

## **Death Review Team Presentation – May 25, 2018**

**Presenters:** Debbie Rueber (Kenosha), Denise Wirth (Eau Claire)

### **Review of Self-Harm Analysis Review Team (SDART) Toolkit – Prevent Suicide Kenosha County/Kenosha Division of Health.**

The group now has a few years of experience under their belt. They review suicide and overdose deaths.

There is a list on page 2 of the toolkit of who should be on the team. This may vary by area. The Medical Examiner is an important part of the team.

People on the team sign confidentiality statements which are reviewed annually. Have your Corporate Counsel review the confidentiality agreement.

The team decides on a chairperson. The group meets bimonthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month from 12-1:30.

3 suicide and 3 overdose deaths are reviewed per meeting. Members of the team are asked to bring information on the person being reviewed to the meeting.

1 ½ hours works well, but they don't always get to all cases. Those are rolled over to next meeting.

54 overdose deaths and 27 suicide deaths have been reviewed. The group tries to identify trends and tries to make a difference going forward. They also look at risk factors.

There is a separate child death review team. Some cases may overlap.

The layout of the review is like a Medical Examiners report.

There are resources in the SDART toolkit on collecting data.

People take notes and the group compiles them. The notes are turned in due to confidentiality. They have a large database of information. The Medical College and Injury Center do the reporting.

They also check social media, criminal records, legacy.com, etc. for information.

There is an Excel spreadsheet that can be emailed out to callers on this call. There is a security code to access the document.

Packets for overdose deaths are given out by EMS with resources, etc.

Suicide survivor packets for families are given out at the time or sent out by the Medical Examiner.

Question about notes being subpoenaed. Answer: The cases are already closed and are open record. If a court case is pending they do not discuss that case.

Question: What kind of notes do you keep? Answer: Fact finding about what was done and if there any gaps that need to be addressed.

## **Denise Worth – Eau Claire**

Eau Claire reviews all suicides in the county and also residents who die outside of county.

They have been doing this for 2 years. There were 6 months of planning before they started.

The agencies involved and on board are feel there is value. It is important that the right people are at table. The Medical Examiner and the police department need to be at table. The process helps different agencies work better together and understand each other's functions.

They also have a confidentiality agreement.

Challenges – Turnover in the group. The process can be traumatic to those doing the reviewing. It takes a while for people around the table to get comfortable talking about these things and to develop trust around table. They try to do a self-care exercise at the end of each meeting.

The data is work in progress. It is not as lengthy as Kenosha. Data: Male, 45-ish, firearms, hangings, rates higher in winter. These are things we thought we knew, but now we can say we know for sure based on data.

They are working on a release of information form for family members. They are also working on a postvention packet.

Question: Have you used the Zero Suicide Toolkit? Answer: Eau Claire hasn't yet but hopes to in future. They don't have buy in yet for ZS with the hospital system.

Question: Reviewing 6 cases in an hour and a half, is that enough time? Answer: Kenosha - They usually get through 4. Eau Claire – They met monthly for 2 hours initially. Now they are doing quarterly reviews, but didn't get through all the cases. They are fine tuning the process.

Fond du Lac is starting a death review team.

Sheboygan has a child death review team. Adolescents who die by suicide are reviewed by that team.

Debbie and Denise both invited callers to come observe one of their meetings.