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## MEETING NOTICE

### ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (IDPH)

Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance

May 24, 2023

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**WebEx** <https://illinois.webex.com/meet/ISPA>. Select "Call Me" option; enter 10-digit number then the meeting will call you – other options are to "Call Using Computer" or "I Will Call In" Meeting number (access code): 2456 377 4566

[Recording](#)

**Phone** +1-312-535-8110 United States Toll (Chicago) or +1-415-655-0002 USA Toll –  
Access code: 2456 377 4566

## AGENDA

- I. Welcome & introductions
  - II. Roll Call
  - III. Review & approval of February 22, 2023 meeting minutes \*
  - IV. Update from IDPH
  - V. Update on ISPA member vacancies
  - VI. CoP Project
  - VII. Overview of suicide prevention-related legislation
  - VIII. Update on the ISPA Adolescent Suicide Prevention Ad Hoc Committee
  - IX. Update on the [Governor's Challenge: To Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families](#) activities
  - X. Update on [Mapping Project](#)
  - XI. Update on 988 Implementation
  - XII. Partner sharing
    - a. *All - Please share information about your agency's suicide prevention activities*
  - XIII. Public Comment
- Future FY23 meetings: TBD.*

*\* Action Needed*

### Appointed Members in Attendance

#### Present

Chuck Johnson	Illinois Hospital Association	X
Hannah Jordan (Amber Clark)	Representing veteran services (Bob Michel VA)	X
Eric Davidson (Anabelle Escamilla)	Higher Education	X

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Jenna Farmer-Brackett	Representative from a suicide prevention program serving rural communities	X
Steve Moore	American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - Illinois Chapter	X
Michael McCarter	First Responder Professions	

#### Ex-Officio Members in Attendance

Julia Strehlow	Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)	X
Brian Kieninger	Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)	X
Dana Wilkerson	Illinois Department on Aging	
Colonel Marcus Gipson	Illinois State Police	
Dr. Teresa Glaze	Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Mental Health	X
Dr. Melvin Hinton	Illinois Department of Corrections	
Dr. Erin Alexander	Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, DCFS	
Kourtney Hopkins	Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs	X
Jennifer Martin and  Jill McCamant	IDPH Violence and Injury Prevention Section (IDPH/VIPS)	X

#### **Stakeholders in Attendance**

- Allison Herman, Director of Education, Hope for the Day
- Amber Clark, Community Engagement Partnership Coordinator, Bob Michel VA
- Anabelle Escamilla, Illinois Higher Education Center for AODV Prevention
- Angie Thinnies, Peer Support Specialist and Team Leader, Thresholds
- Angelica Hernandez, School Health Nurse Consultant, IDPH School Health Program
- Anthony Dillard, Recovery Support Specialist, Elgin Mental Health Center
- Christopher Balthazar, Executive Director, Taskforce Prevention & Community Services
- Crystal Womack, Senior Programs Manager, and Illinois Gold Star Families liaison, IDVA

- Cynthia Paidipati, Assistant Professor, University of Chicago
- Deb Martin, President and Co-Founder, Jared's Keepers
- Jack Rein, Director of MTSS, Cicero Public School
- Jennie Pinkwater, Illinois Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics
- Jessica Heise, Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator for Suicide Prevention, Jesse Brown VA
- Jessica Smiley, Project Director for Community Together, Heritage Health Center
- John Stallwoth, School Health Nurse Consultant, IDPH School Health Program
- Julianna Mitrius, Operations and Program Manager of the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership
- Kelly Vrablic, IDPH Office of Women's Health & Family Service, Division of Maternal, Child & Family Health Services
- Lauren Erbach Barnfield, Program Director, ICAAP
- Lee Ann Reinert, LCSW, IDHS, Deputy Director of Policy, Planning and Innovation.
- Madiha Qureshi, Ann & Robert H Lurie Children's Hospital
- Megan Koch, IDPH Office of Health Promotion, Division of Emerging Health Issues Violence & Prevention Section Epidemiologist
- Melissa Amison, Melissa Amison LCSW
- Michelle Langlois, Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator at Jesse Brown VA
- Nazeel Fayral, SIU Graduate Intern
- Nancy Amerson, IDPH Division of Chronic Diseases
- Neva Wright, UIS Graduate Intern IDPH
- Randyl Wilkins, Mental Health and Youth Engagement Specialist at Prevention First
- Rafiah Maxie LCSW, Founder of Soul Survivors of Chicago
- Sarah Schroeder, IDHS Division of Mental Health
- Sarina Thate OThurjwahe DiMaso, American Indian Health Services of Chicago
- Shalisha Hill, Township of Proviso, Youth Services Department
- Tandra Rutledge, Chief Transformation Officer, Avidity LLC
- Tom Howard, First Responder Peer Initiative
- Tracy Levine, Executive Director of the Naomi Ruth Cohen Institute for Mental Health Education

### **Welcome & Roll Call**

Steve welcomed everyone to the Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance and Jill performed a roll call. Jenna Farmer-Brackett is present; Michael McCarter is absent; Chuck Johnson is present; Amber Clark for Hannah Jordan is present; Annabella Escamilla for Eric Davidson is present; Steve Moore is present; Brian Kieninger is absent; Dana Wilkerson is absent; Dr Teresa Glaze is present; Dr. Melvin Hinton is absent; Dr. Erin Alexander is absent; Courtney Hopkins is present

by proxy with Crystal Womack present; Julia Strehlow is present; Jennifer Martin is present but makes a comment that it should now be Jill McCamant in her place.

### **Introductions**

- Jill invited members to introduce themselves. Amber Clark, for Hannah Jordan introduced themselves. Amber Clark is the community engagement and partner coordinator for the Illiana Health Care System. Amber is stepping in for Hannah Jordan who is out on maternity leave. Hannah is a suicide prevention coordinator for Illiana.
- Jill invited Annabelle Escamilla to introduce themselves. Annabelle works for the Illinois Higher Education Center at Eastern University. Annabelle is stepping in for Eric Davidson who is one of the coalition members. Eric Davidson is the executive director for health and counseling at Eastern.
- Jill invited Jenna Farmer- Brackett to introduce themselves. Jenna is a clinical manager at Centerstone, which is a behavioral health provider serving a lot of counties south of Springfield.
- Jill invited Allison Herman to introduce themselves. Allison is the director of education at Hope for the Day. They do mental health education and suicide prevention work. They also have a grant with the Illinois State Board of Education to do that in grades 7 through 12 throughout the entire state of Illinois.
- Jill invited Angelica Hernandez to introduce themselves. Angelica is a school health nurse consultant for the IDPH school health program.
- Jill invited Angie Thinnes to introduce themselves. Angie is a peer support specialist and team leader at Thresholds. Angie represents folks with lived and living experience and those who have survived suicide attempts.
- Jill invited Anthony Dillard to introduce themselves. Anthony is a recovery support specialist at Elgin Mental Health Center in Elgin, Illinois. Anthony works in the forensic treatment program.
- Jill invited Christopher Balthazar to introduce themselves. Christopher is the executive director at TaskForce prevention and community services, a youth focused organization for LGBTQ+ youth.
- Jill invited Crystal Womack to introduce themselves. Crystal is with the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs. Crystal is the senior programs manager and the Illinois Gold Star Families liaison.
- Jill invited Cynthia Paidipati to introduce themselves. Cynthia is an assistant professor at the University of Chicago. Cynthia's background is in psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, and Cynthia has also done research on suicide risk prevention.
- Jill invited Dr. Jack Rein to introduce themselves. Dr. Rein is the director of MTSS for Cicero Public Schools and Dr. Rein oversees mental health, as well as crisis and tiered supports.

