



# **2017 ANNUAL REPORT SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATING COUNCIL**

Department of Children and Families  
Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

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Mike Carroll  
Secretary

Rick Scott  
Governor

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## I. Introduction

The Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council (SPCC) consists of 27 community members whose mission is to develop effective strategies for suicide prevention in Florida. To accomplish this mission, the SPCC advises the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention (SOSP) on the development of the Florida Suicide Prevention Plan (Plan) and assists with making findings and recommendations regarding statewide suicide prevention programs.

The SOSP is administratively housed in the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH). One of its responsibilities is to prepare this annual Report pursuant to section 14.20195(c), F.S., and present it to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Report provides an overview of 2015 national suicide statistics, 2016 state suicide statistics, and activities conducted and planned in 2017 that supported the strategic direction and goals in the Plan. These goals are to:

1. Integrate and coordinate suicide prevention activities across multiple sectors and settings.
2. Increase public knowledge of the factors that offer protection from suicidal behaviors and promote wellness and recovery.
3. Implement and monitor effective evidence-based programs to promote wellness and prevent suicide-related behaviors.
4. Provide training on the prevention of suicide and related behaviors to community and clinical service providers.
5. Promote suicide prevention as a core component of health care services.
6. Promote and implement effective clinical and professional practices for assessing and treating those identified as being at-risk for suicidal behaviors.
7. Increase the usefulness of national and state level surveillance data to inform suicide prevention efforts.

This Report also addresses new recommendations put forth by the SPCC to decrease deaths by suicide and enhance suicide prevention efforts, which focus on:

- Expansion of the SOSP;
- Support of the Department of Health's participation in the National Violent Death Reporting System; and
- On-site school suicide prevention trainings.

Suicide prevention events planned throughout Florida can be accessed by the public on the [SOSP website calendar](#).

## II. An Overview of Suicide

Suicide is a major public health issue and a leading cause of death nationally, with complex causes such as mental health and substance use disorders, painful losses, exposure to violence, and social isolation.<sup>1</sup> Suicide is a tragic, but preventable event, that has a devastating impact on families and communities. In 2016, **3,122 lives** were lost to suicide in Florida.

To better understand this complex public health problem, the SOSOP and the SPCC review national and state level suicide data. The information presented in this section provides the most recent suicide data available.

### II.A. National Data

National suicide data for 2015, which is the most recent data available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is summarized below:

- The total number of deaths in the U.S due to suicide was 44,193.<sup>2</sup>
- Suicide was the tenth leading cause of death in the U.S.<sup>3</sup>
- The suicide rate per 100,000 population was 13.3.<sup>4</sup>

Table 1 shows the 2015 national suicide deaths per age group. Notably, suicide was the second leading cause of death for individuals within the 15-34 age group, the third leading cause of death for individuals within the 10-14 age group, and the fourth leading cause of death for individuals within the 35-44 age group.

**Table 1: National Suicide Deaths in 2015**

Age Group	Suicide Deaths	Cause of Death Ranking
10-14	409	3
15-24	5,491	2
25-34	6,947	2
35-44	6,936	4
45-54	8,751	5
55-64	7,739	8
65+	7,912	16

Data Source: NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS (NCHS), NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See, <https://www.samhsa.gov/suicide-prevention>, site accessed October 19, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> See, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/leading-causes-of-death.htm>, site accessed October 11, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> See, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/leading-causes-of-death.htm>, site accessed October 11, 2017.

<sup>4</sup> See, [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/16.pdf#019](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/16.pdf#019), site accessed October 11, 2017.

<sup>5</sup> See, <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/suicide/statistics/index.html>, site accessed June 30, 2017.

## II.B. Florida Data

Data related to suicide in Florida for 2016, as reported in the *Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report (2016)*,<sup>6</sup> is summarized below:

- The total number of deaths due to suicide was 3,122, which is a slight decrease from 3,152 in 2015.
- Suicide was the eleventh leading cause of death in Florida.
- The suicide rate per 100,000 population was 15.4. This is a decrease from 2015 (15.9), and higher than the 2015 national rate.

Table 2 shows the numbers of Florida suicide deaths per age group. Suicide was the second leading cause of death for individuals within the 25-34 age group in 2016, similar to the national ranking of 2015, and the third leading cause of death for individuals within the 10-24 age group.

**Table 2: Florida Suicide Deaths in 2016**

Age Group	Suicide Deaths	Cause of Death Ranking
10-14	20	3
15-24	276	3
25-34	398	2
35-44	415	4
45-54	642	5
55-64	581	9
65-74	420	13
75-84	255	17
85+	141	19

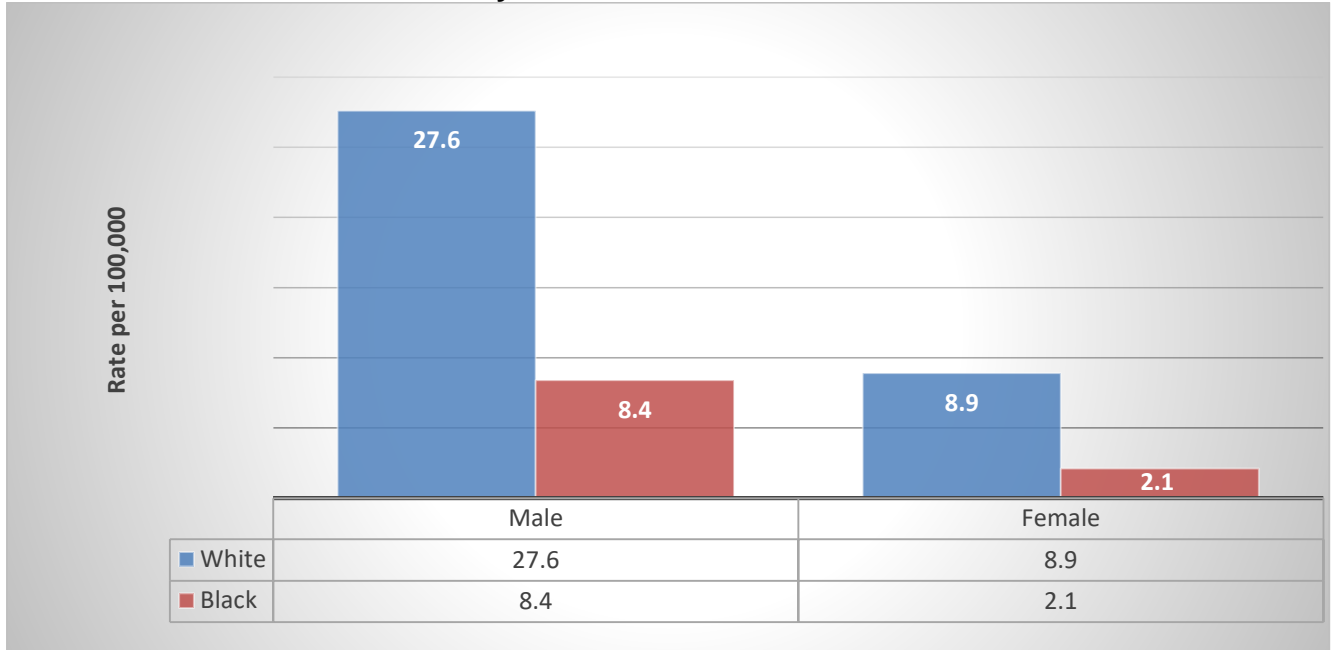
Data Source: TABLE D-11: RESIDENT DEATHS FOR SELECTED CAUSES, BY AGE GROUPS, BY COUNTY, FLORIDA, 2015: *FLORIDA VITAL STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT (2016)*<sup>7</sup>

Graph 1 shows that in 2016, Florida suicide rates for white and black males were higher than the rates for white and black females. The suicide rate for white males was the highest, while the suicide rate for black females was the lowest.

