



**2015 Annual Report
of the Suicide Prevention
Coordinating Council**

Prepared Pursuant to s. 14.20195, F.S.

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

January 1, 2016

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I. Purpose

Section 14.20195(c), F.S., requires the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council (Council) to “prepare an annual report and present it to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2008, and each year thereafter.” The report must identify from the Statewide Plan for Suicide Prevention:

- The status of existing and planned initiatives; and
- Any recommendations arising from those initiatives.

II. An Overview of Suicide

The information presented in this section provides the most recent prevalence rates for suicide at the national and state level.

National

The national suicide rate for 2013, which is the most recent data available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is summarized below:¹

- The total number of deaths due to suicide in 2013 was 41,149; 113 suicides each day.²
- In 2013, suicide was the tenth leading cause of all deaths in the United States.
- In 2012, deaths per 100,000 population due to suicide was 12.6, which remained the same in 2013.

Florida

Data related to the suicide rate in Florida, as reported in the *2014 Vital Statistics Annual and Provisional Report*,³ are summarized below:

- The total number of deaths due to suicide in 2014 was 2,961, which is a slight increase from 2,892 in 2013.
- Suicide was ranked as the 10th leading cause of death in Florida in 2014.
- In 2014, the suicide rate per 100,000 population was 15.1.

Table 1 below shows the suicide rate per 100,000 population per age group. Suicide was the second leading cause of death for individuals within the 25-34 age group and the third leading cause of death for ages 5-24.

Table 1: Florida's Suicide Rate per 100,000 Population in 2014

Age Group	Suicide Rate per 100,000 Population	Ranking Among Top Five Causes of Death
5-14	0.9	3 rd leading cause of death
15-24	10.3	3 rd leading cause of death
25-34	15.1	2 nd leading cause of death
35-44	16.7	4 th leading cause of death
45-54	21.7	5 th leading cause of death

Data Source: TABLE D-4: RESIDENT DEATHS FOR LEADING CAUSES AND RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION, BY AGE GROUP, FLORIDA, 2014: *Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report (2014)*⁴

¹ See, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db178.htm>, site accessed September 24, 2015.

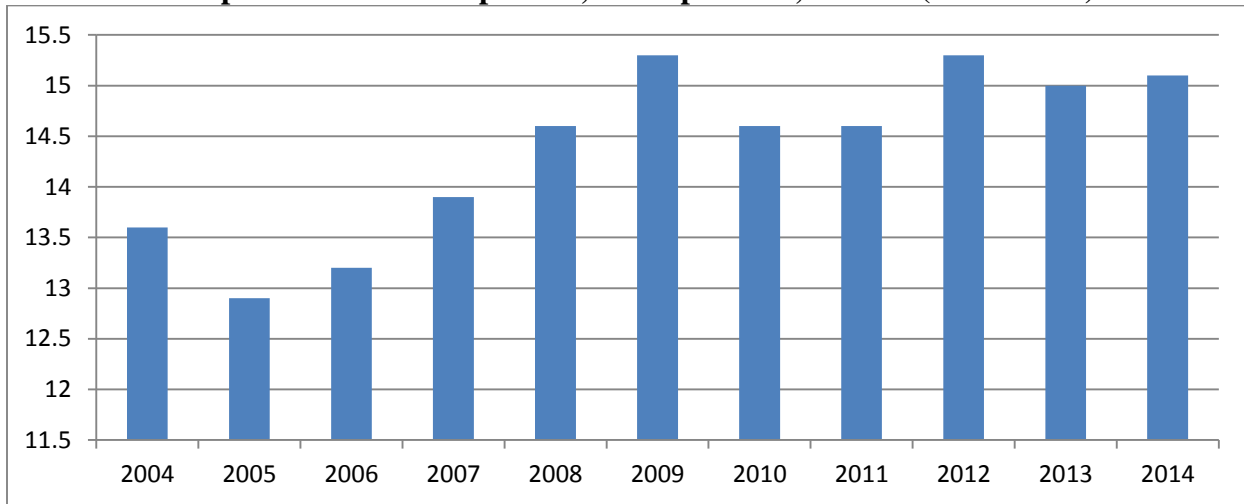
² See, <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/leadingcauses.html>, site accessed September 24, 2015.

³ See, <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2014/Deaths.pdf>, site accessed September 24, 2015.

⁴ See, <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2014/Deaths.pdf>, site accessed September 24, 2015.

Graph 1 below shows an upward trend in the suicide rate in Florida from 2005 to 2009. The trend fluctuates from 2009 to 2014.

