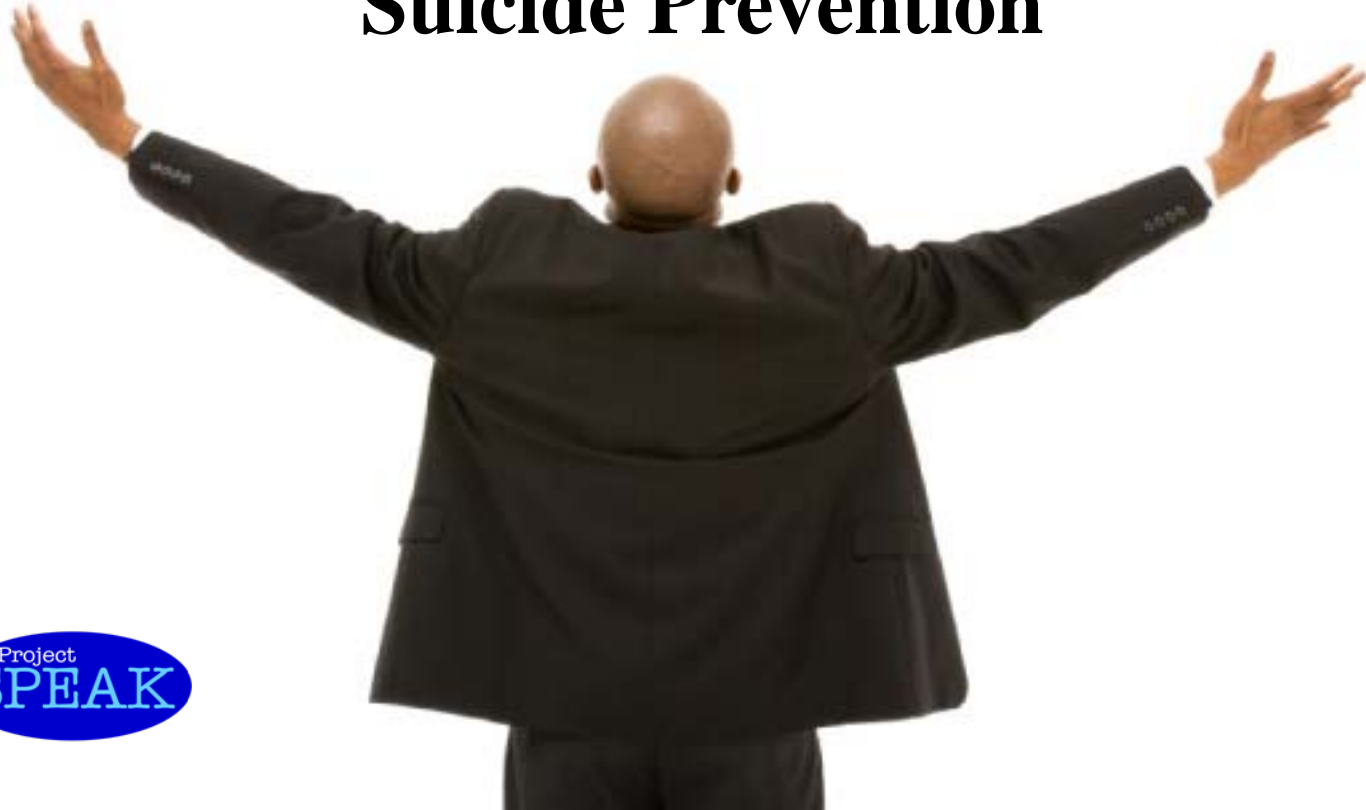


Engaging New Gatekeepers: The Faith Community and Parents

**Life is Precious:
Faith Community Partnerships in
Suicide Prevention**



Religion Among the Millennials

Less Religiously Active Than Older Americans, But Fairly Traditional In Other Ways

Religious Affiliations (18 to 29 year olds)

75% affiliated religious tradition

68% identify with Christian faith

25% are unaffiliated

**(identify with atheist, agnostic or
“nothing in particular”)**



THE PEW FORUM
ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE

February 17, 2010





Virginia Tech Tragedy is a Wake-Up Call to Parents

Make their way through an increasingly complex life without the traditional safety net comprised of;

- family*
- supportive peers*
- teachers*
- community of faith*
- sense of belonging.*

April 23, 2007

Barna Group

Examine. Illuminate. Transform.

