



GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON SUICIDE PREVENTION

MARYLAND

Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention Meeting
March 17, 2021 1:00pm-3:00pm

Commission Members Presentation

Ed Bartlinski	Police, Local Corrections, or Fire and Rescue
Donna Holland Barnes	National Organization for People of Color Against Suicide
Dana Burl	Department of Veterans Affairs
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
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
Jennifer Eastman	Department of Disabilities
Maura J. Rossman	Local Health Officer
Gabrielle Ryder	High School Representative
Tim Vail	Department of Public Safety
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
Alex Walker	Behavioral Health Administration
Indu Radhakrishnan	Behavioral Health Administration
Barry Page	Behavioral Health Administration
Kathleen Rebbert-Franklin	Behavioral Health Administration

Welcome

Commission Chair Cabbage welcomed all attendees to the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Introductions



Commissioners were introduced via Zoom chat for attendance.

January Meeting Minutes

The January 20th meeting minutes were approved with no revisions.

Suicide Prevention Conference Update

Commissioner Cabbage provided an update on the October Suicide Prevention Conference. The confirmed date of conference is October 6th, 2021. The Keynote speaker is Dr. Rheeda Walker. Dr. Walker is a University of Houston professor, psychologist, and leading expert in African American mental health and the author of *The Unapologetic Guide to Black Mental Health*. The theme of the conference is, "Connecting, Responding, and Recovering". The Office of Suicide Prevention and the Conference Planning Committee are [requesting presentation proposals](#) by the deadline of April 28th, 2021.

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

Commissioner Burl gave updates on the Governor's Challenge. The Implementation Academy will take place on March 29th to further work pertaining to the four key priority areas within the action plan. The action plan for Maryland's Governor's Challenge to Prevention Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and Families has been shared with all Commissioners and shared with BHA for edits. The action plan was developed using the Maryland State Suicide Plan, the National Action Plan on Suicide Prevention and the Department of Veteran's Affairs Suicide Prevention Plan to coordinate goals and efforts.

Legislative Update

Suicide Fatality Review Workgroup Lead, Lanny Berman, provided an update on the Suicide Fatality Review Board bill. The bill has successfully passed the Senate (46:0) and is awaiting a hearing date in the House. Dr. Berman provided a brief update that some minor amendments were being proposed in the House but did not have further details about the amendments at this time.

BHA Update

Commissioner Cabbage provided an update on the Office of Suicide Prevention. Suicide data reports for CY2020 were sent to the Local Behavioral Health Authorities (LBHAs) or Core Service Agencies (CSAs) of all local jurisdictions in February. Reports will be released on a quarterly basis with the next report planned for May 2021. The Office of Suicide Prevention released a notice of funding availability for local jurisdictions to submit proposals for local suicide prevention strategies. A few local jurisdictions received funding for local suicide prevention activities for FY2021. Some of the activities proposed by jurisdictions for FY21 were related to reducing access to lethal means, community and clinical training, and public awareness campaigns. Commissioner Cabbage also welcomed new commission staff member



Alex Walker, the Office of Suicide Prevention Outreach Coordinator. The Office is preparing to interview applicants for the vacant Suicide Prevention Training Coordinator position.

Commission Purpose

Commissioner Cabbage reviewed the requirements and responsibilities of the commission per the Executive Order. Commissioner Cabbage provided perspective on which of the requirements and responsibilities the Commission has been meeting and other requirements and responsibilities that need more attention. Commissioner Cabbage raised the issue of the Commission being responsible for maintaining a list of postvention services within Maryland and how this task has fallen on the Office of Suicide Prevention.

Commissioners discussed their perceived roles as commissioners, including acting as a representative for underrepresented communities, addressing unique challenges for diverse populations via advocacy, utilizing policy interventions, bridging gaps in data, research, and clinical care, dissemination of data and educational resources, addressing the lack of cultural competency in services, and leveraging networks for Commission activities. Commissioners expressed the desire to use the Commission meetings to share work they are doing to help facilitate collaboration.

Commissioner Cabbage announced that a vote will be held next meeting to adopt the roles and responsibilities for Commissioners discussed at the meeting and to vote on a focus area or objective for the Commission to prioritize.

Open Discussion

Commissioner Ryder discussed the Commission's social media reach and interest in working with the Office of Suicide Prevention to increase social media engagement. Commissioner Muller requested a list of evidenced-based suicide prevention trainings and programs to provide to School Suicide Prevention Coordinators as they develop plans for CARES funding they are receiving. Commissioner Cabbage recommended the CDC Technical Package to Prevent Suicide. Commissioner Wilcox shared information about the Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM) program and Youth Mental Health First Aid. Commissioner Wilcox is conducting research on cultural adaptations of YAM for Baltimore City students.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 pm.

The next Commission meeting will be held on May 19, 2021 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.