





# Advancing Comprehensive Community Suicide Prevention: An Overview



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# Co-Sponsors

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (United States)
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Mental Health Commission of Canada



Public Health  
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé  
publique du Canada

# Speakers

- **Richard McKeon, PhD, MPH**  
*Branch Chief, Suicide Prevention Branch, SAMHSA*
- **Stephanie Priest**  
*Director, Population Health Promotion and Innovation Division, Public Health Agency of Canada*
- **Ed Mantler**  
*Vice President Programs and Priorities, Mental Health Commission of Canada*
- **Jerry Reed, PhD, MSW**  
*Vice President, EDC; Director, Suicide Prevention Resource Center*



# Comprehensive Community Suicide Prevention

Richard McKeon, Ph.D.  
Chief, Suicide Prevention Branch  
SAMHSA



A black and white photograph of two hands reaching towards each other against a grey background. The hands are positioned in the upper right and lower left corners, with fingers slightly spread. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the skin and the contours of the hands. The entire image is framed by a thick red border.

# Preventing suicide

A global imperative



World Health  
Organization

# World Health Organization Initiatives

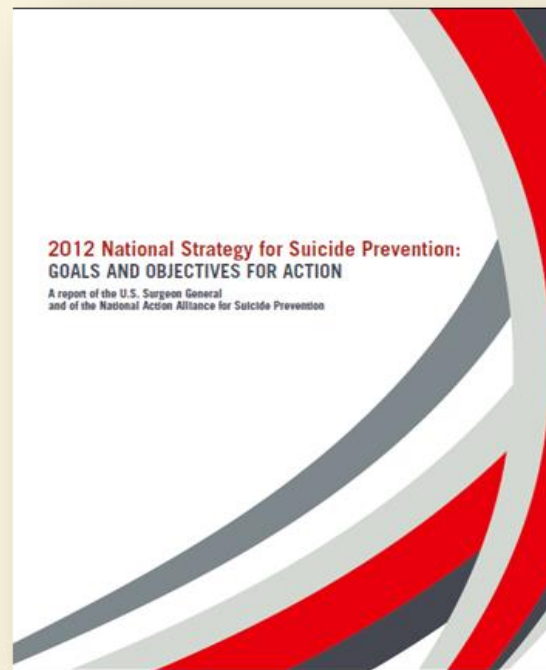
- First World Suicide report
  - *Calls on nations to implement a national strategy or national action plan to comprehensively address suicide prevention*
- WHO currently working on a document “Preventing Suicide: A Community Engagement Toolkit”

# Comprehensive Community Suicide Prevention

- International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership
- National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention
- European Alliance Against Depression
- New South Wales Initiative
- United States Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention grants



# ***National Strategy for Suicide Prevention***





The Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) Suicide Prevention National Outcomes Evaluation is supported through contract no. HH552832012000071/HH5528342002T (reference no. 283-12-0702) awarded to ICF International by the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

# THE IMPACT OF GLS SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM ON YOUTH SUICIDAL BEHAVIOR

**Lucas Godoy Garraza (ICF International); Christine Walrath (ICF International); David Goldston (Duke CSSPI); Hailey Reid (ICF International), Richard McKeon (SAMHSA)**



# Community Suicide Prevention

- U.S. National Strategy Implementation Assessment Group
  - *Need for consensus around the core components of a comprehensive, research-informed, community approach*
  - *Need for greater specification of roles and associated activities*
  - *Need for a blueprint and toolkit*

# Comprehensive Suicide Prevention

- Requires two strong elements
- Strong, multi-pronged community effort
- Strong multi-pronged healthcare effort
- Attention to transitions across a range of settings
- Should be data driven, coordinated by a public-private partnership, and sustained by a strong infrastructure.