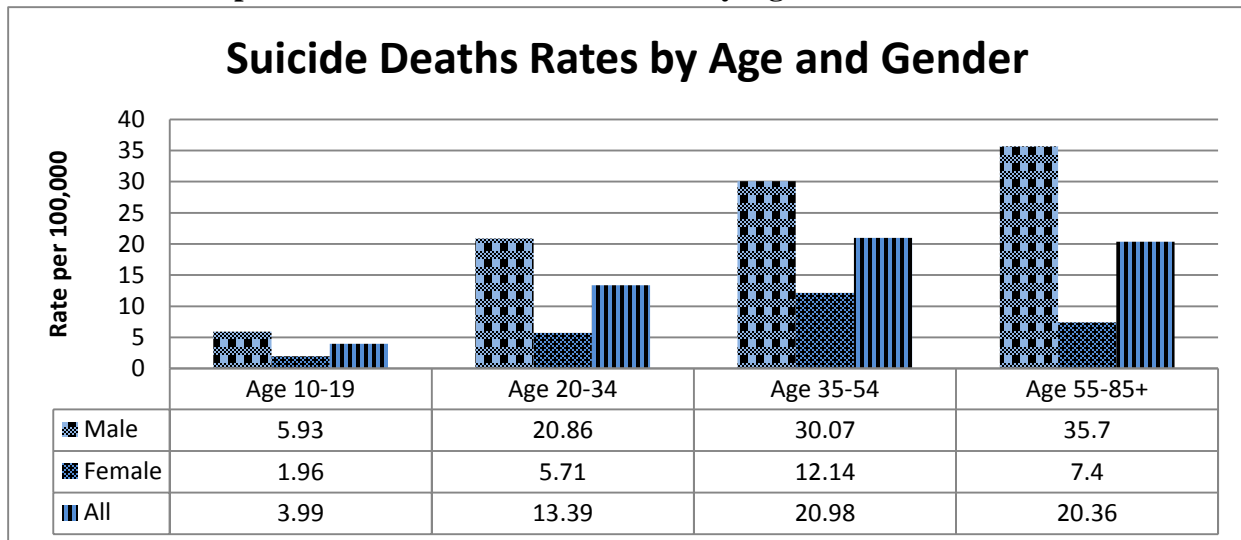
Graph 1: Suicide Rate per 100,000 Population, Florida (2004 - 2014)



Data Sources: CHART D-4: RESIDENT DEATHS FOR LEADING CAUSES AND RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION, BY AGE GROUP, FLORIDA, 2013: *Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report (2013)*⁵ and TABLE D-3: RESIDENT DEATHS AND RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION FOR 25 LEADING CAUSES, BY RACE, FLORIDA, 2004 AND 2014: *Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report (2014)*⁶

Graph 2 below shows that in 2013, the suicide rate for males increased as they aged, as represented in each of the age groups. Graph 2 also shows the suicide rate for males was higher than for females in each of the four age groups. The findings of males dying by suicide at higher rates than females as they age is consistent with national data.

Graph 2: Florida Suicide Death Rates by Age and Gender in 2013



Data Source: NCHS Vital Statistics System for numbers of deaths. Bureau of Census for population estimates. Produced by: National Center for Injury Prevention Control, CDC⁷

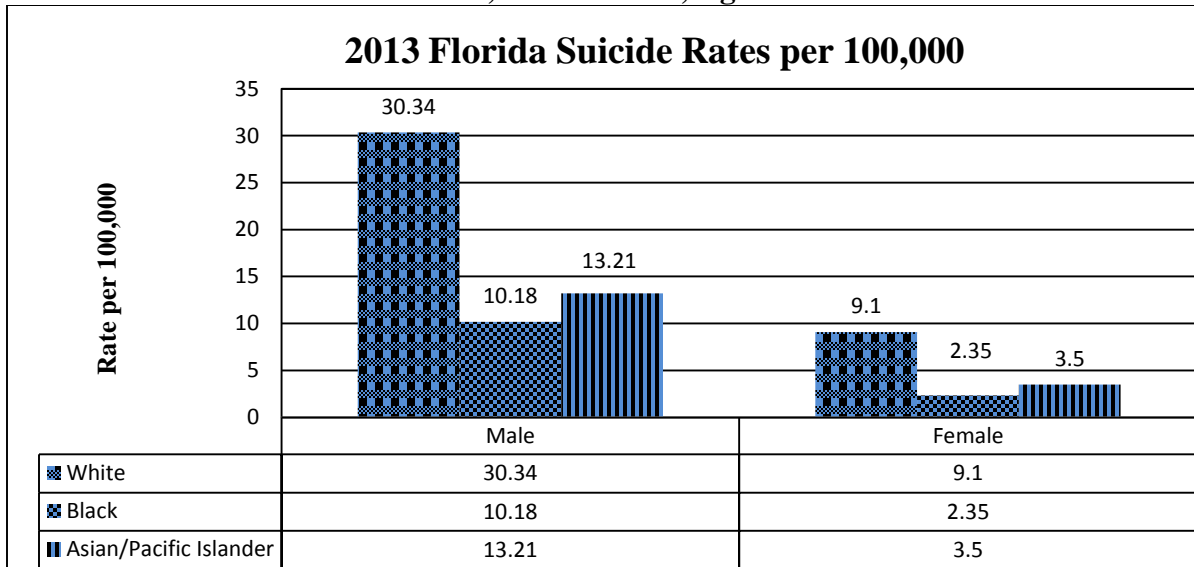
⁵ See, <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2013/Deaths.pdf>, site accessed September 24, 2015.