<sup>6</sup> See, <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VBOOK/pdf/2016/Deaths.pdf>, site accessed November 2, 2017.

<sup>7</sup> See, <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VBOOK/pdf/2016/Deaths.pdf>, site accessed November 2, 2017.

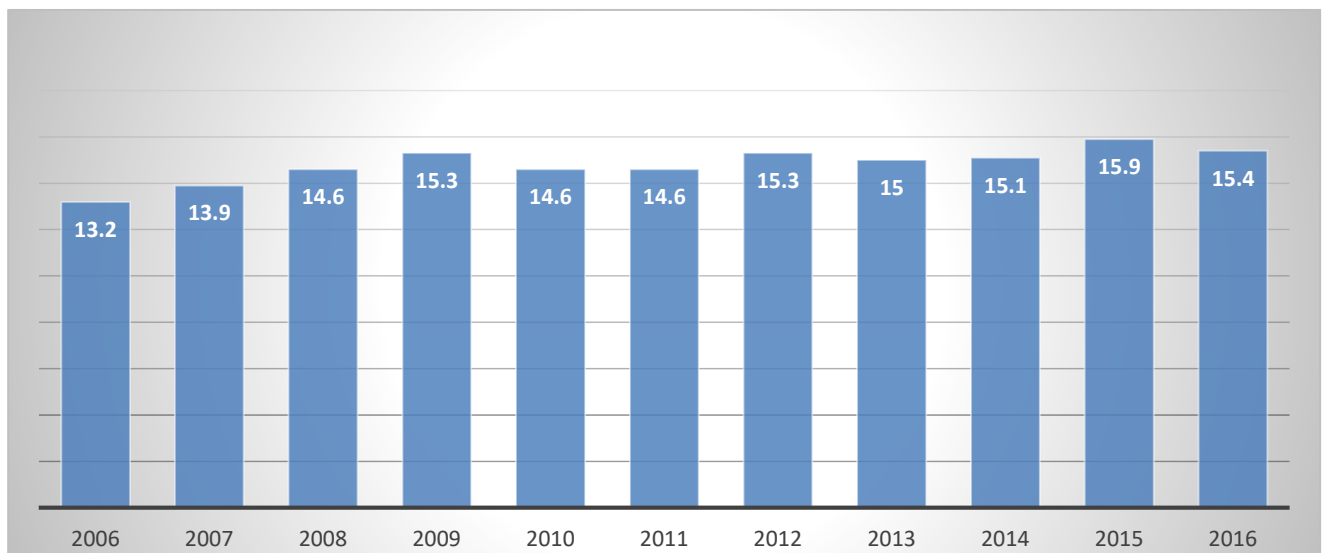
**Graph 1: 2016 Florida Suicide Death Rates per 100,000 Population by Race and Gender**



Data Source: CHART D-13: RESIDENT SUICIDE DEATHS AND RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION, BY RACE AND GENDER, FLORIDA, CENSUS YEARS 1970-2000 AND 2005-2015: *FLORIDA VITAL STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT (2016)*<sup>8</sup>

Graph 2 shows a consistent upward trend in the suicide rate in Florida from 2006 to 2009. The trend fluctuates slightly from 2009 to 2016. The lowest suicide rate was 13.2 in 2006, while the highest was 15.9 in 2015. The suicide rate slightly decreased in 2016.

**Graph 2: Suicide Rate per 100,000 Population, Florida (2006 - 2016)**



Data Sources: CHART D-13: RESIDENT SUICIDE DEATHS AND RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION, BY RACE AND GENDER, FLORIDA, CENSUS YEARS 1970-2000 AND 2005-2015: *FLORIDA VITAL STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT (2016)*<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> See, <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2016/Deaths.pdf>, site accessed November 2, 2017.

<sup>9</sup> See, <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2016/Deaths.pdf>, site accessed November 2, 2017.

### III. Florida Suicide Prevention Plan

In 2001, the U.S. Surgeon General issued the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (National Strategy) to launch an organized effort to prevent suicide across the nation. Updated in 2012, the National Strategy represented a new approach to enlisting all Americans in the effort to prevent suicide. Florida’s Plan is a joint effort of the SPCC and SOSOP. Section 14.20195(a), F.S., requires the SPCC to advise the SOSOP “regarding the development of a statewide plan for suicide prevention, with the guiding principle being that suicide is a preventable problem.”

The purpose of the Plan is to guide statewide efforts to decrease suicide-related deaths through a framework of goals and objectives that coordinate suicide prevention activities at the state and local community levels. The Plan can be viewed on the [department’s SOSOP website](#).

Table 3 outlines the Plan’s strategic directions, goals, and objectives. The four strategic directions align with the National Strategy, which are:

- Healthy and Empowered Individuals, Families, and Communities;
- Clinical and Community Preventive Services;
- Treatment and Support Services; and
- Surveillance, Research, and Evaluation.

**Table 3: 2016-2020 State Plan for Suicide Prevention**

Strategic Direction	Goal	Objective(s)
<p><b>Healthy and Empowered Individuals, Families, and Communities</b></p>	<p>1. Integrate and coordinate suicide prevention activities across multiple sectors and settings.</p>	<p><b>1.1 Integrate suicide prevention into the values, culture, leadership, and workplace of a broad range of organizations, programs, and schools with a role to support suicide prevention activities.</b>  <b>1.2 Establish effective, sustainable, and collaborative suicide prevention programming at the state, tribal, and local levels.</b></p>
	<p>2. Increase public knowledge of the factors that offer protection from suicidal behaviors and promote wellness and recovery.</p>	<p><b>2.1 Reduce prejudice, stigma, and discrimination associated with suicidal behaviors and mental and substance use disorders.</b></p>
<p><b>Clinical and Community Preventive Services</b></p>	<p>3. Implement and monitor effective evidence-based programs to promote wellness and prevent suicide-related behaviors.</p>	<p><b>3.1 Encourage community-based settings to implement effective evidence-based programs and provide</b></p>