- Jill invited Deb Martin to introduce themselves. Deb is the president and cofounder of Jared's Keeper's foundation. Jared's Keepers is an international teen focused self-harming and suicide prevention foundation.
- Jill invited Jessica Heise to introduce themselves. Jessica is the community engagement and partnership coordinator for suicide prevention at the Jesse Brown VA in Chicago.
- Jill invited Jennie Pinkwater to introduce themselves. Jennie is representing the Illinois Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics.
- Jill invited Jessica Smiley to introduce themselves. Jessica is a licensed clinical social worker serving as the project director of a grant called Community Together, which supports the overall mental health wellness for youth and families, birth to 21. Jessica is employed through Heritage Health Center, which is a community mental health center supporting De Witt and Macon counties in Central Illinois.
- Jill invited John Stallwoth to introduce themselves. John is a nurse consultant for IDPH's school health program.
- Jill invited Julianna Mitrius to introduce themselves. Julianna is the operations and program manager of the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership, or ICMHP, with their goal of providing recommendations and improving the wellbeing of youth and families across the state.
- Jill invited Lauren Erbach Barnfield to introduce themselves. Lauren is the program director at ICAAP.
- Jill invited Madiha Qureshi to introduce themselves. Madiha is with Ann & Robert H Lurie Children's Hospital.
- Jill invited Melissa Amison to introduce themselves. Melissa is with Melissa Amison LCSW, a private practice in Brookfield. Melissa is a licensed clinical social worker.
- Jill invited Nazeel Faryal to introduce themselves. Nazeel is a recent graduate and recent intern with IDPH.
- Jill invited Rafia Maxie to introduce themselves. Rafia is a licensed clinical social worker and founder of Soul Survivors of Chicago, a non-profit organization that is focused on suicide prevention, mental health awareness in our BIPOC communities. Rafia is a member of the board as a survivor of loss by way of their son.
- Jill invited Randyl Wilkins to introduce themselves. Randyl is a mental health and youth engagement specialist at prevention first, where they do mental health and suicide prevention training across the state.
- Jill invited Sarah Schroeder to introduce themselves. Sarah is with the division of mental health. Sarah works as the system of care coordinator for school aged mental health.
- Jill invited Shalisha Hill to introduce themselves. Shalisha is with the township of Proviso, youth services department. Shalisha is present based on the community mental wellness strategy meetings that are held in their town for individuals within the Proviso Township community.

- Jill invited Tandra Rutledge to introduce themselves. Tandra is with the Illinois Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, volunteered and former board member.
- Jill invited Tracy Levine to introduce themselves. Tracy is the executive director for the Naomi Ruth Cohen Institute, providing mental health education including mental health first aid and QPR suicide prevention gatekeep trainings.

Steve read the general introduction as follows: The Alliance represents multiple parties and interests. Some Alliance members, such as those representing State agencies and legislators, may recuse themselves from taking official positions on public policy. Opinions taken by the Alliance as a whole, do not necessarily reflect all members of the Alliance. We will be recording this meeting for note taking purposes.

### **Review & approval of February 22, 2023 meeting minutes**

Steve deferred to Jill for the approval of February meeting. Jill stated that she had emailed out the meeting minutes to the members. Jill asked for any revisions or issues with the minutes. There were none. Jill asked for approval of the minutes. Steve moved for approval of the minutes. Dr. Glaze second the motion. The approval was placed for a vote. Amber Clark, Anabelle Escamilla, Chuck Johnson, and Jenna Farmer-Brackett voted aye. There were no nay votes. The meeting minutes were approved.

### **IDPH Updates**

Jill provided an update from IDPH. Jill stated that the grant from SAMHSA regarding the depression screening in school-based health centers had 2 grantees. Jill stated that she cannot announce the grantees as of right now because their grant contracts are currently under review by upper management. However, Jill shared that as soon as they were available to share that she would send out the information. Jill shared that with the general revenue funding, GRF, grant there was one grantee for the Project ECHO, and again Jill is unable to share the information due to contract review. As soon as approval for that has been completed, Jill will share the information with the group. Jill shared that with the SAMHSA grant, three of the NOFO's were unfunded—timely referrals, technical assistance, and training. Jill shared that she felt this was due to the timing of the NOFO. Jill shared she is working with Dr. Sarah Patrick on when to repost the next round of NOFOs. Jill stated they are in talks with SAMSHA on how to get the grants reposted. Jill shared that as soon as she has information regarding this, Jill will disseminate the information accordingly. The Suicide Prevention Resource Center is in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a survey, which we completed. Jill shared that she worked with Neva, Dr. Glaze and Steve, with input from Jennifer, to complete the surgery. Jill shared that the results of the multiple state survey should be

shared with us within the next 3 months to see how our suicide prevention efforts match up with other states that participated in the survey. Jill also shared that there are plans to start drafting the annual report. Jennifer, Neva, and Jill are going to start working on this. Once this has been drafted, a meeting will be set up with Dr. Glaze and Steve for input. Once completed, the annual report will be reported on, hopefully by the August meeting. Jill stated that it has been recommended by the governmental affairs department that we update our bylaws based on commissioning act 410 ILCS 53/15. Our board is an advisory public body. Therefore, with the OMA 5 ILCS 120 DE2, we're not required to have an in-person quorum to conduct businesses and may hold meetings virtually. Therefore, it is being recommended that we amend our bylaws to include meeting attendance requirements for our members. Then, if our advisory group is given authority to make binding recommendations or determinations to make substantive action, we need to make sure that the "meet in-person" requirement is in place. This will be discussed further at our next meeting. Jill stated she just wanted to give everyone a heads up. Jill opened the discussion for any questions. Steve clarified regarding amending the bylaws that it will just need to include that it is possible to have virtual meetings instead of in-person meetings. Jill agreed and stated that if the group is making any binding recommendations or determinations that is a substantive action, then there must be an in-person quorum. Jill stated that she doesn't believe they have had that in the last year or so and asked Steve or Dr. Glaze if they remembered. Steve stated that the only thing that has been formally done with the group is the submission of the state suicide prevention strategy back in 2020, which Steve considers a recommendation to the state. Therefore, if there is ever another time this is needing to be done, Steve can certainly see why the bylaws would need to be updated. Jill stated that this is something that will be discussed and worked on during our next meeting in August. Jill shared that's all she has for IDPH updates.