⁶ See, <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2014/Deaths.pdf>, site accessed September 24, 2015.

⁷ See, http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html, site accessed September 30, 2015.

Graph 3 below shows that in 2013, Florida suicide rates for white, black, and Asian/Pacific Islander males, ages 10 to 85+ were higher than the rates for females among those same groups. The suicide rate for white males was the highest, while the suicide rate for black females was the lowest.

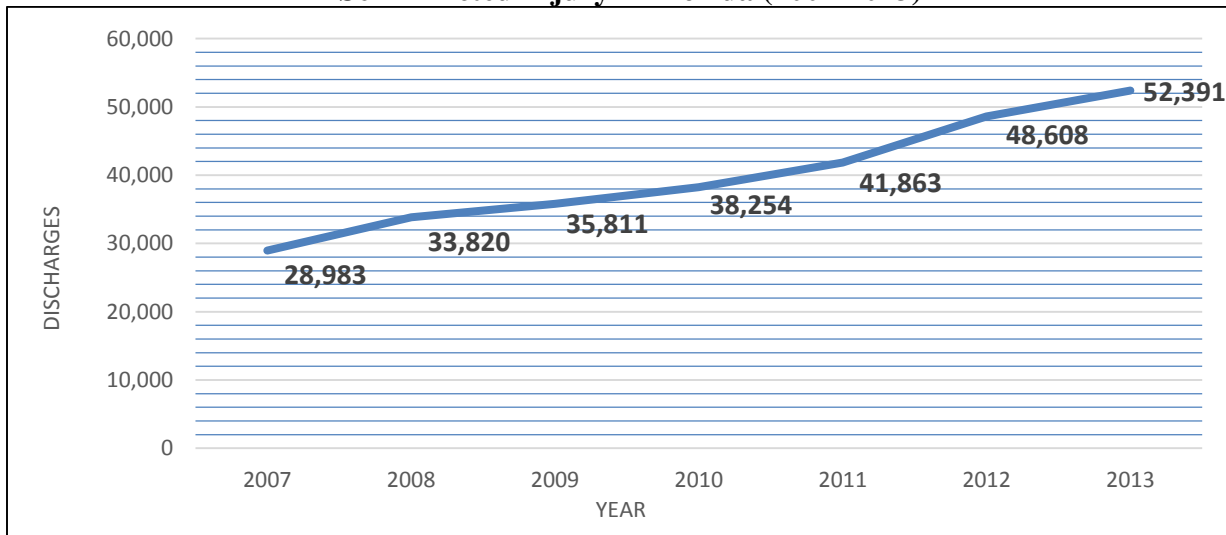
**Graph 3: 2013 Florida Suicide Injury Deaths and Rates per 100,000
All Races, Both Gender, Ages 10 to 85+**



Data Source: NCHS Vital Statistics System for numbers of deaths. Bureau of Census for population estimates. Produced by: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC.

Graph 4 below shows an increase in the number of hospital discharges involving suicide and self-inflicted injury from 2007 to 2013 in Florida.

Graph 4: Total Number of Hospital Discharges Involving Suicide and Self-inflicted Injury in Florida (2007-2013)



Data Source: HCUPnet. Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP). State statistics from HCUP State Inpatient Databases 2007-2013, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), based on data collected by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration and provided to AHRQ. <http://hcupnet.ahrq.gov/>. Accessed October 14, 2015.

III. Florida’s Statewide Plan for Suicide Prevention (2011 – 2015)

There are many suicide prevention activities in local communities around the state that provide a foundation for moving the State’s Suicide Prevention Plan forward. The table below summarizes state level and local community suicide prevention activities, as reported by the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council. Activities are listed under primary related goals; however, many activities support additional goals. This summary is not inclusive of all suicide prevention activities that occurred around the state during 2015.

I. Strategic Direction: Healthy and Empowered Individuals, Families, and Communities	
Goals	Related Activities
<p>Goal 1: Promote awareness that suicide is a preventable public health problem and reduce the stigma associated with being a consumer of mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services</p>	<p><u>State Agencies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Children and Families (DCF) contracted with the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association (FADAA) to host training, <i>Managing Risk for the Suicidal Veteran</i>; 209 participants attended the training. • DCF contracted with FADAA to hold a workshop, <i>Overdose Recognition and Intervention</i>; 315 participants attended the training. • To raise awareness and combat stigma during the National Suicide Prevention Week, September 7-13 2015, DCF blogged the following guest posts. These posts are personal stories of individuals impacted by suicide. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ http://blog.myflfamilies.com/2015/09/only-now-do-i-understand/. ○ http://blog.myflfamilies.com/2015/09/h-o-p-e-hold-on-possibilities-exist/. ○ http://blog.myflfamilies.com/2015/09/im-living-proof/ <p><u>Websites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor Scott’s proclamation recognized March 19, 2015, as Florida Suicide Prevention Day. The proclamation was added to the SPRC.org website and DCF’s website to raise awareness of suicide as a preventable tragedy. The proclamation was also distributed to the Council and key stakeholders across the state. • The DCF created a statewide suicide prevention web page on the department’s website that provides information about suicide prevention, resources to seek help, and resources for certain populations, such as first responders, primary care providers, and teens and parents. The web page can be found at the following link: http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/mental-health/suicide-prevention/about-suicide

