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MEETING NOTICE

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (IDPH)

Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance

May 14, 2025
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

****Recording****

Approved on August 25, 2025

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Roll call.
3. Review & approval of February meeting minutes.
4. Guest Speaker
5. Guest Speaker
6. Update on 988 Implementation
7. IDPH updates
8. IDPH Subcommittee Consolidation
9. Update on the Governor's challenge: To Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families activities.
10. Annual report
11. Update on Suicide Related legislation.
12. Partner sharing
 - a) All-Please share information about your agency's suicide prevention activities.
13. Public Comment

Attendees

- ☒ Jenna Farmer Brackett, Representative from a suicide prevention program serving rural communities (Centerstone)
- ☒ Chuck Johnson, Representing Illinois Hospital Association
- ☒ Amber Clark, Representing veterans' services

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- ☒ Angie Thinnes, Representing Attempt Survivors
- ☒ Christopher Balthazar, Representing LGBTQ+
- ☒ Deb Martin, Representing Survivors of Suicide Loss
- ☒ Cynthia Paidipati, Researcher in Suicidology
- ☒ Dr. Jack Rein, Organization Representing Suicide Prevention
- ☒ Randyl Wilkins, Organization Representing Suicide Prevention
- ☒ Tracy Levine, Organization Promoting the Improvement of Mental Health
- ☒ Bonnie Hassan, Outpatient behavioral health organization
- ☒ Janeth Barba, Community Health Organization
- ☒ Donna Nahlik, Healthcare System
- ☒ Dr. Nabil Abou Baker, State association representing primary medical providers

Ex-Officio Members

- ☒ Dr. Teresa Glaze, Illinois Department of Human Services /Division of Mental Health
- ☐ Dr. Melvin Hinton, Illinois Department of Corrections
- ☒ Dr. Erin Alexander, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
- ☒ Margo Watson, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs
- ☒ Sarah Littrell, Illinois State Board of Education
- ☒ Dr. Monique Anawis, Office of the Attorney General

Stakeholders

Frances Reyes, Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Samantha Dickens ILCADV
Jennifer Martin, IDPH
Chima Obidiegwu
Kevin Brown
Kathryn Endress
Jae'Da Miller

1. Welcome and Introductions

Deb Martin welcomed members, reminded them of the Alliance's structure, and emphasized that viewpoints expressed may not reflect every agency involved. State-affiliated members may abstain from policy matters. The meeting was recorded for note-taking accuracy.

2. Roll Call

Conducted by: Jennifer Martin

The following were noted:

- The present members included: Jack Rein, Randyl Wilkins, Tracy Levine, Janet Barba, Monique Anawis, Erin Alexander, Melvin Hinton, Margo Watson, and other partners.
- Noted absentees and late arrivals included Chuck Johnson, Cynthia Paidipati, and Dr. Abelle Abu Baker.
- Some attendees had audio issues but were acknowledged via chat (e.g., Sarah Latrell).
- The initial quorum was not met (12 of 25 appointed members), and voting items were postponed.

3. Approval of February 2025 Minutes

Postponed due to lack of quorum. Approval to be addressed at the July 2025 meeting. But lately as the meeting progressed, more appointed members joined, including Chuck Johnson and others. Once quorum was established:

- The **February 2025 meeting minutes were formally approved.**
- Voting on pending actions was allowed from that point forward.

4. Guest Presentation – Kevin Brown (IDHS, Office of Firearm Violence Prevention)

Overview:

- Mission: Address firearm violence as a public health emergency.
- **Investments:** \$342M+ in funding across 42 communities, including 300+ grants.
- **Key Programs:**

- **Peacekeepers Program:** Employs individuals with lived experience to mediate community conflict.

- **Victims Flex Fund:** New initiative for immediate emergency support to victims.

- **Evaluation Partners:** Northwestern University's CORNERS Project.
- **Equity Focus:** OFVP emphasizes community leadership, self-determination, and culturally responsive programming.

Key Points:

- OFVP emphasizes local self-determination.
- Partnering with Cook County, Chicago DPH, and Illinois Justice Cabinet.
- Reported 76% reduction in gun victimization in targeted Chicago areas.

Discussion Highlights:

- Deb Martin inquired about youth gun safety. Brown confirmed local communities may implement if prioritized.
- Community autonomy emphasized in designing culturally relevant programs.
 - Deb Martin asked about youth gun safety education. Kevin confirmed communities can design such programs under OFVP support.
 - Other members encouraged more visibility for Peacekeepers and cross-sector collaboration.

5. Guest Presentation – Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV)

Speakers: Samantha Dickens & Frances Reyes

Topics Covered:

- DV as suicide risk factor, especially during and post-separation.