Strategic Direction	Goal	Objective(s)
		<p><b>education to promote wellness.</b></p> <p><b>3.2 Intervene to reduce suicidal thoughts and behaviors in populations with suicide risk.</b></p>
<p><b>Treatment and Support Services</b></p>	<p>4. Provide training on the prevention of suicide and related behaviors to community and clinical service providers.</p>	<p><b>4.1 Update and modify suicide prevention trainings to meet the provider’s specific needs and roles.</b></p>
	<p>5. Promote suicide prevention as a core component of health care services.</p>	<p><b>5.1 Promote timely access to assessment, intervention, and effective care for individuals with heightened risks for suicide.</b></p> <p><b>5.2 Establish linkages between providers of mental health and substance abuse services and primary care and community-based programs, including peer support programs.</b></p>
<p><b>Surveillance, Research, and Evaluation</b></p>	<p>6. Promote and implement effective clinical and professional practices for assessing and treating those identified as being at-risk for suicidal behaviors.</p>	<p><b>6.1 Adopt, disseminate, and implement guidelines for the assessment of suicide risk among persons receiving care in all settings.</b></p> <p><b>6.2 Adopt, disseminate, and implement guidelines for clinical practice and continuity of care for providers who treat persons with suicide risks.</b></p>
	<p>7. Increase the usefulness of national and state level surveillance data to inform suicide prevention efforts.</p>	<p><b>7.1 Identify available data to guide suicide prevention efforts.</b></p>



#### IV. Florida Initiatives and Actions

The SOSP is committed to promoting suicide prevention efforts by increasing public awareness of the risk factors and warning signs of suicide. This year, the SOSP furthered these efforts by providing training at various conferences and events; conducting technical assistance; facilitating the SPCC quarterly council meetings; and preparing and publishing this Report.

Additionally, the SOSP, along with other interested stakeholders, participated in the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) Technical Assistance Center’s “Advancing Suicide Prevention Best Practices in SMVF Peer Support” Virtual Implementation Academy. Results from this collaboration include the creation of two workgroups and an implementation plan to increase suicide prevention awareness for service members, veterans, and their families.

To implement the Plan’s strategic goals and objectives, the SPCC and SOSP depend on many state and community partners. Strategic planning and suicide prevention efforts would not be effective without the activities provided in local communities around the state. Table 4 summarizes these suicide prevention initiatives and activities, as reported by members of the SPCC, Managing Entities, and other stakeholders. This summary includes the suicide prevention activities that occurred between January-October 2017, as reported to the SOSP. Activities are categorized by the type of entities that accomplish them, including:

- State, tribal, and local governments;
- Schools, colleges, and universities;
- Nonprofit, community, and faith-based organizations;
- Health systems, insurers, and clinicians; and
- Individuals and families.

**Table 4: State and Local Suicide Prevention Initiatives**

Goals	Initiatives and Actions
<p><b>Goal 1:</b> Integrate and coordinate suicide prevention activities across multiple sectors and settings.</p>	<p><b>State, Tribal, and Local Governments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCF SOSP               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Maintained an up-to-date calendar of suicide prevention events available on the DCF <a href="#">website</a></li> <li>○ Provided information on crisis support and suicide prevention resources found at: <a href="http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/mental-health/suicide-prevention/about-suicide">http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/mental-health/suicide-prevention/about-suicide</a></li> <li>○ Formed two workgroups to address suicide prevention for service members, veterans, and their families</li> <li>○ Assisted the Department of Health (DOH) identify goals and objectives that focus on suicide prevention for inclusion on the State Health Improvement Plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Incorporated suicide prevention into its rules, policies, and standards;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Goals	Initiatives and Actions
<p><b>Goal 1 <i>continued</i>:</b> Integrate and coordinate suicide prevention activities across multiple sectors and settings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Used "alerts" in the juvenile justice information system that informed staff about at-risk youths</li> <li>○ Assisted staff in coordinating suicide prevention activities across program areas and settings</li> <li>● Florida State Hospital (FSH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Used the <i>Columbia-Suicide Rating Scale</i> and the <i>Patient Health Questionnaire-9</i> as part of the admission and treatment planning process for residents in all units at the treatment facility</li> <li>○ Discussed suicide prevention and best practices within the state mental health treatment facility</li> </ul> </li> <li>● DOH created the Florida's Suicide/Self Harm Prevention team to address statewide suicide prevention of youth ages 10-19</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Schools, Colleges, and Universities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The University of South Florida <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Offered the <i>Suicide Issues in Behavioral Healthcare</i> undergraduate course</li> <li>○ Presented <i>Suicide Prevention – Awareness and Action: What to look for, what to do, &amp; how to help</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>● St. Petersburg College Regional Community Policing Institute held six trainings entitled <i>In Harm's Way: Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention</i> in Lee, Orange, Lake, Citrus, Alachua, and Hillsborough counties</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Nonprofit, Community, and Faith-based Organizations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention coordinated the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ After school <i>HOPE Sunshine Clubs</i> in 28 schools</li> <li>○ The <i>Solutions Unlimited Now Problem Solving</i> curriculum in the Broward Juvenile Detention Center</li> <li>○ Seven Survivors of Suicide loss support groups</li> <li>○ Suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention trainings</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Held the 2017 <i>Florida Taking Action for Suicide Prevention 2nd Annual Mini-Conference</i> in Tallahassee</li> <li>○ Published and distributed a monthly newsletter</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Flagler Cares created a suicide prevention planning committee to develop and implement a Flagler County suicide prevention plan</li> <li>● Veterans Counseling Veterans Inc. partnered with the American Legion 15<sup>th</sup> District to create a suicide prevention committee</li> <li>● CDAC Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., in Northwest Florida <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provided suicide prevention awareness activities in churches, schools, professional agencies, and the community</li> <li>○ Taught life skills, problem solving, and coping skills to elementary, middle, and high school students</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b>Health System, Insurers, and Clinicians</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Aspire Health Partners in Seminole County implemented a Zero Suicide<sup>10</sup> initiative which is a key concept of the National Strategy</li> </ul>

<sup>10</sup> Zero Suicide is a commitment to suicide prevention with a specific set of tools and the belief that anything short of zero suicides in health care is unacceptable.