I. Strategic Direction: Healthy and Empowered Individuals, Families, and Communities
continued

Goals	Related Activities
<p>Goal 1 continued: Promote awareness that suicide is a preventable public health problem and reduce the stigma associated with being a consumer of mental health, substance abuse and suicide prevention services</p>	<p><u>News</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citrus County Chronicle Online wrote an article on suicide prevention and interviewed Stephen Roggenbaum, a Council member. The adult warning signs for suicide were included in the article, which can be found on http://www.chronicleonline.com/content/citrus-more-choose-suicide. <p><u>Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Center for Public Safety Innovation at St. Pete College worked on additional resources for First Responders' families, which will soon be available on its websites. The Center offered training for Spouse Academies, which has been continued by chaplains and officers at these agencies on an ongoing basis. http://cpsi.spcollege.edu/. • A First Responders Golf Classic was held on November 9 to support the Operation Restore Program. • Through the University of West Florida Mental and Behavioral Health Capacity Project, Suzanne Clark, a Mental Health First Aid Instructor, offered free Mental Health First Aid trainings in six counties; 445 individuals from 24 organizations attended. <p><u>First Responders</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Responder week-long Operation Restore Retreats (Post Trauma Training Program focused on First Responders' well-being, and keeping them in shape so they can keep us safe) have been offered, at no cost, to attendees at the Franciscan Center in Tampa, Florida. • A First Responders Prayer Service and luncheon was held on September 29 to honor Tampa Bay First Responders.

II. Strategic Direction: Clinical and Community Preventive Services	
Goals	Related Activities
<p>Goal 2: Create collaborations and networks that support common goals in suicide prevention</p>	<p><u>Websites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Florida Department of Health’s Injury Prevention website hosts a suicide prevention page, with additional resource links that include evidenced-based and best practice-related information and training, treatment interventions, and resources. http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/prevention/suicide-prevention/links.html. • The DCF suicide prevention web page includes a link for professionals, which provides information on best practices, to include the Suicide Prevention Resource Center’s Best Practices Registry. http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/mental-health/suicide-prevention/professionals. • Public and private agencies, coalitions, and other key stakeholders are able to submit their suicide prevention efforts to the Suicide Prevention Website Calendar by emailing HQW.Suicide.Prevention@myflfamilies.com. The calendar is available on DCF’s Suicide Prevention website. http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/mental-health/suicide-prevention. The following events were submitted to be added to the calendar for 2015 prevention efforts: <p><u>Bay County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Life Management Center of Northwest Florida, Inc., DCF, and Big Bend Community-Based Care hosted the 6th Annual Suicide Prevention Conference. ○ The Suicide Prevention, Awareness, Response, and Education (SPARE) Coalition hosted the 4th Annual "Bridge of Hope" Awareness Walk. ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted an “Out of the Darkness” Walk. ○ SPARE Coalition hosted the “National Suicide Survivor's Day Candlelight Vigil.” <p><u>Broward County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted an “Out of the Darkness” Walk. ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted the International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day Conference.

II. Strategic Direction: Clinical and Community Preventive Services <i>continued</i>	
Goals	Related Activities
<p>Goal 2 <i>continued</i>: Create collaborations and networks that support common goals in suicide prevention</p>	<p><u>Duval County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted an “Out of the Darkness” Walk. ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted the International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day Conference. <p><u>Escambia County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pensacola State College hosted Jordan Burnham, Active Minds national speaker. <p><u>Hillsborough County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Faculty Support Department, Pasco Hernando State College, hosted a suicide prevention workshop presented by Betsey Westuba, the Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition’s Statewide Chair and the Regional Director for Hillsborough, Manatee, and Pasco counties. ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted an “Out of the Darkness” Walk. ○ The Suncoast Kids Place hosted a “Children’s Grief Awareness Day” Event. ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted the “International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day” Conference. <p><u>Indian River County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted an “Out of the Darkness” Walk. <p><u>Lee County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted the “International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day” Conference. <p><u>Leon County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Tallahassee hosted the Inaugural Bluebird Run and Walk for Brookie B, a young woman lost to suicide. ○ Big Bend Hospice hosted Suicide Loss Support Group. ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted an “Out of the Darkness” Walk. ○ The Big Bend Hospice hosted a “Children’s Grief Awareness Day and “Holding on to Hope” event. ○ Big Bend Hospice hosted “Hope for the Holidays for Suicide Loss Survivors.” ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted an “International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day” Conference

