



# GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON SUICIDE PREVENTION

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## MARYLAND

Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention Meeting  
July 21, 2021, 1:00pm-3:00pm

### **Commission Members Present**

Robert Anderson	Department of Juvenile Services
Dana Burl	Department of Veterans Affairs
Amanda Celentano	Department of Aging
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
Jennilyn Landbeck	Family Member
Cynthia Macri	Asian American/Pacific Islander Community
Lynne Muller	Maryland State Department of Education
Kirsten Robb-McGrath	Department of Disabilities
Susan Schwarten	Survivor of a Suicide Attempt
Haley Taylor	Maryland's Addictions Directors Counsel
Andrea Walker	County Health Officers
Holly Wilcox (Vice Chair)	Academic Community
Timothy G. Vail	Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Eileen Zeller	Mental Health Association of Maryland

### **Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Staff**

Natalie Miller	Behavioral Health Administration
Alex Walker	Behavioral Health Administration
Sierra Wetmore	Behavioral Health Administration
Indu Radhakrishnan	Behavioral Health Administration
Barry Page	Behavioral Health Administration
Mary Viggiani	Behavioral Health Administration

### **Public Attendees**

Andrea Duarte  
Ann Irr Dagle  
Faith Vos Winkel  
Taylor Blades

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Commission Co-Chair Wilcox welcomed all attendees to the Commission meeting. Commissioners introduced themselves via alphabetical order.



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**Approval of May 19th, 2021, Meeting Minutes**

The May 19th, 2021, meeting minutes were approved with a revision to correct Senator Eckardt's name and a revision to include the Haitian and Creole community in suicide prevention outreach considerations.

**Postvention Presentation**

Commissioner Wilcox introduced Andrea Duarte from Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. She is the founding member of the CT Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, developer of the Gizmo's Pawesome Guide to Mental Health© and Elementary Curriculum and has served as the Co-Chair of the CT Suicide Advisory Board since January 2012.

Andrea Duarte, Ann Dagle (from the Brian Dagle/Connecticut Chapter- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention), and Faith Vos Winkle (from the Office of the Child Advocate), presented on postvention as prevention for suicide. They discussed the mission and vision of the Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board, which addresses suicide prevention and response across the lifespan. Andrea and her team discussed creating the Regional Suicide Advisory Boards to engage key stakeholders, who identify unique regional needs and implement suicide prevention efforts. They consult on prevention, intervention and response, training and education, data and surveillance, statewide and local networking, peer support, resource exchange and awareness materials.

Andrea Duarte, Ann Dagle, and Faith Vos Winkle discussed the role of a comprehensive approach to mental health and suicide prevention in the Connecticut postvention response process. Postvention is a series of planned best practice interventions to facilitate the grieving adjustment process, stabilize the environment, reduce the risk of negative behaviors, and limit the risk of further suicides through contagion. The postvention response process in Connecticut promotes best practices, supports coordination among community-based responders and impacted sites,, determines the cause of death with the Medical Examiner, notifies the Office of the Child Advocate upon the suicide death of youth 24 years and under, provides resources to surviving family members or performs outreach advocacy on behalf of the community, and provides consultations, guidance, and training.

Postvention protocol recommendations, guidelines and resources were presented. Postvention protocol recommendations are developed and managed by a team representing different sectors of the community, providing both immediate and long-term plans.

Andrea shared a form used when an untimely death is being investigated to provide information on the process and postvention resources.

Commissioners asked questions about data collection/usage, collaboration with community organizations, grant funding, school postvention protocol.



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**Focus Area Strategy Discussion: Postvention**

Commissioner Wilcox mentioned the group will have time to discuss postvention strategies at our next meeting.

**Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and Families Update**

Commissioner Burl gave updates on the Governor's Challenge. Individual workgroups are continuing. The four workgroups have been condensed into three working groups. The Ask the Question Campaign is still working on fostering partnerships with state libraries. Harford County is participating with SAMHSA in a crisis mapping activity that could possibly expand to other jurisdictions across the state.

**BHA Update**

Commission staff Natalie Miller shared the BHA update. Quarterly Suicide Data Reports were sent to LBHAs on May 26, 2021. The office is initiating a statewide care coordination project pilot with 211 and regional call centers. Our office is in the process of completing Certificate of Awards for local suicide prevention strategies for the four local jurisdictions that will receive funding for fiscal year 2022. Commission staff member Miller also asked commissioners to continue to send their biographies and headshots to Commission staff member, Alex Walker.

**Open Discussion**

Commissioner Wilcox opened the floor for open discussion.

Commissioner Eckardt urged the group to continue to think about how to use the resources that we have in place, and how to move forward when thinking of prioritizing our work and addressing gaps.

Commissioner Zeller raised that the next meeting is scheduled on the first day of Yom Kippur, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.**

**The next Commission meeting will be held on **September 15, 2021**, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.**