Goals	Initiatives and Actions
<p><b>Goal 1</b> <i>continued</i>: Integrate and coordinate suicide prevention activities across multiple sectors and settings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Managing Entity South Florida Behavioral Health Network (SFBHN) built partnerships with law enforcement, mental health providers, and advocates</li> </ul> <p><b>Businesses and Employers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hispanic Family Counseling, Inc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sent staff to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Leadership Conference in California</li> <li>○ Participated in community health forums and in the local Suicide Prevention Community Summit</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 2</b>: Increase public knowledge of the factors that offer protection from suicidal behaviors and promote wellness and recovery.</p>	<p><b>State, Tribal, and Local Governments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governor Scott's proclamation recognized March 24, 2017, as Florida Suicide Prevention Day</li> <li>• DCF SOSP attended these events in Tallahassee and conducted the following trainings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Suicide Prevention: A Comprehensive Approach</i> at the Instilling Hope Trauma-Informed Care Conference</li> <li>○ <i>State of the State: Suicide Deaths in Florida</i> at the 2017 Florida Taking Action for Suicide Prevention 2nd Annual Mini-Conference</li> <li>○ <i>2017 Suicide Prevention Initiatives</i> at the Big Bend Mental Health Coalition meeting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• DJJ provided suicide prevention curricula to staff and at the probation officer training academies</li> <li>• FSH worked closely with families and community facilities about residents' suicidal ideations, attempts, and interventions to help protect the resident from suicidal behaviors and promote wellness and recovery</li> <li>• The Florida Department of Education (FDOE), in collaboration with the SOSP and suicide prevention experts, developed a list of approved youth suicide awareness and prevention training materials that schools may use with K-12 instructional personnel. A list of FDOE-approved youth suicide awareness and prevention training materials for K-12 instructional personnel can be found at the following websites:  <a href="http://sss.usf.edu/resources/topic/suicide/index.html">http://sss.usf.edu/resources/topic/suicide/index.html</a> and  <a href="http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/samh/mentalhealth/suicide-prevention/Suicide%20Approved%20Trainings_dps-2016-157a.pdf">http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/samh/mentalhealth/suicide-prevention/Suicide%20Approved%20Trainings_dps-2016-157a.pdf</a> </li> </ul> <p><b>Schools, Colleges, and Universities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bethune Cookman University hosted the <i>Mental Health Conference</i> with a panel discussion about suicide prevention for college students</li> <li>• University of Florida health and community organizations hosted <i>Building a System of Care for LGBTQ Children and Youth in Jacksonville</i></li> <li>• Pensacola State College hosted <i>PostSecret Live</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Nonprofit, Community, and Faith-based Organizations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention created the <i>STAND2GETHER</i> program and a three minute film</li> <li>• The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and DCF co-sponsored the 2017 Suicide Prevention Day at the Capitol on April 6, 2017</li> <li>• Susan B. Anthony Center, Inc. informed individuals and their families about suicidal behaviors, actions, and prevention measures</li> </ul>

Goals	Initiatives and Actions
<p><b>Goal 2</b> <i>continued</i>: Increase public knowledge of the factors that offer protection from suicidal behaviors and promote wellness and recovery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chemical Addictions Recovery Effort Inc. presented to community groups and participated in community planning meetings in Bay, Gulf, Holmes, Washington, Jackson, and Calhoun counties</li> <li>• United Way of Broward County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Presented suicide prevention efforts and resources at DOH's <i>Youth Suicide Prevention Symposium</i></li> <li>○ Distributed Crisis Text line and 2-1-1 information in English and Spanish during <i>Mental Health Awareness</i> month</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Be Free Lake coalition hosted the <i>Youth Mental Health Summit</i> and presented a <i>Question, Persuade and Refer</i> training</li> <li>• Veterans Counseling Veterans Inc. from Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco counties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Attended three mental health summits that focused on suicide prevention of veterans</li> <li>○ Formed a coalition of five nonprofit organizations that will assist veterans and family members bereaved by suicide</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Seminole DOH and Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care project hosted a series of <i>Suicide Prevention Week</i> events and trainings led by the Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care</li> <li>• National Alliance on Mental Illness Gainesville <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sponsored a two-day conference that included <i>In Harm's Way: Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention</i> training</li> <li>○ Presented <i>Ending the Silence</i> to high school students</li> <li>○ Participated in the <i>National Alliance on Mental Health Illness Walk</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• National Alliance on Mental Illness Tallahassee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual <i>Blue Bird Run and Walk for Brookie B.</i></li> <li>○ Held <i>Tallahassee Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) Team</i> training</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Big Bend Hospice from Tallahassee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hosted the annual <i>Lighting the Darkness</i> event</li> <li>○ Held eight <i>Bereavement Services Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group</i> meetings</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Suicide Prevention Awareness and Response Education Coalition hosted the <i>6th Annual Bridges of Hope Walk</i> in Bay County</li> <li>• Revive Ministries hosted a <i>Suicide Awareness Concert: Hope &amp; Help</i> in St. Johns County</li> <li>• National Alliance on Mental Illness Florida held its annual meeting and conference to explore suicide and other issues</li> <li>• The Suicide Awareness Voices of Education published results of the first <i>National Summit to Change the Direction of Suicide Prevention in the United States</i></li> <li>• CDAC Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., in Northwest Florida <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Offered bullying prevention, wellness, and internet safety training</li> <li>○ Participated in school crisis teams</li> <li>○ Provided suicide prevention information to schools and ways to refer students to the <i>Education and Counseling for High School Opportunities</i> program</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b>Health System, Insurers, and Clinicians</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Magellan Complete Care hosted a Suicide Prevention Community Summit in Orlando</li> </ul>