II. Strategic Direction: Clinical and Community Preventive Services <i>continued</i>	
Goals	Related Activities
<p>Goal 2 <i>continued</i>: Create collaborations and networks that support common goals in suicide prevention</p>	<p><u>Marion County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted an “Out of the Darkness” Walk. <p><u>Miami-Dade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted an “Out of the Darkness” Walk. <p><u>Okaloosa</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted an “Out of the Darkness” Walk. <p><u>Orange County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted a “Ride to Silence the Stigma” event. ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted an “International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day” Conference. <p><u>Pasco County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted an “Out of the Darkness” Walk. ○ The Street Thundercat’s Motorcycle Club hosted the “Awareness Ride and Benefit” in support of the Suncoast Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention & Awareness Project. <p><u>Palm Beach County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted an “Out of the Darkness” Walk. <p><u>Pinellas County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bonnie Oaks with HALOS (Healing After the Loss of a Loved One to Suicide) Bereavement Group and Suncoast Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Project sponsored its 14th Annual “Evening of Remembrance.” ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted an “Out of the Darkness” Walk. ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted the International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day Conference. <p><u>Polk County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted an “Out of the Darkness” Walk.

II. Strategic Direction: Clinical and Community Preventive Services <i>continued</i>	
Goals	Related Activities
<p>Goal 2 <i>continued</i>: Create collaborations and networks that support common goals in suicide prevention</p>	<p><u>Sarasota County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted an “Out of the Darkness” Walk. <p><u>St. Lucie County</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosted an “Out of the Darkness” Walk. <p><u>Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Florida Department of Law Enforcement’s Criminal Justice Intelligence Service has provided a Suicide Prevention workshop for the past five years at the statewide conference. It conducted two workshops per year. ● Lutheran Services Florida (LSF) provided Mental Health First Aid training to communities throughout the region. This training was not limited to contract network service providers, but was open to community partners, the faith-based community, and Family Safety staff. ● First Responder Training-of-Trainers were held in Dunedin, Ocala, and Davie. The Center for Public Safety assisted the attendees in implementing the training. ● The University of Central Florida, the University of South Florida, and the Florida Council for Community Mental Health were awarded a “Now is the Time” Project AWARE Community Grant to provide Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) in seven counties. ● LSF partnered with Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care (FL LINC) to implement "Zero Suicide" in communities by working with providers and community partners to provide training on suicide prevention that included <i>Question, Persuade, Refer</i> (QPR), <i>Question, Persuade, Refer and Treat</i> (QPRT), and <i>Linking Individuals Needing Care</i> (LINC) (care coordination training). ● Through the Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care (FL LINC) project, LSF and Central Florida Cares Health System distributed National Suicide Prevention Lifeline materials and family guides that included resources and hotline numbers.

III. Strategic Direction: Treatment and Support Services	
Goals	Related Activities
<p>Goal 3: Promote the development and implementation of effective practices and evidence-based suicide prevention, intervention and postvention programs</p>	<p><u>State Agencies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCF contracted with FADAA to hold a workshop, <i>Moving Beyond A Suicide Attempt: From Surviving to Thriving</i>; 315 participants attended the training. • The Department of Corrections requires that all new employees, contract staff, correction officers, and community correction officers complete two hours of Suicide and Self-Injury Prevention and Intervention training. Additionally, the Department of Corrections provides Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to correction officers throughout the state and provides <i>Responding to Citizens with Mental Illness</i> for community corrections officers. • The Florida Department of Education’s Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Support Services Project collaborated with district student services’ leadership and state professional organizations to develop guidance on integrating student services within a multi-tiered system of supports. <p><u>Programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention (FISP) continues to provide the HOPE (Helping Overcome Problems Effectively), an after-school club curriculum, at sixteen Broward County high schools. • The Florida Initiative for Suicide Prevention, through a grant from the Broward County Sheriff’s Foundation, has begun providing Solutions Unlimited Now Problem Solving (SUN) Programs to juveniles in the Broward Juvenile Detention Center. • The Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention’s educational programs include suicide prevention trainings and presentations to educate all areas of society. Other education efforts include community outreach programs that provide informational handouts in Broward County. <p><u>Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the FL LINC project, LSF and Central Florida Cares Health System conducted 24 <i>Question, Persuade, Refer</i> (QPR) gatekeeper trainings during its first year of implementation.
<p>Goal 4: Improve community access to mental health and substance abuse services</p>	<p><u>Groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FISP has six support groups and provides packages of support materials to four groups in Broward County and two groups in Miami-Dade County. Due to the fact that survivors are at higher risk for suicide, survivor support is a very important suicide preventive.