#### **Update on ISPA member vacancies.**

Jill shared that last year the alliance took nominees to the director's office, around July of last year. The positions have been approved by the director. Jill shared she checked with governmental affairs on Monday to ensure there wasn't any updates, and there were not. Jill stated she would keep on top of this and continue to check up on this. Jill stated that she would check before the next meeting to make sure there is no other updates. Jill shared with the listserv with all the open positions and the nominations have been extended until the end of June. Jill asked if there was anyone that group members feel would be a good fit for any open positions, to please email her with their recommendations. Jill shared that our board has moved to 39 positions, with 6 active board members and 13 nominees are at the director's office, and there are 20 new and vacant position. Jill again urged the group to

please send nominations to her for any open positions. Jill opened the discussion for any additional questions.

### **CoP Project**

Neva shared that the Community of practice is run with the assistance of the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, or SPRC. This is a group of partners who come together to strengthen and expand partnerships around suicide prevention. According to the SPRC, The CoP is a member-driven group that engages in virtual learning and sharing on a specific topic that participants are implementing in the real world. SPRC's 2023 CoP will focus on strengthening state and territorial-wide suicide prevention partnerships and coalition capacity. Neva shared that this project runs from April to August and there are six webinars within that timeframe. The group also meets outside of the webinars to strengthen the partnerships. Neva shared that the group is focused on working to identify different groups that might fit well within the vacancies that we have on the board. Neva shared that they are working with the small group to see what kind of partners we are missing within this alliance. Within the chat, Jennie asked what CoP stood for. Neva explained that it stands for community of practice.

### **Overview of suicide prevention-related legislation**

Steve shared that Friday was intended to be the last day of the legislation, but they had to continue going because they have not passed a budget yet. Steve shared that have passed quite a few suicide prevention related bills. Steve shared that there were two bills that discussed 9-8-8. Both bills are setting up long range reviews of what we need to do in Illinois for not only 9-8-8 funding, but also integrating the whole system with 9-8-8 and 9-1-1 and crisis healthcare, crisis response, and ultimately the concept of the continuum of care of someone to call, someone to show up and someplace to take someone. Those three legs of the continuum of care are going to be investigated. These two bills are separate, and Steve shared that somewhere they're going to have to look at to combine to look at how they're going to work. The bills are a little bit different but have the same concept of putting together a workgroup to put together all these aspects, both how to coordinate things and ultimately how to fund it. Right now, much of the funding is coming from the federal government, from the COVID relief funds. However, that's going to end. Therefore, there does need to be a comprehensive and firm continuing funding of all these things—whether it's going to be state funds, telecommunication tax, or insurance coverage. The bills discussed are HB 3230 and HB 3164. Again, these bills have been passed by both the house and the senate and are now going to the governor for his signature.



The next bill that Steve presented is HB 2847, this is the bill that modifies the insurance code to provide mental health and wellness prevention visits. Steve shared that right now it's not necessarily true that you would receive insurance coverage for a visit that is just for prevention of mental health and what this bill does is require insurance carriers to provide coverage for at least one visit per year, an hour long, provided by your physician that looks into simply mental health and wellness. Steve shared that this bill is passed by both houses. This bill also had a provision that requires the Department of Public Health to conduct a public awareness campaign. Steve shared that even though it talks about mental health and wellness, it really seems intended to make people aware of this particular insurance coverage so that people should be asking their physician for their once-a-year coverage. Steve added that this does cover both children and adults. Steve reminded the group that this is HB 2847, the bill has been passed in both houses and heads to the governor's office for signature.

The next bill that Steve discussed is HB 3109. Steve shared that as of now a physician needs to gain approval from a state medical board to get their license. Steve shared that there is concern that filling out all the forms that physicians who have had a mental health condition, maybe undergoing counseling, hospitalization, anything could result in them not being approved, or not being found to have the mental capacity, which is the term used in the bill. The mental capacity function of licensing for a physician. What this bill does is recommend that the Illinois medical board consider the federation of state medical boards recommendation on how to handle physician mental capacity. Steve shared that there is movement at the federation level. Steve shared that he's not sure if it's happened yet, but the overall plan is for them to have something that would recommend that all states not requiring that such things be listed on the application or language that encourages boards to simply encourage physicians to discuss their mental health, and it's important that this not be hidden and it's important that if they are getting treatment that it's not something that would not let them get a license. Steve reiterated that this is HB 3109.

The final bill Steve discussed is HB 2156. There is a really new Illinois program called Safe2Help that is an online program for students that has text and information on health and wellness. Steve shared that this particular bill requires that the Safe2Help contact information be on student's ID cards, along with the 9-8-8 and crisis text numbers. The 9-8-8 and crisis text lines were already on a bill that required that information to be on a student's ID, and now they added the Safe2Help contact information. Steve reiterated that this is HB 2156, and as will the rest of the bills discussed, this has been passed by both the house and the senate and is awaiting signature by the governor.

Steve shared that the other thing he has been watching is the appropriation for Jill's office within IDPH, which is going to be part of the appropriation. Steve shared that there are negotiations going on in the background and a bill will be dropped on the desk of all the legislators hopefully this week. Steve shared that technically the real deadline is the end of the month. Steve shared that after the end of the month the only way an appropriation could be passed is with three fifths vote. Steve shared that as of right now it can be passed with a majority, and even though the Democrats have the majority and it should be easy, there are still a lot of negotiations going on and hopefully they're not negotiating away Jill's budget. Steve shared that once the bill comes through, we will share with the group what the department has been given. Steve also shared that the appropriation request from the governor was \$750,000, which is what it was last year. Steve shared that we have seen this used for the position within the department, plus some of the NOFOs that have been putting out in the last couple of months. Steve shared that it's about funding for the department and some of the programs that are being put out into the state. Steve opened the discussion for any questions, or if there was anything missed anyone else knows about.

Rafia asked about any updates on any counties regarding HB 0577 as it relates to school boards and the implementation of Ann Marie's law. Rafia particularly mentioned that she visited one school board where the super intended did implement the national suicide prevention number on the back of the IDs for students. However, the students were not oriented well on what it was upon entering the school year. Rafia asked if there was any experience or update regarding the law that was passed. Steve shared that one of the issues with Illinois is that there are about 500-600 school districts and therefore it's a real impossibility for the state board of education to really oversee and find out exactly if everyone is complying with the law. Steve shared that as an attorney he loves to see laws passed, but this is one that needs to be done at a grassroots level-parents, people that are in the county- to make sure that this law is being implemented. Because it's really hard for the state board of education to make sure that this is actually being complied with. Steve shared that Ann Marie's law has been on the books for a couple of years and it's really hard for oversight, but the best way to do it is at a grassroots level. Jill asked Julia if she had anything to add regarding this. Julia confirmed that Steve's thoughts regarding the school boards is correct.

Julia also added that SB 0724 is one that ISBE has been watching. SB 724 is related to the governor's office for children's behavioral health transformation in their blueprint document. Blueprint for transformation document, which is the work of Dr Dana Weiner and recommendation number 9 as well some aspect of the senate bill required ISBE to do a landscape scan this summer of the state of mental health screening in schools in Illinois. Julia clarified that ISBE will be doing a scan of what schools are doing for mental health or

behavioral health screening of students. Julia shared that they are not doing anything about a policy about screening but trying to find out and take a pulse on what schools are doing. Julia shared that this landscape scan will be taking place this summer, in conjunction with the project and it will include a feedback form that every district in the state of Illinois, as well as special ed co-ops and other programming that public school students receive for their school programming through ROEs will get to fill out as well as seven listening sessions for school personnel that will take place across the state. Julia reiterated that this is SB 724.