Goals	Initiatives and Actions
<p><b>Goal 2</b> <i>continued</i>: Increase public knowledge of the factors that offer protection from suicidal behaviors and promote wellness and recovery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SFBHN participated at the following mental health awareness events               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The <i>Community Dialogue</i> in Miami Shores Community Child</li> <li>○ The Healthy West Kendall Workgroup</li> <li>○ Radio Actualidad</li> <li>○ Youth Advisory Council for the Youth Homeless Initiative</li> <li>○ <i>A Day for You: Children's Mental Health Awareness Day</i></li> <li>○ The <i>16th Annual Mental Health Transformation in Action</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Businesses and Employers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hispanic Family Counseling, Inc.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Displayed suicide prevention brochures at community events</li> <li>○ Shared suicide prevention posts on social media networks</li> <li>○ Participated at three suicide prevention events in the community</li> <li>○ Attended Suicide Prevention Day at the Capitol</li> <li>○ Attended the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Advocacy Forum</li> <li>○ Attended the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Leadership Conference</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 3</b>: Implement and monitor effective evidence-based programs to promote wellness and prevent suicide-related behaviors.</p>	<p><b>State, Tribal, and Local Governments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCF SOSP, in collaboration with the SPCC, began work on a list of evidence-based programs to add to the department's suicide prevention website</li> <li>• DJJ implemented and monitored the fidelity of evidence-based mental health curricula in residential programs</li> <li>• FSH offered resident treatment activities and therapeutic interventions to promote wellness and coping skills</li> </ul> <p><b>Schools, Colleges, and Universities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of South Florida offered <i>Campus Connect: Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention</i></li> <li>• University of Central Florida's <i>Healthy Knights 2020</i> initiative promotes wellness and help-seeking of students and provides specific outreach to vulnerable students through a Campus Suicide Prevention grant</li> <li>• College of Central Florida's Suicide Prevention Initiative provides education and awareness on signs-and-symptoms, interventions, and resources</li> </ul> <p><b>Nonprofit, Community, and Faith-based Organizations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention began the process to make <i>HOPE Sunshine Club</i> an evidence-based curriculum</li> <li>• CDAC Behavioral Healthcare Inc. in Northwest Florida purchased the <i>SOS: Signs of Suicide Prevention</i> program to implement in high schools</li> <li>• Wraparound Orange, Devereux Mobile Crisis, and Children's Home Society completed a full spectrum of suicide prevention and intervention trainings</li> <li>• Veterans Counseling Veterans Inc. from Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco counties held an <i>Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training</i></li> <li>• The Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association (FADAA) hosted three <i>Trauma Informed Care of Pregnant and Parenting Women</i> trainings</li> <li>• FADAA and the Florida Council for Community Mental Health co-sponsored the statewide <i>Behavioral Health Conference</i> that offered two suicide prevention workshops               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Zero Suicide: An Emerging Standard in Suicide Care</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Goals	Initiatives and Actions
<p><b>Goal 3</b> <i>continued</i>: Implement and monitor effective evidence-based programs to promote wellness and prevent suicide-related behaviors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Addressing Suicide Prevention/Postvention</i></li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>Health System, Insurers, and Clinicians</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Aspire Health Partners in Seminole County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provided <i>Question, Persuade, Refer, and Treat</i> training and <i>Linking Individuals Needing Care</i> training</li> <li>○ Used the <i>Patient Health Questionnaire-9</i> to screen for depression</li> </ul> </li> <li>● SFBHN and the Youth Homeless Initiative strategized to ensure that primary health and behavioral health care providers use evidence-based practices</li> <li>● Aspire Health Partners in Seminole County provided a <i>Youth Mental Health First Aid</i> training</li> <li>● The Managing Entity Central Behavioral Florida Health Network, Inc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sponsored and conducted <i>Mental Health First Aid</i> trainings</li> <li>○ Participated as committee members at the Tampa Bay Suicide Task Force</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>Businesses and Employers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hispanic Family Counseling, Inc. from Orlando used the <i>Patient Health Questionnaire-9</i> to screen for depression</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 4:</b> Provide training on the prevention of suicide and related behaviors to community and clinical service providers.</p>	<p><b>State, Tribal, and Local Governments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● DJJ provided annual suicide prevention procedures training to staff in detention centers, residential programs, and day treatment programs</li> <li>● FSH's Psychology and Staff Development teams added suicide prevention information into its new-employee training</li> <li>● DCF organized the 2017 Child Protection Summit where the following trainings pertaining to suicide prevention were offered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Silent Suffering: Responding to Self-Harm</i></li> <li>○ <i>Helping Children at Times of Stress and Trauma</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>Schools, Colleges, and Universities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Florida State University Noles C.A.R.E. in Academics Teams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Held trainings regarding ways to assist distressed students at the College of Medicine and College of Nursing</li> <li>○ Distributed the Noles C.A.R.E resource handout that lists campus resources</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>Nonprofit, Community, and Faith-based Organizations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chemical Addictions Recovery Effort, Inc., ensured staff are trained on signs of suicide and ways to handle a crisis situation in Bay, Gulf, Holmes, Washington, Jackson, and Calhoun counties</li> <li>● Institute for Child and Family Health, Inc., from Miami presented a suicide prevention training and a non-suicidal self-injury presentation to employees.</li> <li>● United Way of Broward County conducted a suicide prevention and intervention training for children and families</li> <li>● CDAC Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., in Northwest Florida <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensured staff were trained on the warning signs for suicide</li> <li>○ Provided resources on the organization's website</li> <li>○ Offered youth and adult <i>Mental Health First Aid</i> trainings</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The Task Force For Ending Homelessness, Inc. from Fort Lauderdale</li> </ul>

Goals	Initiatives and Actions
<p><b>Goal 4</b> <i>continued</i>: Provide training on the prevention of suicide and related behaviors to community and clinical service providers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensured that staff were trained on <i>Motivational Interviewing</i> and <i>Mental Health First Aid</i></li> <li>○ Provided training to homelessness provider agencies</li> <li>○ Provided <i>Crisis Intervention Training</i> to law enforcement</li> <li>● Chemical Addictions Recovery Effort, Inc., implemented the <i>Too Good for Drugs</i> curriculum in middle schools in Holmes and Calhoun Counties</li> <li>● American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Central Chapter presented the following trainings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Two <i>Mental Health First Aid</i> in English and two youth <i>Mental Health First Aid</i> in Spanish in Orlando</li> <li>○ <i>It's Real: College Students and Mental Health</i> in Orlando</li> <li>○ <i>Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Trainings</i> in Winter Park</li> </ul> </li> <li>● American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Southeast Chapter presented <i>Talk Saves Lives</i> training in Miami</li> <li>● American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Southwest Chapter presented <i>Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training</i> in Ft. Myers</li> <li>● American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Bay Chapter presented the following trainings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training</i> in Tampa</li> <li>○ Three <i>Talk Saves Lives</i> in St. Petersburg and Clearwater</li> </ul> </li> <li>● American Foundation for Suicide Prevention North Florida Chapter presented the following trainings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>More than Sad</i> for middle schools students in Jacksonville</li> <li>○ Two <i>More than Sad: Education Training</i> for high school students in Jacksonville and Gainesville</li> <li>○ <i>Talk Saves Lives</i> in Jacksonville</li> </ul> </li> <li>● American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Florida Panhandle Chapter presented the following trainings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Three <i>Mental Health First Aid</i> in Shalimar, Santa Rosa Beach and Pensacola</li> <li>○ <i>SafeTALK</i> in Pensacola</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Health System, Insurers, and Clinicians</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SFBHN offered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Seven adult and youth <i>Mental Health First Aid</i> trainings</li> <li>○ Eighteen <i>YES Institute</i> trainings</li> <li>○ Two <i>Motivational Interviewing</i> trainings</li> <li>○ One <i>Health, Illness, Therapeutic Relationship and Cultural Competence Part I and II</i> training</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Businesses and Employers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hispanic Family Counseling, Inc., from Orlando: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provided <i>Talk Saves Lives</i> training</li> <li>○ Sent various employees and therapists to the <i>Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training</i></li> <li>○ Provided four youth <i>Mental Health First Aid</i> trainings in English and Spanish</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Goals	Initiatives and Actions
<p><b>Goal 5:</b> Promote suicide prevention as a core component of health care services.</p>	<p><b>State, Tribal, and Local Governments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCF SOSP, the Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care project, and Flagler Hospital participated in the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's <i>Medical Emergency Department Community of Practice</i> online collaboration calls.</li> <li>• Broward Sheriff's Office, Department of Community Programs, Drug Court Treatment Division <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assessed youth for suicidality</li> <li>○ Completed safety planning with youth identified at-risk</li> <li>○ Conducted lethality assessments with youth</li> <li>○ Made referrals to the Mobile Crisis Team</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Broward Sheriff's Office, Department of Community Programs, Juvenile Assessment Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Notified the Juvenile Detention Center of youth at risk for suicide</li> <li>○ Provided information about the Henderson Behavioral Health's Youth Emergency Services to youths' guardians</li> </ul> </li> <li>• FSH's staff became members of the APA American Association of Suicidology Listserv</li> <li>• DOH staff and Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University interns researched mental health, depression, and suicide prevention resources for students</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>Nonprofit, Community, and Faith-based Organizations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chemical Addictions Recovery Effort, Inc., provided the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale and the <i>Mothers and Babies</i> course that focuses on depression reduction to their consumers in Bay, Gulf, Holmes, Washington, Jackson, and Calhoun counties</li> <li>• DISC Village, Inc., distributed suicide prevention materials from the Jason Foundation in schools and community settings</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 6:</b> Promote and implement effective clinical and professional practices for assessing and treating those identified as being at-risk for suicidal behaviors.</p>	<p><b>State, Tribal, and Local Governments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCF SAMH promoted system wide transformation by hosting 10 regional summits to disseminate knowledge of recovery-oriented concepts and practices in Pensacola, Panama City, two in Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Ocala, Tampa, West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, and Miami</li> <li>• Broward Sheriff's Office, Department of Community Programs, Drug Court Treatment Division trained all staff on safety planning and policy training</li> <li>• Broward Sheriff's Office, Department of Community Programs, Juvenile Assessment Team used the following tools to evaluate a youth's mental health and well-being <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Psychosocial evaluations</li> <li>○ <i>The Global Appraisal of Individual Needs- Quick</i> assessment</li> </ul> </li> <li>• DJJ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Implemented suicide risk screening during youths' initial intake to the juvenile justice system and upon entry to a detention center, residential commitment program or day treatment program</li> <li>○ Referred youth identified as at-risk for a suicide risk assessment</li> <li>○ Placed at-risk youth on suicide precautions until a risk assessment was conducted</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Goals	Initiatives and Actions
	<p><b>Health System, Insurers, and Clinicians</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SFBHN established a unified clinical screening tool and an assessment tool that explores the risk of self-harm, and made appropriate referrals based on its findings</li> </ul> <p><b>Nonprofit, Community, and Faith-based Organizations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chemical Addictions Recovery Effort, Inc., assessed consumers for suicide risk and made referrals to mental health services in Bay, Gulf, Holmes, Washington, Jackson, and Calhoun counties</li> <li>• CDAC Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., in Northwest Florida <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assessed students for suicidality in elementary, middle, and high schools</li> <li>○ Made referrals for additional assessments</li> <li>○ Provided out-patient resources to students and families</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 7:</b> Increase the usefulness of national and state-level surveillance data to inform suicide prevention efforts.</p>	<p><b>State, Tribal, and Local Governments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCF SOSP, DOH, and Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care project created a National Violent Death Reporting System Grant Task Force to prepare for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Request for Proposal</li> <li>• DCF SAMH captured incident reports on individuals served by SAMH who attempted suicide and died by suicide using the Incident Reporting and Analysis System</li> <li>• DOH began to track youth suicide fatalities, emergency department visits, and hospitalization outcome data for Florida’s participation in the Child Safety Network Collaboration Innovation and Improvement Network project, in conjunction with quality improvement projects to reduce suicide attempts by Florida youth</li> </ul> <p><b>Nonprofit, Community, and Faith-based Organizations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention used data from Broward County and Florida to inform communities about the prevalence and urgency of mental health education and care</li> <li>• The Task Force For Ending Homelessness, Inc., of Fort Lauderdale provided staff with annual fact sheets from the American Association of Suicidology</li> </ul>