IV. Strategic Direction: Surveillance, Research, and Evaluation

Goals	Related Activities
Goal 5: Increase the usefulness of national and state level surveillance data to inform suicide prevention and intervention efforts	<u>Data</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Council created a committee to discuss strategies on how to use data to guide suicide prevention efforts in Florida.• Dr. Gryglewicz, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University of Central Florida, and the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention are researching how surveillance data are currently being collected in Florida.

IV. Planned Activities

The Council and suicide prevention stakeholders have the following suicide prevention efforts planned for 2016. This list is not inclusive of all planned activities throughout Florida.

Stakeholder	Activities
The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention	The 2016 Suicide Prevention Day at the Capitol on January 14, 2016.
The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition	<i>Florida Taking Action for Suicide Prevention</i> , a mini-conference to be held January 12 and 13, 2016, in Tallahassee.
Big Bend Hospice	The annual <i>Lighting the Darkness</i> , an evening to remember lives lost to suicide, will be held on January 13, 2016, at the Florida State University College of Medicine.
The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Tallahassee	Hosting the 2 nd annual Bluebird Run and Walk for Brookie B in Leon County on Labor Day, September 5, 2016. Also hosting two workshops by the internationally recognized expert on the Active Postvention Model, Dr. Frank Campbell: <i>Hope & Healing and Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) Team</i> .
University of Central Florida, the University of South Florida (USF), and the Florida Council for Community Mental Health through the <i>Central Florida Pathways to Awareness, Support and Services (C PASS) Project</i>	Hold approximately 10-12 Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings in Hernando, Citrus, Lake, Sumter, Marion, Orange, and Seminole counties.
<i>Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care (Florida LINC) Project staff</i>	Finalizing training modules for a care coordination training (implementation to begin in February 2016). Also planning the following trainings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Trainings, developed using the USF Family Guide • Postvention Trainings that are school-focused • Coping/emotional regulation training for middle school students
Florida Initiative for Suicide Prevention, Inc.	Starting a HOPE Sunshine Club in Lake County, and working on expansion into other counties. Planning the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd Annual Hugs for HOPE 5K Run/Walk • 11th Annual Day of Healing Conference for Survivors of Suicide Loss
Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention and the Council	Disseminating the 2016-2020 Statewide Plan for Suicide Prevention and its accompanying Pamphlet.
Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention	Updating the DCF suicide prevention website regularly.
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention	2nd Annual Tallahassee “Out of the Darkness” Community Walk

V. Grants

Florida received federal grant funding to assist in suicide prevention efforts and the current status is summarized below.

I. Central Florida Pathways to Awareness, Support and Services a “Now is the Time” Project AWARE Community Grant (NITT-AWARE-C)

The *Central Florida Pathways to Awareness, Support, and Services (C PASS) Project* is a partnership between the University of Central Florida (UCF), the University of South Florida (USF), and the Florida Council for Community Mental Health (FCCMH). These activities will coordinate, strengthen, and enhance system-wide efforts to build upon and expand Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training and mental and behavioral health outreach and engagement initiatives to three high risk regions in Central Florida. Training and outreach efforts target frontline professionals who work with high risk youth that experience mental health and substance abuse issues, and who encounter significant life stressors and adversities such as exposure to violence, abuse, neglect, poverty, and other forms of victimization.

The purpose of the C PASS Project is to support 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, parents, and other adults in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA). Implementation of the NITT-AWARE-C program is expected to increase the mental health literacy among youth-serving adults, policy-makers, and administrators of programs serving youth.

II. Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care Project (Florida LINC) a Garret Lee Smith State/Tribal Suicide Prevention Program

The *Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care (Florida LINC) Project* is a partnership between the Florida Office of Suicide Prevention (SOSP), FCCMH, and USF to innovatively enhance services to reach at-risk priority populations, and ensure that young people receive needed services.

Additional partners include three managing entities (MEs) contracted by the department to manage the local behavioral health system of care. Grant activities target the central, southeast and northeast regions of the state and are implemented in partnership with the MEs in those regions: Central Florida Cares in the Central Region, Southeast Behavioral Health Network in the Southeast region and Lutheran Services of Florida in the Northeast region.

Major grant activities completed to date are summarized below:

- Partnership Building/Community Development:
Established Memorandums of Understanding with Aspire Health Partners, LifeStream Behavioral Center, Stewart-Marchman-Act Behavioral Healthcare, and New Horizons to continue to examine zero suicide strategies, crisis/suicide prevention protocols, existing

standards of care (suicide risk assessment/screening, discharge planning, and care coordination and supportive services), suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention training needs. The goal is to enhance suicide prevention services at these facilities first, and then begin working with other local agencies/organizations in each region.