The additional item that Julia wanted to discuss is HB 342. This bill includes some recommendations from the whole child task force report, which came out over a year ago. Julia shared that of the number of things the bill includes, one of them is to list the ratio of mental and behavioral health personnel, such as school social workers, school counselors and school psychologists, on the Illinois report card, beginning in October 2024. A lot of people talk about shortages to school of those personnel, so that will be available starting in October 2024 on the Illinois report card among a bunch of other things in that house bill. Steve shared that this is great news and asked if these bills have been passed. Julia shared that she wasn't completely sure, but she would check on it and confirm in the chat. Jennie Pinkwater shared in the chat that both bills did indeed pass.

Steve asked if there was anyone else who had legislation to share that we should all be aware of. There was none.

#### **Update on the ISPA Adolescent Suicide Prevention Ad Hoc Committee**

Jill shared updated from the assessing mandates subcommittee. Jill shared that for the month of April we did not meet as it was during the week going into Easter, therefore a lot of our committee members were not able to attend. Jill shared that with some of our action plan items that are still being worked on is to continue to review the Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan. Jill shared the group is still review that and picking items that we can be focused on for our next projects. Jill shared that one item, the focus groups, is on hold for the time being. Jill shared that the mapping of suicide prevention program Nancy will be discussing later in the meeting. The next item, crisis checklist, information is still being gathered for the crisis checklist. Jill shared that a lot of the open items that are left have to be done with the grantee of the SAHMSA grants. Therefore, once we have our depression screening NOFO's announced, we will be working with them. The NOFOs mentioned that they must work with our subcommittees and our ISPA meetings. Therefore, the subcommittee assessing mandates will be advising and assisting the grantees with depression screening. Once we have the timely referral grantees announces when we post the NOFOs again, they will be working with them as well as the grantees from the technical assistance. Jill shared that we have a couple of on-going projects that is our focus group

with a variety of stakeholders to review documents. Jill asked Deb and Tandra if there is anything else they would like to mention regarding the assessing mandates committee. Deb stated that Jill covered it all.

Jill also mentioned that the governmental affairs department recommended that we put all our subcommittees on hold until we have more board members. For our subcommittees, we must have a quorum of board members to meet. Therefore, once the additional board members are approved, we will be able to meet again. But as of now, we are on hold with our subcommittees. Jill shared that she is hoping that we will get our 13 board members approved by the director in the next month or so.

Jill shared updates from the next subcommittee, screening for suicide risk and linking to services. Jill shared that the April meeting for this subcommittee was again cancelled due to the proximity of the meeting to Easter and low attendance. Jill shared that the group is continuing to work on reviewing the state plan and select objectives to work on. Once the grantees are announced, the subcommittee will be helping with the depression screening and school-based health centers, advising, and assisting. The subcommittee will also be assisting and advising the grantees for technical assistance and capacity training. The subcommittee will additionally be advising on identifying tools and resources, similar to the Texas road map, and screening for lethal means for youth. The next activity, mapping of suicide prevention programs, will be discussed by Nancy soon. Jill shared that the outstanding activities that are assigned to members is identifying populations in need and intended focus, promoting CALM training, and develop partnerships with pediatrician offices and networks. Jill shared that this subcommittee needs a chair because the previous chair moved to a different department.

Jill shared updates from the next subcommittee, public awareness. Jill shared that the April meeting for this subcommittee was again cancelled due to low attendance. Jill shared that this subcommittee is still working on its objectives, such as reviewing the state plan and selecting objectives. Objectives that are under internal review with IDPH is the webinar for local entities. Jill shared that we are still waiting to get clarifications from communications on what we can and cannot do and there has been no update from them yet. Jill shared that communications has a lot going on right now with multiple campaigns underway, so it may take some time. Jill shared that the guidance document for the media has been completed by Tracy and Chuck and is just waiting on approval, which has been submitted. In development, once the grantees are selected for technical assistance, the group will advise and assist the grantees and with the assurance of treatment and prevention services for diverse cultural populations with the grantees and reduce access to lethal means. There are still some open objectives on the action plan that we need to have checked off once the rest

of the grantees are selected. Assigned to a member of the team, we still have increasing awareness of available resources.

Jill shared to the group that is anyone is interested in joining any of the committees to let her know. Assessing mandates meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 10 am, public awareness meets the first Wednesday of every month at 1 pm, and screening and linking to services meets the first Monday of every month at 3 pm.

Jill asked if there were any questions about the subcommittees. Allison asked regarding the assurance of treatment for diverse cultures, what does diverse mean. She clarified is that including LGBTQ+ experiences, is that including people of color, what are the parameters? Jennifer shared that the initial intention was pretty broad and was intended to include populations that were at highest risk but also looking at professionals that might be in a position to reach those audiences. Partly looking at some of the information materials, should it be focused on having more intentional items that address LGBTQ, rural youth, foster care. Jennifer shared that those are just examples, they weren't specifically things shared during the group but just seeing if there are some specific things to reach specific audiences, but also there are materials that could be created that were more intentional. For example, making materials for coaches so when they're working with their team and their players, or after school programs and here are some targeted materials that could help them in their unique position and their roles that have with youth. Jennifer shared that it was a very high-level recognition that there are some specific and intentional things that could be created to reach specific populations that they hadn't determined, at least not when the transition from Jennifer to Jill had happened. Jennifer also wanted to highlight that it was intended to go beyond just populations at risk, but also targeting certain professionals, adults or even peers. This was about people who would be in a unique position and finding or creating materials for that unique position and better inform them about their role and how they can assist.

**Update on the Governor's Challenge: To Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families activities.**

Dr. Glaze explained that the Governor's challenge is a combination of private and public stakeholders who has come together under a SAMHSA VA sponsored model for developing best practices to our military community. With that, the group attended two policy academies, one implementation academy, and on the second national academy this year and just returned from DC last week. Dr. Glaze shared that she will share an update on that later. Dr. Glaze shared the goal is to inform all citizens in the state of Illinois on the governor's challenge and what the group wants everyone to do is become comfortable having conversations about suicide not only with our veteran's and service members, but