<http://www.barna.org>



Virginia Tech Tragedy is a Wake-Up Call to Parents

*Most young people admit that they feel as if they **do not**;*

- sufficient attention from parents
- enough good friends
- unsettled about future
- have personal spiritual perspectives
but lack spiritual community
- role models
- intrinsic value

Barna Group

Examine. Illuminate. Transform.

<http://www.barna.org>

“Research indicates that more than twice as many people with diagnosable mental health problems will see a cleric rather than a psychotherapist”

- **Comfort level**
- **Less stigma**
- **Affordability**



National Strategy for Suicide Prevention

Identified clergy

“Key Gatekeepers”

trained to recognize risk for suicide
equipped for preventive intervention



U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services, 2001



What the Faith Community Brings to the Table

Factors that promote:

Sense of community/belonging

Spiritual practices and rituals

Hope & solace

**Understanding of mental illness &
psychiatric disabilities**

Cultural competence

Building Bridges

DHHS Publication No.
(MSA) 04-3868, 2004



What the Faith Community Brings to the Table

Factors that hinder:

Discrimination & stigma

Lack of outreach to persons

Lack of openness

Historical schism

**Lack appreciation of the role of
faith, spirituality, religion
& mental health**

Building Bridges

DHHS Publication No.
(MSA) 04-3868, 2004



What Can We Do to Help?

As GLS Grantees

- Provide education Faith Community
- Enhance education Service Community
- Organize & foster dialogue
- Create partnerships
- Promote best-practice models

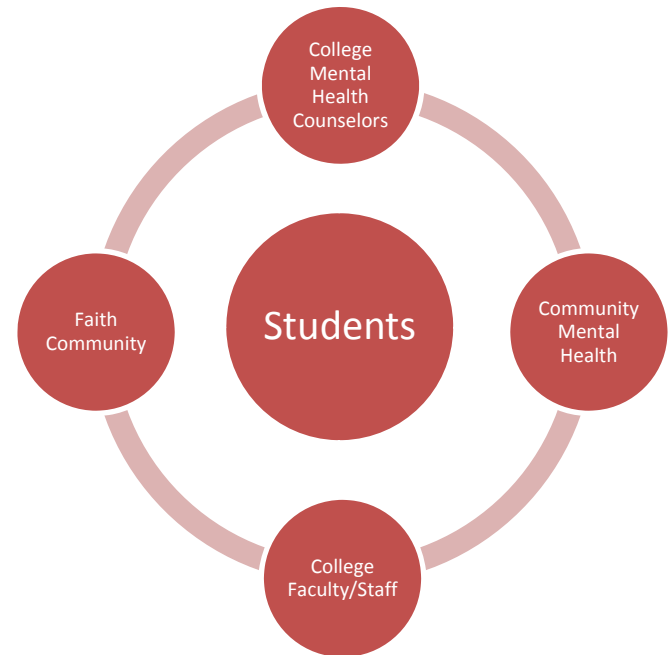


Collaboration & Partnership Building

Sources

- Interfaith/Ecumenical Groups
- Area Faith Leadership
- Faith-Based Initiatives
- Faith-Based Counselors
- College Driven Partnership
- Student Religious Organizations

Supportive Network



Factors Effecting Collaboration

Hinder

Lack of existing relationships

Lack of information & misinformation

Lack of trust

Promote

Common interest - well being of student

Ability to address each other's need

Improvement of services to students

Overall reduction in suicides



Case Study

Life is **Precious**

**Suicide Prevention
Training for the
Faith Community**



**Saturday
September 11th
10:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Daytona Beach Police Headquarters
129 Valor Blvd. Daytona Beach, FL 32114
open to all clergy, ministry leaders, counselors,
and church/ministry groups

Admission & Lunch are Free
for more information or to register contact:
tony deobil (386) 506-4218 or by email
deobila@DaytonaState.edu or
check us out on facebook @ projectspeak



Brought to you by:
Project SPEAK-Daytona State College &
a partnership of local ministries under
SAMHSA Grant # 1U79SM058975-01



lunch provided by our local florida
recovery month and other sponsors
www.floridarecoverymonth.com
registration for the event is also available online

Contact Information



Tony Deobil

Project SPEAK Coordinator

Daytona State College

1200 W International Speedway Blvd.

Daytona Beach, FL 32114

(386) 506-4218

deobila@DaytonaState.edu

<http://www.daytonastate.edu/projectspeak>

facebook @ projectspeak



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