# Community Suicide Prevention

- Schools/colleges
- Justice settings (adult and youth)
- Workplace
- Faith Communities
- Foster Care
- Veterans/Military/National Guard

# Six-Part Webinar Series

- 1) Overview and Introduction
- 2) Models for Community Suicide Prevention
- 3) Sustaining Effective Comprehensive Community Suicide Prevention
- 4) Community Suicide Prevention Among Indigenous Populations

# Six-Part Webinar Series

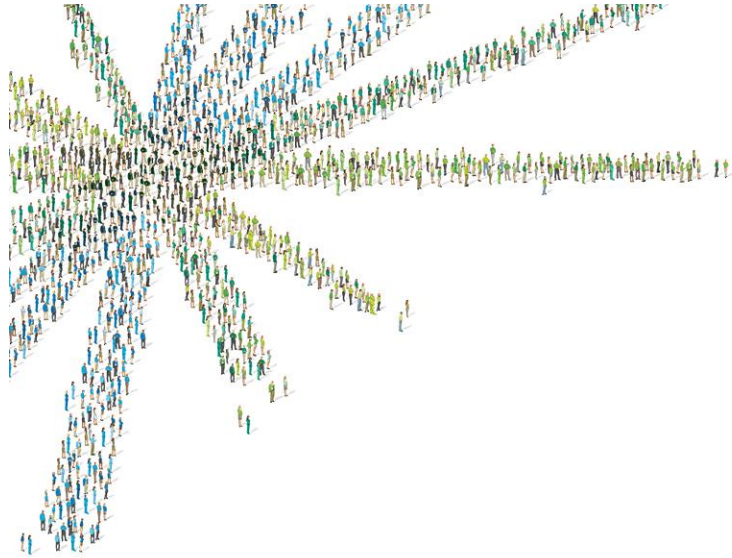
- 5) Emerging Comprehensive Community Suicide Prevention Efforts
- 6) Bringing the Pieces Together:  
Developing the Blueprint for Community Suicide Prevention

As we continue this important work we also want to know what you feel you need to most effectively perform this life saving work.

# Contact Information

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Mental Health  
Commission  
of Canada

Commission de  
la santé mentale  
du Canada

# Community Action for Suicide Prevention – Lessons from IIMHL

Stephanie Priest, Director, Population Health Promotion  
and Innovation Division, Public Health Agency of Canada  
Ed Mantler, Vice President Programs and Priorities  
Mental Health Commission of Canada

## What is IIMHL?



- IIMHL is international collaboration focused on improving mental health and addictions services

# IIMHL Leadership Exchange



# IIMHL 2015: Community Suicide Prevention Match



- One of the matches was focused on community suicide prevention
- This match identified key elements of a systemic and evidence-based community suicide prevention approach
- Built on best and promising practices and tools

## Who was at the Match?



This match brought together a wide range of leaders from six of the International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL) sponsoring countries including Canada, Australia, England, Ireland, New Zealand and the United States of America.

# Information sharing at the match

***School-Based Interventions  
– USA***

***Adolescent Suicide  
Prevention Program – USA***

***European Alliance Against Depression:  
Four-Level Intervention – Europe***



***Aboriginal Suicide & Critical  
Incident Response Team –  
Canada***

***Help for life' Quebec's Strategy  
for Prevention Suicide - Canada***

***United States Air Force Suicide  
Prevention Program – USA***

# Types of Interventions



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# What we Learned

## 13 Principles to Guide Community Action





# Vision for Action



Mental Health  
Commission  
of Canada

Commission de  
la santé mentale  
du Canada

## VALUES

- Dignity;
- Listening;
- Empathy;
- Reciprocity;
- Human/personal connection;
- Fostering trust; and
- Respect.



Comprehensive approaches = Community interventions + Health system interventions



## PEOPLE

Need range of people in a range of roles from a range of organizations

# Target populations

<i><b>INTERVENTION SITE</b></i>	<i><b>TARGETED POPULATION</b></i>	<i><b>POPULATIONS WHO ARE MISSED</b></i>
High Schools, Universities	Students attending school/university	School drop-outs, youth in legal trouble, youth not going to university/college
Workplaces	Employees	Small business, day labor, unemployed, immigrant/migrant labour, underground workers
Medical Settings	Those accessing traditional medical services	Un/under insured, low utizliers of health care services
NGOs, government services (court, criminal justice, public health)	Recipients of service	Anyone outside scope of agency/ service
Religious/Faith organizations	Regular attendees	Those who don't attend services
Social Media	Youth, young adults, hidden populations	People who do not use internet (elderly, people with lower education or financial disadvantage)