- **Community Engagement & Outreach**
Promoted the LINC project and activities at local meetings and events; to date have participated in 57 partnership meetings and disseminated over 1,100 LINC promotional/marketing materials.
- **Suicide Prevention Trainings**
Regional teams have implemented the following LINC trainings throughout the three target regions:
 - QPRT (suicide risk assessment and risk management training, online plus role play); 29 professionals have been trained
 - QPR (basic suicide prevention gatekeeper training); 445 gatekeepers trained
 - Suicide Risk Assessment & Safety Planning Training; 224 mental health professionals trained
 - Promotion of the National Suicide Prevention Line (NSPL); 6,858 NSPL materials distributed at events, meetings, and trainings
 - Promotion of Family-Focused Educational Materials; 1,214 USF Family Guides distributed at events, meetings, and trainings

The goal of this grant is to increase the number of agencies, organizations, schools, and groups working together to implement suicide prevention initiatives.

III. Now is the Time Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education)

The purpose of the AWARE grant is to build and expand the capacity of state educational agencies to increase awareness of mental health issues among school-aged youth, provide training for school personnel and other adults who interact with school-aged youth to detect and respond to mental health issues in children and young adults, and connect children, youth, and families who may have behavioral health issues with appropriate services.

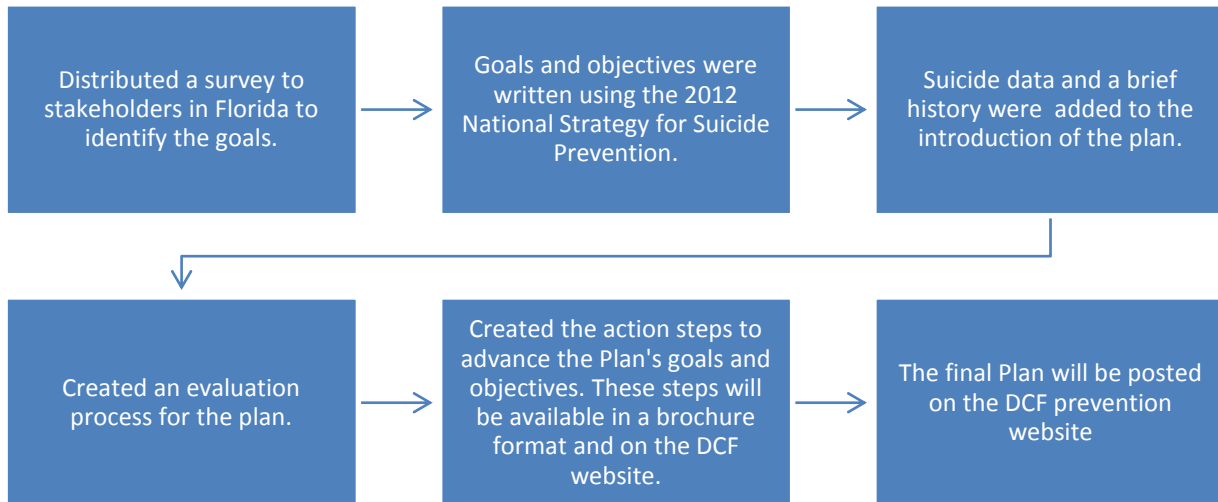
Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) supports suicide prevention by dedicating an entire section to this very sensitive topic. Approximately 1.5 hours (out of the 8-hour curriculum) is dedicated to YMHFA.

- Participants learn how to assess for risk of suicide or harm by learning warning signs and symptoms, dispelling myths, and learning the facts of suicide.
- As of December 18, 2015, FL AWARE has facilitated two Train-the-Trainer trainings. Out of these trainings, 57 people became Youth Mental Health First Aid Trainers. These trainers have completed 21 Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings, and have trained 426 Youth Mental Health Aiders through the Youth Mental Health First Aid program.

VI. 2016-2020 Statewide Plan for Suicide Prevention

The Council is currently revising the Statewide Plan for Suicide Prevention for 2016-2020, with an estimated completion date of February 1, 2016. The diagram below shows the process used to update the Plan.

Diagram 1: The Council's Process used to update the Statewide Plan for Suicide Prevention



VII. Council Member Recommendations

As required by s. 14.20195, F.S., recommendations for suicide prevention efforts are to be submitted by the individual Council members. These recommendations do not represent the views of the department, nor the entire Council.