- Power & Control Wheel and types of abuse discussed.
- Emphasis on reframing language (e.g., “person who causes harm”).
- Cross-sector trauma-informed coordination needed between DV and suicide prevention.

Key Topics:

- Framed domestic violence as a **public health and suicide prevention issue**.
- Emphasized the link between coercive control and suicidal ideation.
- Explained the **Power and Control Wheel** and various types of abuse.
- Addressed suicide threats by persons who cause harm and the trauma inflicted on survivors.
- Advocated for **non-gendered**, person-first language ("person who causes harm").
- Called for greater integration of DV support and suicide prevention services.

6. 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Update

- **Statewide Answer Rate:** 91%
- **Geo-Routing Enabled:** Improves accuracy by cell tower location.
 - **24/7 Text and Chat Support:** Expanding via PATH and Centerstone.
 - **Transition:** Memorial Behavioral Health exited the 988 network in January 2025.

7. IDPH Updates

Presented by: Topaz Lavi & Jennifer Martin

Announcements and Trainings:

- **New Section Chief:** Kathryn (Katie) Endress
- **Zero Suicide Workshop:** May 15, 10–11:30 AM via Prevention First
- **Fresh Perspectives Suicide Prevention Summit:**
June 4, 2025, from 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM- Virtual
- **Gun Locks Distributed:** Over 93,300 since June 2023
- **CDC Grant Targets:** Men 50+ and females 10–19 in high-risk areas

8. Subcommittee Consolidation

Deb Martin announced that all Alliance subcommittees have been merged into a single **Awareness Subcommittee** to promote efficiency and stronger collaboration.

9. Governor's Challenge – SMVF Suicide Prevention

Update by: Teresa Glaze

- **Chicago Site Visit Completed:** With SAMHSA and partners.
- **Carbondale In-Person Training:**
June 10, 2025, Focus: Military Cultural Competency, Free CEUs
- **National Innovations Conference (Texas):** Week of May 19

10. Annual Report

Members were reminded to submit updates and activity highlights.

Next review: Breakout sessions scheduled for **August 25, 2025**

11. Suicide-Related Legislation

- **HB1085:** Strengthens mental health and substance use parity protections.
- **SB3538:** Requires full mental health coverage for first responders.

12. Partner Sharing & Conference Announcements

AFSP (Cynthia Paidipati):

- **Chicagoland Out of the Darkness Walk**
Sept 17, 2025, at Montrose Harbor, Chicago
- **Hike for Hope – Construction Industry Awareness**
June 28, 2025
- **Southern Illinois Walk – SIU Carbondale**
Sept 6, 2025

VA Danville (Amber Clark):

- **Operation Obstacle Race**
Sept 20, 2025, at Richland Community College
- **12th Annual Hospice Veterans Conference**
June 4, 2025, Virtual, CEUs available

ICADV (Samantha Dickens):

- Released educational video on DV and suicide.
- Webinars posted on YouTube channel.

Prevention First (Randyl Wilkins & Topaz Lavi):

- **Mental Health Power Hour (June):** Focusing on Men & LGBTQ+ communities.
- **Webinar – Substance Use, Suicide & MH Association:**
May 19, 2025
- **In-Person Suicide Prevention Symposium**
Aug 28–29, 2025 at Marriott, Naperville
- **AMSR TOT Training**
July 29–31, 2025 - Registration soon

Tracy Levine (Evanston):

- **Community Mental Health Conference**
May 17, 2025, Focus: Neurodiversity + Suicide Research
Remote panel access available

Jared's Keepers Foundation (Deb Martin):

- **Strike Out Stigma Wiffleball Tournament**
July 19, 2025, at Auburn, IL
- **Healing Plate Dinner with Chef Alex Ballou**
Sept 19, 2025, at Springfield
Nashville artists performing.

Quincy Area Network (Chuck Johnson)

- 1,650 prevention stickers to high schools
- Suicide prevention PSAs during Cardinals games.
- WGEM Media partnership in September

Other Highlights:

- **Spring Mental Health Roundtable (Jack Rein):** Held in Cicero with over 117 attendees.
- Mental Health Awareness Month events emphasized.

13. Public Comment

- No formal comments.
- Wishes for a speedy recovery to Jill, currently on leave for recovery.

14. Next Alliance Meetings

Date

August 25, 2025

November 18, 2025

February 11, 2026

May 14, 2026

15. Motion to Adjourn

- **Motion by:** Jack Rein
- **Seconded by:** Teresa Glaze
- **Outcome:** Unanimously approved
- **Adjourned at:** 11:32 AM CT.