**V. Planned Initiatives and Activities**

The SPCC and other suicide prevention stakeholders have the following suicide prevention efforts planned for November 2017 through December 2018. It is important to note that this list is not inclusive of all planned initiatives and actions throughout Florida. Table 5 below lists the events occurring through the remainder of the year.

**Table 5: Planned Initiatives and Activities October 2017- December 2018**

Stakeholder	Planned Initiatives and Activities
The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and DCF	2018 Suicide Prevention Day at the Capitol to be held on February 21, 2018
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention	<i>Out of the Darkness</i> walks in Highlands, Miami-Dade, Polk, Sarasota, Pinellas, Pasco, Collier, St. Lucie, Broward, Monroe, Hillsborough, and Orange counties
The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition	Third Annual Florida Taking Action for Suicide Prevention, a mini-conference to be held February 19 and 20, 2018, in Tallahassee
Big Bend Hospice	International Survivors of Suicide Loss Workshop on November 18, 2017, in Tallahassee
Suicide Prevention Awareness and Response Education Coalition	National Suicide Survivor's Day on November 18, 2017 in Bay County
Agency for Health Care Administration	Increase suicide prevention awareness among staff, consumers, and visitors during National Suicide Prevention Week and World Suicide Prevention Day through posters and social media
Florida State University Noles C.A.R.E. in Academics Team	Continue suicide prevention trainings for faculty, staff, and students
Magellan Complete Care	Suicide Prevention Community Summits in Fort Lauderdale, Tampa, and Tallahassee
Broward Sheriff's Office, Department of Community Programs, Juvenile Assessment Team	Continue to inform staff on suicide prevention trainings available
The Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Survivors of Suicide Loss Day of Healing Conference to be held on November 18, 2017, in Broward County</li> <li>• The Annual HUGS for HOPE 5k Run/Walk to be held on May 19, 2018, in Broward County</li> </ul>
South Florida Behavioral Health Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update its website to include links to suicide prevention awareness activities, information, trainings, hot lines, and prevention websites</li> <li>• Continue monthly meetings with a focus on care coordination and will add suicide prevention topics for discussion</li> <li>• Collaborate with the SOSp</li> <li>• Continue partnership with the Youth Homeless Initiative</li> <li>• Continue working with Nicklaus Children's Hospital and West Kendall Baptist Hospital to offer CEs on various mental health training topics</li> <li>• Continue to invite Larkin Hospital and Jackson Hospital to trainings</li> </ul>
Florida State Hospital	Create a work-group to analyze the assessment tool findings into a clinical risk assessment measure used by FSH
Chemical Addictions Recovery Effort Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to implement <i>Too Good for Drugs</i> curriculum to middle school students in Holmes and Calhoun counties from August 2017, to December 2018</li> </ul>

Stakeholder	Planned Initiatives and Activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide the <i>Mothers and Babies</i> course that focuses on depression reduction to their consumers in Bay, Gulf, Holmes, Washington, Jackson, and Calhoun counties</li> </ul>
Broward Sheriff's Office, Department of Community Programs, Drug Court Treatment Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to train staff on safety planning</li> <li>Update policies and procedures with regard to the safety planning</li> <li>Inform staff of available suicide prevention trainings</li> </ul>
Hispanic Family Counseling, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to attend Suicide Prevention Day at the Capitol</li> <li>Attend the Out of the Darkness Walks in Orlando</li> <li>Continue to offer mental health and suicide prevention trainings</li> <li>Continue to use social media to end the stigma associated with mental health and suicide</li> <li>Continue to use the <i>Patient Health Questionnaire-9</i> to screen for depression</li> </ul>

**VI. Grants**

Information on six major federal grants currently being implemented in Florida to assist with suicide prevention efforts is below.

**VI.A. Florida Implementation of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (FINS) Project**

The FINS Project is a partnership of the SOSOP, the University of Central Florida (UCF), the University of South Florida (USF), and Florida Hospital. Using a mentorship model, FINS will adopt and integrate the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention to ensure that health and behavioral health settings and adult-serving systems are adequately prepared to identify, engage, and treat at-risk adults with culturally competent evidence-based/best-practice (EB/BP) suicide prevention, treatment, safety planning, and care coordination services.