our neighbors, our friends, our loved ones, people we encounter. Dr. Glaze shared this is because there are often times suicidal risk factors that we neglect to pay attention to or simply overlook because we're not familiar on what to look for. Dr. Glaze shared that the governor's challenge put together a strategic action plan, with three priority areas for the state of Illinois. The first being assessing and screening for suicide risk factors. The action to be done for this is by implementing the Columbia Severity Suicide Rating Scale, which is predominately used in all of our Illinois hospital's that participate in the Illinois Hospital Association. The Governor's Challenge has reached out and formed a partnership with them and they have agreed to promote the Governor's Challenge online training portal. In that portal, you will see nine learning pathways, where different people from different walks of life can choose a different pathway that is relevant to them, such as faith-based leaders, clinicians, first responders, lay person. Dr. Glaze shared that any individual could choose which pathway is best for them and begin the training modules, which are short in their design so that people who do not have a lot of time to sit in front of a computer and complete trainings can do the module in approximately 15 mins. The modules do allow you to save your work if you need to stop and come back in. Dr. Glaze shared that the Governor's Challenge has formed a partnership with the National VA and the Illinois Department of Veteran's Affairs to promote the training program. Dr. Glaze shared that their goal is to reach 70,000 Illinois citizens and make them aware of suicide risk factors among our SMVF (service members, veterans, and their families) population. With IDVA we have issued a \$2.5 million interagency agreement which has allowed them the opportunity to hire a consultant who specializes in the military population, and to build in some training for their VA members so they can become more familiar with working with the SMVF population around suicide. Dr. Glaze shared that what they found out is that they are experts in working with veterans, but not in mental health so they did not feel comfortable having those conversations around suicide. There are some myths around suicide that surface today that says if you talk about suicide, it'll make a person suicidal. We all know that's not true today, and so we want to get the word out and spread the word, hear the call. Safety by all means is the strategy of the governor's challenge.

Each of the individual priorities have subcommittees that work specifically on that priority. Dr. Glaze leads the assessing and screening for suicide risk committee along with the partner, IHA who is represented by Chuck Johnson. Dr. Glaze shared that Chuck has been very instrumental in helping to develop what we want to see our hospital associations do in preparation for the online training. Dr. Glaze wants to share a shout to the IHA for supporting the governor's challenge, and specifically Chuck Johnson.

Veronica Tremble leads the second priority, which is about community connections and care transitions, that's developing warm hand offs. Dr. Glaze shared that the Governor's

Challenge has partnered with people like IJF, Illinois Joining Forces. Dr. Glaze shared that the goal is to be able to link our veterans when they transition home from tours of duty or other assignments that they can get a warm handoff, if they need clothing, employment, or housing. Dr. Glaze shared that IJF has agreed to step in and fill that gap, and there is a link on the website that will directly connect you to IJF and at that time you can speak to a live person who can help you get connected with what you need when you transition back.

The last priority area is safety by all means, and with that we're talking about safety and lethal means access, which is chaired by Steve Moore. They focus on not only handgun use, but also safety for prescription medication, accidental drug overdose. All of these means are things that we need to be aware of with the Governor's challenge, and for our citizens at large and just educating them about how to watch and screen for those risk factors.

The official launch for the Governor's Challenge took place back in November. Dr. Glaze shared that the governor's challenge was in Springfield and presented at the IJF annual summit. Since then, they have been on tours around the state doing presentations to bring awareness at places like DePaul University, IJF summit in Northbrook, and in Washington DC representing Illinois at the national level. Dr. Glaze shared that at the national conference they found that there are a lot of moving parts to the governor's challenge. Dr. Glaze shared one innovative idea that came from the small islands of the Samoa where there is little internet access so what they decided to do there is give the veteran's jobs on farms where they are cultivating and providing food for their whole island. This has helped the veterans with depression and anxiety and other risk factors that are seen in suicidal individuals. This hands on approach doesn't look the same in every culture, but even somewhere as remote as Samoa has found a way to take this work and make it meaningful in their culture. If the farm is productive, they are not only able to sell some of their produce but they're also able to donate to their homeless. The veterans are getting very involved and active in building the farms, maintaining the farms, raising money for their families to eat. It has been very informative and inspirational.

Dr. Glaze shared that they came back from the DC trip with an additional ask of the governor's office, and that is to take more of an initiative in promoting the governor's challenge. Dr. Glaze shared that they feel that they are on track, the governor's office has said yes to the request. Now they are in the development phase of some advertising campaigns around the Governor's Challenge. Dr. Glaze shared that they will be promoting the training on platforms like the CTA bus and trainings here in Chicago. There will be train wraps and posters inside the train cars. There has also been marketing with some radio ads, as well as some TV ads downstate. Dr. Glaze shared that the advertising is expecting to go onto social media as well as on billboards across the state. Dr. Glaze also shared the [website](#)

which can be accessed to register for training, read about the Governor's Challenge, listen to public service announcements from Director Prince from IDVA who talks about the importance of this work, and take a tour of the website and look at some of the offerings of the trainings and learning pathways. Dr. Glaze shared that they are pleased with the efforts in Illinois but want to step it up after some of the advertising campaign and start working on some action items, like what do we want to give back to our service members in terms of action. Is it an opportunity to serve them with something like employment summit and they can come look for jobs, and we can have potential employers there? Dr. Glaze shared that the teams will be meeting to discuss what the next action steps will look like. However, right now the focus is the online training portal. Dr. Glaze opened the discussion for questions, however there were none.

### **Update on Mapping Project**

Nancy Amerson shared that she is the chronic disease epidemiologist for the Illinois Department of Public Health chronic disease division. Nancy joined to give an overview of the mapping project. Nancy shared that this project started prior to COVID and was getting ready to launch a tableau dashboard that highlighted communities with injury, violence, and suicide related priorities. The project started by looking at the community health needs assessments (CHNA) that hospitals are required to do, and looking at the IPlan, Illinois planning for local assessment of needs, projects that local health departments are required to do. Just as an easy way to see who is prioritizing what in their communities.

There is a [pilot site](#) that has been created for suicide prevention programs on a map of Illinois. The landing page shows the priorities identified in the CHNA and IPlan. If you click on suicide on this page, it will identify which hospitals and health departments identified suicide as a priority. In November 2022, a RedCap survey was sent out to identify where suicide intervention and postvention programs occur. There has been a storyboard created for suicide partners to learn a little bit more about what's being offered. This is a pilot survey and there were 7 agencies that responded. No information was altered, it was entered verbatim. You can show the map by program type. You can hover over each of the circles to identify resources in that area. Nancy shared that the map and the legend are interactive to operate information. At the bottom of the webpage, there is also a chart in table format with the information, depending on what is easier for the person to view. If you hover over the docks in the table, it will provide the same information that was shown in the map such as a description of the program, how many counties it serves, as well as if the program is statewide. There will be an area for organizations to complete the survey to get their information on the map which will be updated at a predetermined interval at go-live is also an option for visitors of the site to download the information in several different



formats. There is an about this data section which shows where the data was retrieved from, you can click on a link to get to the CHNA and IPLAN information. The plan for the suicide prevention information is that there will be a link to the RedCap survey so that as this rolls out statewide, agencies can go in and click on the link and get their information in that way. The information will not populate automatically. Nancy shared that what will be done is to pull the information at certain intervals, in the beginning it will be more frequently, and add the information in that way. Nancy shared that we are requesting feedback from partner on any information they want on the webpage, what is hard to understand, what they would like to have. Nancy invited any questions. Jennifer added that the intent is to be able to add other pages for other injury and violence topic areas. Jennifer shared that the thought was to pilot this with suicide prevention alliance and then replicate it with the other topic areas. Jennifer shared that any feedback would be helpful to tweak the information before we start adding tabs. Jennifer shared that any feedback would not only help inform the suicide prevention tab, but any other tabs that would be added in the future. Nancy requested any feedback on the site be sent to Jill and will be forwarded to Nancy.