Member or Designee	Recommendations
Dr. Dean Aufderheide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the number of Suicide Prevention Resource Center’s (SPRC) authorized trainers for Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk (AMSR).
Murdina Campbell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reach out to local Lifeline crisis centers to determine what opportunities exist for <i>Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)</i>. ASIST training is conducted by certified trainers working in pairs and offering a two-day workshop in suicide intervention skills. Increase the number of persons undertaking ASIST training including law enforcement, medical and mental health professionals, educators, and other professionals and volunteers. Increase awareness of and advertise Lifeline local services in local communities. Help recruit volunteers in communities for this 24-hour, free confidential suicide prevention hotline.
Jackie Rosen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a requirement for all primary physicians and pediatricians to be trained in suicide prevention, including screening methods, and be provided with a list of area referrals for patients. Encourage lawmakers to provide more mental health funding and a comprehensive restructuring of mental health care options. The resumption of funding and staff for the Suicide Prevention/Substance Abuse Independent Office, for the purpose of hosting a vigorous campaign to evaluate the impact of mental health co-occurring cases and the impact of these cases on the economy. Fund a study to address the increase in the rate of suicide among individuals ages 35 to 55, and its impact on the state.
Steve Roggenbaum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Florida is one of the most populous states, with the third highest number of deaths by suicide in the United States (behind California and Texas) in 2013. Adequately staff, fund, and equip the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention (SOSP) within DCF. This would enable the SOSP to create, develop, expand, and assess Florida’s capacity and infrastructure to more effectively reduce suicides in Florida. The SOSP, if adequately funded for a state of its size, could enhance awareness, prevention, intervention, and postvention efforts throughout Florida. Require annual or semi-annual suicide awareness education for middle school and high school faculty and staff. According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) 2015 data, nine states (up from four in 2014) have laws that require annual suicide prevention training, and 16 require non-annual training for public education employees. Additionally, AFSP reports that 14 states have laws that encourage training for school faculty and staff. Repeal Florida Statute 790.338 – Medical privacy concerning firearms – to reduce Florida suicides by firearms. Pediatricians ask about bike helmets, seat belts, and other concerns during children’s’ wellness check-ups. When pediatricians ask parents about using car seats, how their babies sleep, and about using bike helmets they’re trying to prevent injuries. When doctors ask parents

	<p>about guns, they're trying to prevent injuries, too. Doctors call this "anticipatory guidance": teaching parents how to safeguard against accidental injuries. For decades the American Academy of Pediatrics has encouraged its members to ask questions about guns and how they're stored as part of well-child visits. Guns account for more suicides than all other suicide methods combined, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, because they are much more lethal. Over 21,000 people died from suicide by firearms in the United States in 2013. Additionally, more than 11,000 individuals were killed by firearms in 2013, more than 500 were killed in accidents with guns, and more than 33,600 individuals were injured by firearms (over 2,400 in Florida) (2013 National Vital Statistics Reports). In 2009, almost 7,400 children were hospitalized because of injuries related to guns (Leventhal, Gaither, & Sege, Pediatrics, 2014).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to expand funding for public higher education specifically to increase/improve the capacity of mental health services on campuses in order to improve the reach and to connect students with the resources they need. Despite recent additional funding, many Florida universities still maintain a significantly higher ratio of student to counselor ratio than recommended by recognized professional entities (e.g., International Association of Counseling Services, Inc.), impeding adequate service delivery to students. • Position Florida to apply to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to join the other 32 states that participate in the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS). This multi-state database includes information drawn from many systems, including law enforcement, coroners, crime laboratories, and vital statistics, making it a powerful tool for researchers and policymakers trying to understand trends and patterns in the state and nation. Information from the NVDRS provides a more complete picture of homicides, suicides, and unintentional injuries, creating a valuable context for developing and implementing more informed prevention programs and the possibility to evaluate prevention interventions. Similar data systems have existed for decades for motor vehicle injuries, with a continuing flow of data shaping the efforts to more effectively prevent motor vehicle injuries.
Dr. Gayla Sumner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to emphasize staff training on suicide prevention and the establishment of suicide prevention processes in the Department of Juvenile Justice facilities and programs.

VIII. Council Members or Designees

As of November 10, 2015, the following individuals are either members or designees of the Council:

Organizational Seat	Name of Member or Designee
Office of 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	Shannon Seiple
Suicide Prevention Action Network USA	*
Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention	Jackie Rosen
Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition	Betsy Westuba
American Foundation of Suicide Prevention	Tara Sullivan
Florida School Board Association	Karen Brill
National Council for Suicide Prevention	Dr. Dan Reidenberg
State Chapter of AARP	**
Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association	Murdina Campbell
Florida Council for Community Mental Health	Dr. Kim Gryglewicz
Florida Counseling Association	**
NAMI Florida	Carol Weber
Secretary of Elder Affairs	**
State Surgeon General	Mary Crew
Commissioner of Education	Dr. David Wheeler
Agency for Health Care Administration	Jack Plagge
Department of Juvenile Justice	Dr. Gayla Sumner
Department of Corrections	Dr. Dean Aufderheide
Florida Department of Law Enforcement	Seth Montgomery
Department of Veterans Affairs	**
Department of Economic Opportunity	Traci Jones
Governor's Appointee	Stephen Roggenbaum
Governor's Appointee	Donna Schulz
Governor's Appointee	John Popson
Governor's Appointee	Vacant Seat

*This organization no longer exists.

** DCF is working with these agencies to appoint a representative to the Council.

For more information, contact:

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