The goals of the project include:

- Transform health and behavioral health systems infrastructure through the development of Zero Suicide advisory committees, suicide prevention policies and procedures, and the integration of EB/BP measures and mechanisms to monitor suicide care
- Enhance the collaboration of local and state-level partnerships to promote Zero Suicide and National Suicide Prevention Lifeline utilization
- Develop workforce training capacity to utilize EB/BP suicide prevention strategies
- Enhance care coordination strategies to increase the number of recovery and support linkages for at-risk adults to be referred and sustained in the right treatment at the right time
- Improve the coordination, sharing, and tracking of suicide-related indicators (suicide ideation, attempts, deaths, service utilization) via regional and state-level data surveillance systems

## **VI.B. Central Florida Pathways to Awareness, Support, and Services (C PASS) Project**

The C PASS Project, a Now is the Time Project Aware Community Grant, is a partnership between UCF, USF, and the Florida Council for Community Mental Health (FCCMH). This project aims to coordinate, strengthen, and enhance system-wide efforts to expand Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training, behavioral health outreach, and engagement initiatives to high risk regions in Central Florida. These areas include Citrus, Lake, Sumter, Orange, Seminole, and Volusia counties. YMHFA is an 8-hour education program for youth-serving adults that introduces participants to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents and teaches individuals how to help an adolescent who is in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge, including suicide.

Training and outreach efforts target frontline professionals who work with high-risk youth experiencing mental health and substance use issues and who encounter significant life stressors and adversities such as exposure to violence, abuse, neglect, poverty, and other forms of victimization.

The C PASS Project supports the training of those who interact with youth through their programs at the community level, including child protective investigators, community mental health partners, law enforcement, school personnel, faith-based leaders, and parents. Implementation of the C PASS Project aims to increase mental health literacy among youth-serving adults, policy-makers, and administrators of programs serving youth.

Major grant activities completed to date are summarized below:

- Trained 789 people in YMHFA; 41 trainings conducted
- Partnered and established YMHFA trainers within DCF, Lutheran Services Florida Health Systems, Marion County Children's Alliance, and the Community Based Care of Central Florida to train in multiple sectors across Central Florida. These sectors include child welfare, juvenile justice, behavioral health, education, law enforcement, and non-profit social services
- Certified eight individuals as YMHFA instructors
- Participated in 61 community events and disseminated more than 3,000 materials to promote the C PASS project, mental health awareness, and help seeking resources
- Identified and referred 640 youth to mental health services, crisis services, or other supportive services

## **VI.C. Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care (FL LINC) Project**

The FL LINC Project, a Garret Lee Smith State/Tribal Suicide Prevention Program, is a partnership between the SOS, the FCCMH, UCF, USF, and three Managing Entities to develop innovative strategies to enhance services reaching at-risk priority populations.

Grant activities target the central, southeast, and northeast regions of the state. The goal of this grant is to increase the number of agencies, organizations, schools, and

groups working together to implement suicide-prevention initiatives, in addition to improving care coordination services (follow-up care after a suicide or an attempt) to at-risk youth ages 10-24.

Major grant activities completed to date are summarized below:

- Worked with four behavioral health organizations to change policy and procedures, develop training plans, and implement a suicide care pathway in adolescent crisis stabilization units
- Partnered with three Managing Entities and four behavioral health organizations to implement the Zero Suicide initiative and pilot a Care Coordination Model of Care with youth ages 10 to 24 who are discharged from a crisis stabilization unit
- Promoted the LINC project and activities at local meetings and events as of October 2017, participated in 235 partnership meetings and disseminated 7,078 LINC marketing materials to promote suicide prevention awareness, education, and training
- Provided the following LINC trainings throughout the target regions:
  - *Question, Persuade, Refer, and Treat*, a suicide risk assessment and risk management training, online plus role-play to 46 clinicians
  - *Question, Persuade, and Refer*, a basic suicide prevention gatekeeper training to 1,905 individuals, including 195 emergency room staff
  - Suicide risk assessment and safety planning to 287 individuals
  - Care coordination principles to 139 individuals
  - Family training for 192 parents/family members of at-risk youth
  - Postvention training for 225 school personnel
- Distributed suicide prevention related resources:
  - 7,672 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline materials at events, meetings, and trainings
  - 3,597 USF Family Guides at events, meetings, and trainings
- Provided care coordination services to 145 at-risk youth transitioning out of acute care (services provided for up to 90 days post discharge)

#### **VI.D. Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education (AWARE) Project**

The Department of Education's AWARE project builds and expands the capacity of state educational agencies to increase awareness of mental health issues among school-aged youth. The AWARE project provides training for school personnel and other adults who interact with school-aged youth to detect and respond to mental health issues. Training focuses on how to connect children, youth, and families who may have behavioral health issues with appropriate services and supports.

The goals of the project are to increase:

- Youth access to mental health services and supports
- Implementation of evidence-based, culturally responsive mental health practices
- Awareness of mental health issues within Florida's youth, families, schools, and communities

At the state level, partners from multiple youth-serving systems and organizations serve on a State Management Team that provides oversight and leadership to systems that serve youth. At the local level, three Florida AWARE districts are developing and implementing a multi-tiered system of mental health supports that will serve as a model for future growth. Florida AWARE has 44 certified YMHFA trainers throughout the state that conducted 56 YMHFA trainings at no cost to participants.

#### **VI.E. Noles CARE in Academics Project**

Florida State University's (FSU) Noles CARE in Academics Project aims to enhance existing campus suicide prevention interventions by providing more accessible resources to academic departments across the FSU campus. Noles CARE train faculty, staff, and students within FSU's academic departments on local sources of support in the learning environment of students, and to encourage early detection of student distress and referrals for professional help. Noles CARE incorporate specific components into the training that addresses high-risk groups, such as members of the LGBTQ community, those identifying as racial or ethnic minority students, and student veterans.

The goals of the project include:

- Assess the needs of faculty, staff, and students within academic departments in carrying out suicide prevention efforts; the desire to implement suicide prevention training within academic departments; and the preferences of faculty, staff, and students for receiving suicide prevention training within academic departments
- Increase the percentage of faculty and staff who feel competent in handling students' mental health concerns
- Increase the percentage of student leaders who feel competent in intervening with distressed peers
- Increase the perceived efficacy and comfort of students with talking to faculty and peers about getting help with their mental health concerns
- Utilize a multidisciplinary leadership network to integrate suicide prevention training with other mental health initiatives on campus to increase student support for mental health within academic departments

#### **VI.F. Healthy Knights 2020 Project**

The UCF Healthy Knights 2020 initiative promotes a campus-wide environment supportive of the development and maintenance of a healthy body, mind, and spirit to decrease the occurrence of mental health issues that lead to suicide. Currently, the UCF campus has several options for students to receive health, mental health, and behavioral health services. However, following a pivotal on-campus suicide incident in 2013, the University recognized needed improvement in the area of suicide prevention.