### **Partner sharing**

Steve Moore shared the [AFSP-IL](#) has a few events coming up in the future. The first thing is called Soul Shop for Black Churches. AFSP is cooperating with another organization called Soul Shop, which is really suicide prevention for faith communities, and they have put together something for black churches, which the black church community can be a little different, and this will be hosted on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago. Steve shared that if you're not familiar with Trinity United Church it's a huge church, and it was a very well-known that it was Barak Obama's church. Steve shared that the reverend there, Reverend Moss, is a fantastic speaker. Steve shared the AFSP just finished some walks. Steve also shared that the way AFSP constructs their walk calendar is that in the fall, September, and October, around the country AFSP holds the Out of the Darkness community walk, which is their main fundraising event. However, it is also an opportunity for people who have either suffered a suicide loss, or themselves have lived experience, get together and walk and raise funds for AFSP. Steve shared that usually most years there are 18 or 19 in the state of Illinois, with Chicago being the largest of them in terms of fundraising. Steve shared that this would happen again in late October. In the Spring, Steve shared that the walks that happen through AFSP are held with schools, primarily universities, although sometimes there will be some high schools participating as well. Steve shared that most of the spring walks have wrapped up with about 4 or 5 different walks hosted by some of the colleges in the state, and at least one high school up in the Northwest suburbs.

Rafiah Maxie Cole shared she is the founder of [Soul Survivors Chicago](#). Rafiah shared that since May is mental health awareness month, Soul Survivors Chicago has taken on a pledge to bring awareness about suicide prevention and mental health wellness throughout the month of May. Rafiah shared that they have had several events, but the main event is being held this Saturday at the Quarry Center located at 2436 East 75<sup>th</sup> street. Rafiah also shared that on May 27<sup>th</sup> there will be a wellness resource and mental health awareness event, sponsored by Chicago community trust from 1 pm to 3 pm. Rafiah shared the WGN will be there to offer coverage of the event. Rafiah shared that this is a very special day as it will mark the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the loss of her son Jamaal who died by suicide. Rafiah shared that Soul Survivors will be gifting a pair of shoes, and the model is on the website. Rafiah explained that essentially, they receive shoes from all over the country from persons who have lost people and loved ones from suicide, trauma, and gun violence. Soul survivor's requests that they are cleaned and sanitized and give them to organizations and persons who are impacted by crisis, and they are given the story of that shoe and the understanding of walking in that shoe with the legacy of a person who is no longer here. Rafiah shared that they will be honoring two youth at the event, there will be entertainment and food.

Steve was reminded that since May is mental health month, the national AFSP has started a new campaign, Talk Away the Dark. Steve shared that one of AFSP's major suicide prevention programs is Talk Saves Lives. With Talk Away the Dark, they have taken Talk Saves Lives and modified it for mental health. The concept being that we need to make mental health something that we're all willing to talk about. This campaign is a combination of PSAs on the internet throughout Instagram, Facebook and elsewhere, just talking about the concept of being willing to have a conversation about mental health. The campaign does give hints and ideas on how to start the conversation, some ways to keep it going, and what to do next.

Tracy Lavine from Naomi Ruth Cohen Institute shared that the institute is having their annual community mental health conference on Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup> in Evanston, but the panel will also be livestreamed and CEs and CEUs will be available for a variety of mental health professionals. Tracy shared that the focus of the conference is managing stress and anxiety.

Amber Clark with Bob Michel VA shared that coming up at the end of June, on June 29<sup>th</sup>, the VA will be holding a virtual caregiver summit, which is done every year. Amber shared that the schedule is being finalized and invites will be getting sent out soon, but it is about programming for the caregivers of veterans. Amber shared that at last year's summit there was a large piece about suicide prevention for caregivers, which there is usually a piece every year regarding this topic. Also, in September the VA will be holding their third annual

operation obstacle event at Richmond Community College. This event is a two-mile obstacle race to raise awareness for suicide prevention efforts for veterans. Details have just been finalized for that and registration is now open. Amber shared that the following Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> there will be SAVE training at the U of I Chez Center, which is an hour-long presentation and usually heavily attended. Amber shared that more events are being planned and she will share as they come up.

Jenna Farmer-Brackett shared that she works with a group within the Madison County Mental Health Alliance, and they are doing their yearly Impact Suicide Conference which is completely virtual and also free. Jenna shared that the conference will be held in zoom on September 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 8 and ending closer to 12:30 central time. Jenna shared the [link](#) in the chat box for pre-registration to receive information as it came out.

Cynthia Paidipati shared that earlier this year she had the opportunity to engage in a train the trainer model for some students who are helping out their research assistants on a bigger research study, RO1 grant, and looking at nurses' mental health and wellness and an aspect of the study is looking at suicide risk and prevention. Cynthia shared that she was able to train a small team of research assistants on the Columbia suicide severity scale as well as the Stanley and brown suicide brief intervention safety planning template. Cynthia shared that it felt really good to be able to share that knowledge and training both for the purpose of research as well as spreading the word about the Columbia suicide severity scale and how that can be utilized in multiple settings.

Allison Herman from Hope for the Day shared that she posted in the chat where to [find all the information for upcoming events](#) and that all the events through July are posted and will continue to be updated as they are confirmed. Allison shared that she didn't want to overwhelm anyone with all the incredible things that are done, but there are a lot of events coming up. Allison shared that there are some free digital presentations on the website, as well as some in-person experiences that are coming up including a mental health talk about hospitality coming up in June as well as going up to Summerfest and rockfest up in Wisconsin. Allison also shared that there is an [e-learning platform](#) where folks can go take a training at any time for only \$10.

Shalisha Hill shared in the chat that they are the career specialist at the township of Proviso Youth Services Department. They have started a community wellness strategy meeting once a month for community residents within our township. They have been strategizing on a way to spread the awareness of suicide prevention due to the amount of suicide amongst young people within our communities. They are looking for ways to partner with groups and organizations that can train our residents and concerned parts in suicide prevention as well

as mental wellness strategies for families. Shalisha shared her email ([shill@provisotownship.illinois.gov](mailto:shill@provisotownship.illinois.gov)) for anyone who is interested in more information.

Jack Rein from Cicero Public Schools shared that they just finished hosting their mental health round table where they had more than 80 administrators, teachers, social workers, psychologists, and counselors from districts throughout Illinois attend. Jack shared that it was a great experience, it was their 7<sup>th</sup> school based mental health round table and the second one back in person. Jack shared that they are looking forward to doing it again in the fall.

Jill shared that her and Neva took a workshop from [Safe Sides](#) about Rural Communities yesterday. She shared that they are offering another workshop in July. Jill shared that it had some really great information but was structured more toward clinicians and persons working with clients. Jill shared that the workshop discussed how to have conversations with them and communicating with them. Jill shared that she would share the information in the listserv for those that are interested. Neva added that while the title of the workshop was based on rural population, it was more individual client based rather than community based. The workshop did discuss a lot of Safe Side framework that they have developed and discussing different talking points with the client and how to bring that conversation up. Neva shared that it was very insightful for behavioral health clinicians, not quite for public health personnel.

