



**Riverside County Suicide Prevention Coalition  
Prevention Sub-Committee – Engaging Schools Workgroup  
11.2.2021**

**In Attendance:**

Kathleen Sarmiento- Chair, Riverside USD  
Matthew Fraley– Chair, Riverside USD  
Andrea Deaton – PEI Liaison  
Mirna Gomez - Clerical Support, RUHS BH PEI  
Myeshia Bobo - RUHS BH PEI  
Mindy McFarland - RUHS BH PEI  
Cherylyn Klemens - Parent Support and Training Program

**Minutes**

I. Presentation by Mindy on SPARE

- The SPARE tool was developed in partnership with Public Health, Behavioral Health, Riverside County Office of Education, HART as well as school districts throughout the county for feedback.
- Started with the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale as the foundation for this tool and contains the intervention techniques from ASIST that help reduce risk.
- The goal was to develop a standardized way of looking at risk assessment and utilize that data to better inform and help in the county's suicide prevention efforts.
- The SPARE tool contains different sections beginning with a note for the person doing the evaluation about risk assessment, then Referring party, Assessment Information, Evaluation Summary, Warning Signs/Reason for Referral, Ask About Suicide, Contributing Factors, Protective Factors, Suicide Risk Assessment, Follow-up Actions, Safety Framework, Safety Plan and Demographics.
- It is recommended that ASIST training be taken before to have a better understanding of SPARE's framework and a virtual presentation that will go over the different components of SPARE and contains videos of SPARE in action is currently being developed.



## II. Questions:

- Matthew - Is there a reason why the “Are you willing to receive help?” question is included in SPARE?
  - Mindy – if the person is not willing to receive help that would increase the level of risk and perhaps would need involuntary intervention. This was included to help assess risk and to make the determination of voluntary or involuntary intervention.
- Matthew - Who would be using this risk assessment?
  - Mindy – this would vary from school site depending on whom that site has dedicated to doing risk assessment. Collaboration is encouraged to make the best determination for the person’s safety when using the SPARE tool.
- Cherylyn - Is this the tool that is being used in Hemet USD?
  - Mindy - Not currently, Public Health has been in contact with Hemet USD and have expressed an interest. ASIST trainings have been scheduled as a first step.
- Dr Kathleen – has there been pushback on using risk categories?
  - Mindy - For this reason, the disclaimer in the notes stating that risk is something that fluctuates is included. This tool is used as a guide to see where the individual places at that moment in time and to note that there needs to be a follow up plan in place.
- Dr Kathleen – what parts of this form will be submitted to public health?
  - Mindy - Non-identifying demographic questions, assessment questions about suicide as well as the contributing and protective factors.

## III. Action Items

- Mirna will look for the list of potential training programs
- Lydia Valenzuela will be added to the email contact list and added to the meeting invite.
- The Gen Up students who previously presented will be re invited and added to the meeting invites continuously.
- Matthew and Dr Kathleen will work on a workshop/ presentation that can be advertised to get more members at the next meeting.



IV. Next Meeting:

- Review interpretations on Ed code and discuss objectives

**Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> , 2021 3:00pm - 4:30pm**

Notes recorded by: Mirna Gomez, RUHS – BH PEI, OAIII