



**Riverside County Suicide Prevention Coalition
Prevention Sub-Committee – Engaging Schools Workgroup
2/10/2021**

In Attendance:

Kathleen Sarmiento- Chair, Riverside USD
Matthew Fraley– Chair, Riverside USD
Andrea Deaton – PEI Liaison
Melissa Jacks– Clerical Support, RUHS BH PEI
Melissa Coriz, RUHS BH
Michelle McCarthy, Project 99 & Murrieta Valley USD
Sheri Parker, Hemet USD
William Harris, RUHS SAPT

Absent:

Alex Engen, RUHS BH
Alyse Michaelis, Reach Out
Anita Shirley, CNUUSD
Berenice Zuniga, Sigma Beta Xi
Bettye Turner-January, Black Chamber Perris
Catherine Wuertz, Desert Sands USD
Erika Munoz, YHIP Program
Jessica Oakes, Hemet USD
Lauren Bagwell, Hemet USD
Lisa Tangler, TIP
Lora Rodriguez, Palo Verde USD
Magda Stewart, TIP
Mercedes Sapien, Gateway College and Career Academy
Misty Kerrigan, Oak Grove Center
Nicole Watson, Operation Safehouse
Nicole Henderson, Banning USD
Rachel Angel, Palo Verde USD
Susan Fleming, Palo Verde USD

Minutes

- I. Brief self-introductions were made
- II. Brief overview of last meeting – Objectives and Goals
 - Consistent, standardized and effective implementation of Education Code Section 215 and other mental health policies across districts



- Support implementation of evidence-based strategies such as Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and mindfulness, to enhance youth academic achievement and wellness, decrease risky behaviors, and improve relationships with peers and teachers to increase student engagement and connectedness
- Review existing suicide prevention youth programs and provide a recommended list of districts to facilitate that every school has at least one youth program on campus to increase youth engagement

III. Reviewed questions that were sent out on a survey to school districts county-wide:

1. What is your tier 1 Suicide Prevention plan?
 2. What is your Tier 2 Intervention plan?
 3. What is your Tier 3 Postvention plan?
 4. Does your site have a crisis team?
 5. What suicide prevention trainings does staff receive?
 6. Are there mental health professionals that work at your site? If yes, how often?
 7. What social emotional learning (SEL) program is used at your site & what grade levels are they for?
 8. What youth programs do you have at your site that increase youth engagement?
 9. Are the above mentioned youth programs available to all grades?
 10. Which risk assessment tool is your site currently using
 11. What adaptations have been made to your safety plan procedures for distance learning
- Melissa shared that so far only a couple responses have come through but she will follow up again in about a week to send out another reminder.
 - Once responses have been collected, the committee will review what schools are currently using to identify if the programs should be used on a broader scale.

IV. Reviewed ed code 215

- Michelle shared that she spoke with Yoana with Murrieta Valley USD and learned that they took their same plan for grades 6-12 and spread across all grade levels.
- Sheri mentioned that Hemet USD recently formed a group to develop a Suicide Prevention plan.
- Melissa shared the email she received from Lauren with Hemet USD as well detailing their current suicide prevention efforts.
- Michelle mentioned that their suicide prevention trainings can be pretty hit and miss with how engaged attendees are. She also shared that she hopes to see training that is done in stages that's more engaging. Additionally, she asked if there is a list of trainings that PEI offers.



- Andrea provided a list of the current trainings that PEI offers, as well as the trainings that will be offered again in the future when we are able to gather in person.
- Matthew noted that it could be a bit challenging for all districts to address section 3 of the ed code that states “The policy shall specifically address the needs of high-risk groups, including, but not limited to...lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth” (ed code 215, section 3).
- Sheri added that she has experienced challenges as well within her district when discussing needs of LGBTQ+ students due to some having conservative beliefs.
- Michelle communicated that when Project 99 has offered to hold QPR trainings for some schools there has been push back.
- Will asked if many have tried a peer based program?
 - Kathleen shared information regarding the S.U.P.E.R. Peer program she created and all the training the peers go through before completing training where they then provide one-on-one peer conversations in the guidance office.
 - Will added information regarding the Friday Night Live program that he works closely with.

V. Planning of next steps and game plan for goals

- Conversation about how mental health is at the forefront of a lot of conversation right now and our sub-committee needs to brainstorm how we can broaden training and knowledge.
- Matt shared an experience where a student approached a teacher expressing a need to talk to someone and the teacher told the student to make an appointment to talk with Matthew who did not have availability for a few days.
- Melissa C. made the suggestion that teachers receive some training on how to listen and refer students to a peer based program for support instead of sending the student away without a conversation.
- Michelle informed the sub-committee that with the QPR training, addition training topics can be added as long as nothing is removed from the QPR training so it could potentially include pieces on being trauma informed, enhancing the circle of support around students, etc. Furthermore, Michelle shared that the committee should focus on speaking how the trainings



we are proposing will meet the school requirements towards the ed code and tailor the language about how suicide prevention is everyone's responsibility and how it will help the staff be better equipped.

- Conversation regarding how we as a committee can work on presenting the buy in for teachers and schools to be more aware, show that it is a tool for them, and ultimately get the teachers to see the importance of suicide prevention trainings.

VI. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 10th, 2021 at 3:00pm – 4:30pm