Sarah Schroeder shared that DMH adolescent services has been working with recovery support to get an additional endorsement approved for recovery support specialist. The endorsement would be specifically for a young adult population. Sarah shared that it has been approved in the application for individuals that are certified recovery support specialist to get the additional endorsement for young adult endorsement is now available.

Steve elaborated on the Safe Side. Steve shared that it's a program that provides for health care systems in which a healthcare system or physician's office can sign up for and it is pretty comprehensive training personnel on screening, intervention, treatment referral for suicide. Steve shared that AFSP has been working with them and that the Illinois chapter has help fund some health systems doing safe side. Steve shared that it is a program that's really designed for health care. Steve shared that the concept is based on research that has shown that a large percentage of people who have died by suicide have, within the past year, had a visit with their healthcare provider. So, if we can train them to recognize the symptoms of suicide and what to do about it, we can help prevent suicide. Jill added that she felt the workshop was very interactive and very informative. Steve shared that all their trainings are online to make it easier where you don't have to bring in their people to training.

Angie Thinnies made a comment that the Out of the Darkness walk is one of the most important events for the folks that are served at Threshold Kankakee. Angie shared that people start asking her when it's going to happen in starting in January. Angie added that it is a powerful event for people who are living with serious mental illnesses support others who may have issues of their own, and to celebrate that they've made it and that they're still living their lives. Angie thanked AFSP for the event and noted that they will be at theirs in September. Steve shared that if anyone is interested in joining a walk, they can find the schedule on the [AFSP-IL website](#) listed under events for the year. Steve shared that as a board member for AFSP he has participated and spoken at a lot of the events downstate and they're much different from the Chicago event. Steve added that during the Chicago event there are 6,000-7,000 people and at the downstate events they have much more of a community-oriented feel to them. Steve also shared that since the downstate events are much smaller, they have more time to have a variety of speakers talk. Steve shared that persons with lived experiences, and even children with mental health issues have spoken before and it is really moving. Steve shared that at each of the events they have beads and participants are welcome to wear different colored beads depending on the nature of your loss. For example, Steve shared that since he has lost his son to suicide, he wears the white beads as white bead indicate loss of a child. There are different colors for loss of a sibling or parent, or anything else for people that have lived experiences, or for law enforcement. Steve shared that there have been times where there have been 8 or 9 people up on stage with various experiences and talk about why they are wearing the color bead they're wearing. Steve added that there are various activities that honor the lost loved ones, such as releasing balloons, releasing feathers in the water, or writing messages on a wall.

### **Update on 988 Implementation**

Dr. Teresa Glaze introduced Lee Ann Reinert who is the Deputy Director of Policy and Innovation for the Illinois Division of Mental Health. Lee Ann thanked everyone for including her in the meeting and shared that they have some exciting news. At the end of last week, they received their broad state metrics from Vibrant and we have the highest ever answer rate for our call centers, which is at 87%. Lee Ann commented that it is really remarkable considering that just last June we were the lowest state in the nation at 18%. So that fact that we've been able to get up to 87% working with our call centers in just 10 months' time is really remarkable, and then when you add onto that that our overall demand for calls has increased by 46% with the transition to 988 is really amazing. Lee Ann also shared that SAMHSA has given the States some extra time which Lee Ann believes has to do with them hearing back from us about some of the challenges. Lee Ann shared that she feels really confident that they will be able to meet their goals by next April of the 90% answer rate for

calls and then they're expecting us to get to 50% for text and chat by next April and right now we're at 23% for each of those.

Lee Ann stated that PATH located in Central Bloomington continues to serve as the central role in the expansion. Lee Ann reminded the group that there has been a grant agreement in place with them since January 2022. The grant requires they provide three things for them: primary coverage for 85 counties, back up for the other call centers across the state and they're providing statewide text and chat coverage. PATH's answer rate since the transition to 988 is averaging just above 82% with an 88% rate in April and calls continue to average near 7,700 each month with 8,842 answered in April. Lee Ann stated that she is sharing both averages for the comparative value over time, as well as the most recent month because that is the best indicator of where we both are right now but also shows that we are continuing to trend upward and even shows that we are continuing to trend upward even beyond what the average is showing us.

Lee Ann stated that the other two call centers who operate 24/7/365 provide coverage for their respective counties because they operate within their health departments. DuPage County's answer rate is averaging around 81.4% and they had 84% call answer rate in April with average monthly calls are 541, and they had 573 in April, so everything is trending up. Lake County, which is the other 24/7/365 call program, had been reported last meeting that they had an increase in their answer rate from 50% to 70% but no real increase in volume. Earlier in this quarter, they experienced some staffing challenges which impacted their answer rate and we saw them drop to 65% overall, is still considerably more than the 50% prior to when we started working with them. However, Lee Ann shared that they will still continue to be following them closely to be sure that they are providing support to them as needed to maintain that increased rate.

Lee Ann shared that both DuPage and PATH are now responding to text and chat. Because there is a separate platform that Vibrant uses to handle text and chat, they cannot separate the overall volume by center. They can only see the overall volume for the state. Lee Ann shared that DuPage just started to handle text and chat at the end of April, which is the last data that is available. Lee Ann is hopeful that with the data that is going to be received for May they may begin to see the impact of having a second center taking text and chat.

Lee Ann stated that they also continue to have the other three call centers that are not operating 24/7/365. They are continuing to work with the centers on their capacity and have adjusted the hours of operation based on high call volume time. Lee Ann shared that they're answer rates aren't climbing as quickly as the other 24/7 centers, but they are answering many more calls in terms of volume when the analysis is looked at month to month. Memorial Behavioral Health, which covers seven counties around Springfield, has an

answer rate of 74% in April, and their volume has increased 2.5 times over what it was pre-988. Suicide Prevention Services, which has seven counties in the Batavia area outside of Chicago, has not seen a change in their answer rate which is due to some technology limitations that has been worked on and is looking to have them fully addressed by June and they're looking to start seeing improvement in their numbers over the summer once they have their technology addressed. C4 in Chicago, which answers 19 zip codes in Chicago, had an answer rate of 61% in April which is an improvement for them, and their volume has increased six times over their transition to 988 and therefore they are working on staffing up as they continue to see an increase in their call volume.

Lee Ann also shared that NAMI Chicago was the successful bidder on a NOFO to expand local coverage in the Chicago area and they have signed an agreement with them and have started regular meetings. Lee Ann shared that NAMI Chicago is in the process of completing an application to Vibrant. Lee Ann stated that the onboarding process is expected to take 6 months. However, once they come online and routing changes are made, NAMI Chicago will have primary responsibility for call in the remaining areas of Chicago that C4 doesn't cover. Lee Ann also shared that they requested that they operate their call center during the hours that were identified as the highest as the highest volume for their coverage area. Therefore, they will be operating from 4 pm until 8 am seven days a week. Lee Ann shared that they believe that in addition to improving call answer rates overall, this shift of a considerable amount of call responsibility from PATH during those hours, 4 pm to 8 am, is going to result in an increase in our capacity to handle text and chat through PATH as PATH will be able to move more staff to the text and chat platform and off the call taking platform. A single person cannot do both calls and text and chat, therefore each person they shift from their call queue to their text and chat queue will increase our ability to respond there.