# Measurement



- Highlighted the importance of measurement and developing targets and evaluating progress
- Recognize challenges that exist, such as need for real-time data, and tensions in what is valued by researchers vs what is valued by communities
- Suggested indicators:
  - Tracking fatal/non fatal overdoses, suicide attempts, suicide deaths
  - Upstream indicators e.g. school drop outs, intimate partner violence
  - Number of gatekeepers trained, referrals by gatekeepers
  - Policy changes

# Disrupters

- What is needed to see more dramatic change in community suicide prevention?
- We need to be more assertive in getting engaged
- We need to be more vocal about the urgent need and not wait for a crisis



# IIMHL: Accelerating Change

Vision to accelerate change by:

- Incorporating individuals with lived expertise across the continuum
- Making upstream investments in community suicide prevention
- Articulating the tensions around suicide prevention
- Sparking ideas on how to incorporate innovation, risk-taking, and disruptive change



## What's Next

- Stimulate bold conversations to activate communities and advance the growth of community engagement in suicide prevention.
- We are all the messengers and advancers
  - Engage media
  - Find community champions
  - Empower communities
  - Involve people with lived experience
  - Be bold!

**ACTION  
PLAN**

# Thank You!



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# Questions







# Transforming Communities



**Jerry Reed, Ph.D., M.S.W.**  
*Vice President, EDC  
Director, Center for the Study and Prevention of Injury,  
Violence and Suicide  
Director, Suicide Prevention Resource Center  
Executive Committee Member, National Action Alliance  
for Suicide Prevention*

September 30, 2016

*Suicide is preventable.*



# What is the Action Alliance?



## Executive Committee

Private Sector

Public Sector

## Priorities

Changing the Conversation

Transforming Health Systems

Transforming Communities

## Task Forces

American Indian /  
Alaska Native 2.0  
Clinical Workforce Preparedness  
Crisis Services  
Data/Surveillance  
Faith Communities  
Military/Veterans 3.0  
Research Prioritization  
Workplace

### **Robert Turner**

Private Sector Co-Chair  
Senior Vice President – Retired,  
Union Pacific Corporation

### **Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D.**

Public Sector Co-Chair  
Deputy Under Secretary for Health for  
Organizational Excellence,  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The Action Alliance is funded by public and private sector entities including SAMHSA, Universal Health Services, and the Union Pacific Foundation.



# Transforming Communities Priority

## Leadership

- Private Sector Co-leads:
  - Bob Gebbia, MA, CEO, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
  - Jerry Reed, PhD, MSW, Director, Center for the Study and Prevention of Injury, Violence and Suicide, EDC, Inc.
- Public Sector Co-lead:
  - Jim Mercy, PhD, Director, Division of Violence Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



# Transforming Communities Priority

## Objective

- Identify and disseminate a core set of elements / strategic framework

Private Sector

Public Sector

Military / Veterans



# Transforming Communities Priority

## Product

- Develop white paper that will include:
  - Reviewing available literature
  - Exploring existing resources for advancing community prevention efforts (specific and non-specific to suicide)
  - Identifying key process, infrastructure and programmatic elements

Military / Veterans



# Transforming Communities Priority

## Sampling of Items Reviewed

- Evidence-based programs (e.g. Air Force model; European Alliance Against Depression)
- Suicide prevention focused programs and models (e.g. Connect, New South Wales framework, SPRC Effective Suicide Prevention)
- Non-suicide specific programs and models (e.g. Communities that Care; Strategic Prevention Framework)

Military / Veterans



# Transforming Communities Priority

## Timeline Goal

- Complete paper this winter
- Determine next steps for Action Alliance

Private Sector

Public Sector

Military / Veterans



# Thank you



## **Jerry Reed, Ph.D., M.S.W.**

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# Questions



# Six-Part Webinar Series

**09/30/2016 – Overview and Introduction**

**12/08/2016 – Models for Community Suicide Prevention**

**02/02/2017 – Sustaining Effective Comprehensive Community  
Suicide Prevention**

**04/20/2017 – Community Suicide Prevention Among Indigenous  
Populations**

**06/15/2017 – Emerging Comprehensive Community Suicide  
Prevention Efforts**

**08/10/2017 – Bringing the Pieces Together: Developing the Blueprint  
for Community Suicide Prevention**

- *All webinars start at 2:00pm and end at 3:30pm Eastern*