The goals of the project include:

- Develop a crisis response plan that encompasses not only the UCF campus community, but the greater Orlando community, which includes linkage to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
- Increase awareness of suicide risk factors such as depression and substance use, the warning signs, prevention strategies, and resources specifically for high risk populations such as LGBTQ, students with co-occurring substance use and mental health issues, and student veterans through gatekeeper trainings
- Provide information on suicide prevention, identification, and reduction of risk factors, such as depression and substance abuse, promoting help seeking, and reducing the negative attitudes towards seeking care for mental and substance use disorders
- Create brochures and public service announcements specific to UCF and its community to help increase the awareness of suicide prevention
- Become a member of the Campus Program available through the Jed Foundation

## VII. Council Recommendations

The SPCC, in partnership with key stakeholders, supports the implementation of national and state-level suicide prevention strategies, the dissemination of new suicide prevention research findings, the coordination of services across sectors and disciplines, and the provision of comprehensive suicide prevention initiatives. In support of these initiatives, the SPCC has three recommendations:

### **1. Expand the Capacity of the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention**

The SPCC extends its recommendation to expand the scope and ability of the SOSF. Expansion of the SOSF will enhance partnerships with local communities and key stakeholders and support the effective implementation of Florida's Suicide Prevention Plan. Expansion will also improve strategic planning efforts with local communities in order to reduce suicide at the local level. Accomplishing this requires additional resources, as well as additional staff. Expansion of the SOSF by at least one full-time Suicide Prevention Specialist, and program operations funding, would increase the office's ability to support and collaborate with the SPCC, local suicide prevention coalitions, and key stakeholders to better align suicide prevention efforts and reduce suicide in Florida.

### **2. Apply for the National Violent Death Reporting System**

The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) is the only state-based reporting system that collects and categorizes data on violent deaths from state and local medical examiners, coroners, state and local law enforcement, toxicologists and vital statistics individual records into an anonymous database. The NVDRS covers all types of violent deaths, including homicides and suicides, in all settings and for all age groups. NVDRS may include data on mental health problems; recent problems with a job, finances, or relationships; physical health problems; and

information about circumstances of death. With the ability to capture these types of information, Florida will be able to design and implement suicide prevention and intervention efforts.

DOH has held planning meetings to review the requirements involved with applying for a NVDRS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant, and may apply in 2018.

Should such a grant be awarded to Florida, the SPCC recommends that the NVDRS be statutorily mandated and funded beyond the life of the grant award. One example of a state that included NVDRS into its statutory language is Ohio (please see Chapter 3701.01, [Section 3701.93.](#))

### 3. Fund School Suicide Prevention Training

The SPCC recommends that the Legislature appropriate funding for implementation of s. 1012.583, F.S, which directs the Department of Education to develop a list of approved youth suicide awareness and prevention training materials that may be used for training in youth suicide awareness and prevention for instructional personnel. This legislation was passed in 2016 through HB7029 without funding for training. The funding could be used to support implementation of s. 1012.583, F.S., by providing train-the-trainer trainings and materials for youth suicide awareness and prevention trainings approved by the Florida Department of Education. This request supports goal one in the Florida Suicide Prevention Plan 2016-2020, which is to increase suicide prevention activities across multiple sectors and settings, and goal two, which is to increase public knowledge of the factors that offer protection from suicidal behaviors, and promote wellness and recovery.

## VIII. Council Members or Designees

The SPCC consists of 27 voting members and one non-voting member. Thirteen members are selected by the SPCC and represent community organizations, four members are appointed by the Governor, and 10 members represent state officials. As of December 1, 2017, the following individuals are either members or designees of the Council.

Organizational Seat	Name of Member or Designee
Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention and Designee for the Department of Children and Families	Dr. Sofia Castro
Florida Association of School Psychologists	Dr. Gene Cash
Florida Sheriffs Association	Matt Dunagan
Suicide Prevention Action Network USA	(organization no longer exists)
Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention	Jackie Rosen
Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition	Judy Broward
American Foundation of Suicide Prevention	Tara Sullivan



<b>Organizational Seat</b>	<b>Name of Member or Designee</b>
<b>Florida School Board Association</b>	Karen Brill
<b>National Council for Suicide Prevention</b>	Dr. Dan Reidenberg
<b>State Chapter of AARP</b>	Larry Dixon
<b>Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association</b>	Dr. Louise Ritchie
<b>Florida Council for Community Mental Health</b>	Dr. Kim Gryglewicz
<b>Florida Counseling Association</b>	Dr. Carly Paro
<b>NAMI Florida</b>	Alisa LaPolt
<b>Department of Elder Affairs</b>	Gretta Jones
<b>State Surgeon General</b>	Shay Chapman
<b>Commissioner of Education</b>	Dr. David Wheeler
<b>Agency for Health Care Administration</b>	Jack Plagge
<b>Department of Juvenile Justice</b>	Dr. Gayla Sumner
<b>Department of Corrections</b>	Dr. Dean Aufderheide
<b>Florida Department of Law Enforcement</b>	Seth Montgomery
<b>Department of Veterans' Affairs</b>	Alfred D. (Al) Carter
<b>Department of Economic Opportunity</b>	Michael Golen
<b>Governor's Appointee</b>	Stephen Roggenbaum
<b>Governor's Appointee</b>	Donna Schulz
<b>Governor's Appointee</b>	John Popson
<b>Governor's Appointee</b>	Vacant Seat

## **IX. Resources**

This section of the Report aims to raise awareness to the warning signs for suicide and provides hyperlinks to on-line resources. The following is a partial list of warning signs from the American Association of Suicidology<sup>11</sup>:

- Increased substance (alcohol or drug) use
- No reason for living; no sense of purpose in life
- Anxiety, agitation, unable to sleep or sleeping all the time
- Feeling trapped – like there's no way out
- Hopelessness
- Withdrawal from friends, family, and society

<sup>11</sup> See, <http://www.suicidology.org/resources/warning-signs>, site accessed, September 24, 2015.

- Rage, uncontrolled anger, seeking revenge
- Acting reckless or engaging in risky activities, seemingly without thinking
- Dramatic mood changes

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides 24/7, free, and confidential support for anyone in distress, as well as prevention and crisis resources. There are additional crisis lines that address the unique needs of certain populations. To get help for yourself or a loved one, the following resources are available:

1. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255  
Website: [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)  
Individuals who speak Spanish can call 1-888-628-9454
2. Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 or send a text message to 838255 Website: <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>
3. Switchboard of Miami for individuals who speak Creole: 1-305-358-4357
4. The Trevor Lifeline for LGBTQ Youth: 1- 866-488-7386 or text “Trevor” to 1-202-304-1200, Monday-Friday between 3:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. EST  
Website: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>

To learn more about risk and protective factors, visit:

1. [The American Association of Suicidology](#)
2. [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Injury, Prevention and Control: Division of Violence Prevention](#)
3. [The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition](#)
4. [The Florida Department of Children and Families’ Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention](#)
5. [Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#)

**For more information about suicide prevention and awareness in Florida, contact:**

Dr. Sofia Castro, Suicide Prevention Specialist  
E-mail: [Sindie.Castro@MyFLfamilies.com](mailto:Sindie.Castro@MyFLfamilies.com)  
Phone: 850-717-4429