ACTION TEAM DESCRIPTION: During the initial May 1, 2013, meeting among cooperators, suicide in Park County was the overwhelming topic of concern across the diverse spectrum of cooperators involved. Although anecdotal evidence from cooperators was passionate and pervasive, few statistics were available at that meeting to back up the cooperators’ stories. Upon further investigation, data was found that supports the assumption that statewide and locally in Park County, suicide is a pressing public health need at all ages.

HEADLINE PERFORMANCE MEASURES:
Suicide rates
Mental health availability, access and wait times

DATA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA:
Substance abuse rate (especially prescription drugs)
Local suicide rates for teens, middle-aged, elderly

OUTCOME: REDUCTION IN SUICIDE
POPULATION: ALL RESIDENTS OF PARK COUNTY

HOW ARE WE DOING?

WHAT WORKS (BEST PRACTICES):
- Training lay-people, providers and professionals in awareness and response
- Awareness/education of broader public, especially schools and parents, through grassroots means and media
- Improving and standardizing data collection to recognize trends, patterns, etc.
- Improve access to mental health services and improve follow-up processes within health care and mental health provider communities

PARTNERS WHO CAN HELP US?
MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY
EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES
FAITH COMMUNITY
CORONER
SUICIDE COALITION
LOCAL PHARMACISTS
PREVENTION MANAGEMENT OFFICE
PTAs/PTOs
SCHOOLS
SUICIDE SUPPORT GROUP
PRIMARY CARE/FRONTLINE MEDICAL PROVIDERS
NAMI
LAW ENFORCEMENT
AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS
HOSPITALS/HEALTHCARE CLINICS
MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY
SCHOOL
MENTORING PROGRAMS
HOSPITALS/HEALTHCARE CLINICS
CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES
SCHOOL
VETERANS SERVICES – VFW, LEGION, FAMILIES ON THE FRONT LINE
SENIOR SERVICES
ACADEMIC EXPERTS

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE?
- Set and implement training goals for involved/point-of-contact laypeople and frontline medical personnel/responders
- Implement useful and thorough data-collection practices to get a better picture of the problem and guide best practices/prevention strategies
- Investigate access-to-care issues via same-day availability of mental health services
- Work with legislators to implement desired Title 25 policy changes
- Review agency procedures regarding referrals/follow-up to ensure “warm handoff” among agencies and reduce access barriers
- Promote suicide awareness/prevention resources via the media

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