Lee Ann went on to share the latest numbers around the three pillars of the crisis continuum, someone to call, someone to respond and somewhere to go. Lee Ann stated there is not of a lot of change here. They have the six call centers and the seventh in development. Lee Ann shared that they have already met their SAMHSA goals of 90% of individuals with access by end of 2023 because we have 100% of our counties covered. However, we are still also focusing on the answer rates, which they want to see at 90% by next April. The mobile crisis response teams continue to have 66 providers operating in 83 locations. Lee Ann stated they are continuing to work with the coordination between the 988 call centers and the program 590 as well as continuing to work on their learning collaboratives, which is sometimes a combination of the mobile crisis teams and the 988 call centers, and sometimes they're separated. They are also continuing to work through their CESSA work to look at policies and procedures to coordinate better across those two continuums, somewhere to go and someone to respond. Finally, the somewhere to go, Lee

Ann shared that they have their 21 living room programs currently funded, as well as 11 residential programs that have been reported on previously. Lee Ann shared that there was a NOFO that went out this spring for living rooms and in the next few weeks will be releasing more information on that. Each of the grants operate on a 3-year competitive cycle, and with the living rooms program it was the third year of operation, so they must issue a new notice of funding opportunities for those grants and recompetete them and so that the process that's going on right now. They are in their merit-based review process, and so they will be able to release more information and by next meeting.

Lee Ann shared the [webpage](#) with the easy to remember 988hotline.illinois.gov link. Lee Ann shared that if there is anything that you want to follow up on, there are continuing to be a lot of marketing materials released by SAMSHA and they are really starting to push a lot of public messaging. Lee Ann also shared that DHS will have a tent at the state fair and if you're in the Springfield area to be sure to stop by the DHS tent, as there will be a lot of 988 materials available there. Lee Ann stated that they are trying to have DMH staff there every day to really promote 988 messaging. Lee Ann shared that anyone can reach out to her through Dr. Glaze or through her email, which is [lee.reinert@illinois.gov](mailto:lee.reinert@illinois.gov).

Lee Ann also opened the discussion for questions. Chuck Johnson asked if there were any further discussion around the new requirements for the living room programs that require 24/7 to allow communities to have living rooms without actually having that housing component. Lee Ann responded that she cannot discuss the living rooms any further than what was already discussed because the merit-based review process is still going on, however it's not exactly a housing component it's open 24/7 component. By the time we have the next meeting, Lee Ann shared that she can discuss it further, but she cannot discuss anything while there is an active procurement happening. Chuck responded asking if it is still a requirement to have 24-hour program. Lee Ann shared that the NOFO requirements were for a plan for a 24/7 operation within 6 months. Steve Moore also asked about the funding for NAMI and will that continue. Lee Ann shared that as part of BSCA, bipartisan safer communities act, there was some money that SAMSHA got and they put part of it into a supplemental fund for the capacity grant that Illinois received last year that allowed them to fund their local centers, which is not the one that won the NOFO for the expansion of statewide coverage. The funding that was received from SAMHSA and direction from Vibrant restricted them from working with any centers that didn't already have a contract and hadn't already been onboarded with Vibrant. Lee Ann shared that this was the first time they were able to use some of the money and apply it to the development of a new center. The money itself is from the supplement to the 988-capacity grant, which is a 2-year grant that goes through next April. In the meantime, SAMHSA has released a new NOFO for the states that is a continuation of the capacity grant. They are



putting some more requirements on the state around it, but it's also about the same amount of money that is received on an annual basis through our capacity and supplemental right now, but it's for a 3-year time. Lee Ann shared that they are in the process of responding to that NOFO, which has a June deadline, and they will be notified in August. Lee Ann shared that she is optimistic that they will receive the funds as SAMHSA has been very pleased with the performance of the call centers, and the tremendous jump in our answer rate is something that was the talk of the town at SAMHSA for a while. Lee Ann explained that there is a formula that is used whenever there are grants available and it's used to determine how much block grant money is awarded. The NOFO itself included a chart of how much money would be awarded. Lee Ann also shared there is some legislation that is making its way through that will result in the creation of some working groups focused on 988 as well as on the crisis continuum as a whole and trying to make sure there are strategies within the state to ensure sustainability of everything that is being built. Steve shared that earlier in the meeting he did report out on the bills that Lee Ann shared. Steve also asked Dr. Glaze if the Governor's Challenge will be getting a table at the state fair. Dr. Glaze shared that she believes they can and will add that to the topic list for the meeting Friday. Jennifer shared that the Illinois Department of Public Health will also have a table at the state fair for the fire safety campaign. Jennifer added that they've been lucky enough to collaborate with the VA to get gun locks to distribute at both the state fair and the Du Quoin fair, in addition to some firearms safety related materials to release. Jennifer shared that there was an article shared this morning from a CNN report that was asking about how many people know about 988 and the survey was saying only 13% know about 988. Jennifer shared that she knows it was always a challenge with Vibrant and from the beginning and know there is subcommittee looking into how to promote 988 but wanted to know if Vibrant shared those results and had some idea on how to promote the 988 number. Lee Ann shared that last week she traveled to Arizona for work and that she encountered several people throughout her travel and not one of them knew about 988. Lee Ann added that there is still a tremendous amount of work that still needs to be done to promote 988. There will be no way of releasing the burden on other emergency response systems if no one knows about 988. Lee Ann shared that they do have a communications plan that has been ready since last summer, but then they were asked by SAMHSA and Vibrant not to start it because they wanted to make sure that there wasn't such an overwhelming response that it crashed the system. However, they are now starting to encourage that promotion. Within DMH and DHS there are a couple of things that are being done. There is a small team that works in the DMH and through the UIC crisis hub on supporting the work that is being done. They have created packets and they're sending them out as widely as they're identifying interest and offering a sample packet and then the DHS print shop can provide as much as the entity wants in terms of posters, wallet cards, and other types of

items. Lee Ann shared that there has been some targeted media coverage, most of which has been on social media. The targeted messaging has been aimed at younger people, as well as people that are in specific demographics that are at higher risk. There has been some promise of marketing on CTA trains and buses. Lee Ann also shared that some other states have billboards and Oklahoma even took out a Super Bowl ad, so there is a lot going on. Lee Ann shared that you could go to the DHS website and order marketing material, and SAMHSA also has a whole variety of stuff. Lee Ann shared that they have order some of that stuff, which will be at the state fair as well as some other material from the print shop. Lee Ann stated that it is going to be a continued effort and we all need to do what we can to promote it.

### **Public Comment**

Steve shared that this is an official public meeting and notice was given. This is the chance if there was a member of the public or have not had an opportunity to say something and would like to, now is the chance. There were no comments.

### **Next Meeting**

Steve shared that the next meetings will be August 29, 2023, November 14, 2023, February 22, 2024, and May 21, 2024. Steve added that we do try and have different days of the week because we are aware that some people have a particular day and time that just doesn't work. So, there are different opportunities to fit everyone's schedules.