Barry Page	Behavioral Health Administration
Mary Viggiani	Behavioral Health Administration
Kathleen Rebbert-Franklin	Behavioral Health Administration



Welcome

Commission Chair Cabbage welcomed all attendees to the Commission meeting. Introductions will be conducted after the Suicide during a Pandemic presentations.

Suicide during a Pandemic Presentation

Indu Radhakrishnan presented on suicide risk factors, previous studies that have been conducted during pandemics and current trends in Maryland. Past research from the 2003 SARS outbreak in Hong Kong showed an excess in suicides particularly in older adults and the increased rate continued for 1-2 years following the outbreak. Current factors that could increase suicide risk includes social isolation/ disconnectedness, heightened anxiety and depression, increased unemployment and financial burden and increased gun sales. Preliminary OCME data was shared comparing 2020 suicide data to previous years suicide data. Black and Hispanic populations have continued to experience consistent suicide rates throughout the pandemic whereas there has been a decrease in suicides in the White population. Prevention techniques include being vigilant but not being alarmist (this can contribute to cluster/ contagion suicides).

Commissioners discussed of the limitations of our data in Maryland, specifically the high rate of undetermined deaths, overdose deaths that cannot be determined as intentional vs. unintentional, which could contribute to a higher rate of suicide. Another question asked was how the access to services and telehealth services specifically made an impact on the suicide rate during the pandemic. Commissioner Wilcox reports that a study is being conducted using billing information (telehealth services) to investigate the rate of use, continuity of services, especially the use within populations at higher risk of suicide.

Commissioner Introductions

Commissioners were introduced including the 3 new Commissioner's: Jada Carrington- Representative for Young Adults, Donna Barnes- Representative for National Organization for People of Color Against Suicide, and Dr. Kristin Washington- Representative for Active/ Former Member of the Armed Forces.

November Meeting Minutes

The November minutes were approved with revisions.

Legislative Update

Commissioner Eckardt provided an update on the legislative session which includes the Suicide Fatality Review Board bill, the bill hearing will be on January 26th. Written testimony can be submitted online 2 days before hearing.

Commission Purpose

This agenda item was postponed until the March meeting due to time constraints.



Governor's Challenge Update

Commissioner Burl gave update on the Governor's Challenge, SAMHSA state plan is still being developed 4 priority areas will be identified for the plan. The Governor's Challenge updates will be a standing agenda item.

Open Discussion

Commissioner Schwarten provided information on a recent webinar conducted by the Maryland Insurance Administration. Maryland has a high rate of out of network costs for mental health services. Susan will provide more information on the impact of using out of network provides on mental health care.

The state plan has been approved and will be sent to all Commissioners. There will be an informational webinar on the state plan on March 26 at 12 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 pm.

The next Commission meeting will be held on March 17, 2021 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.