

N A T I O N A L

*Action*  
*Alliance*



FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

# **2013 Garrett Lee Smith Combined Annual Grantee Meeting**

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# Action Alliance Subcommittees

- Focused upon youth within Juvenile Justice
- Interdisciplinary in expertise & experience

# Process

- Review of policies & procedures voluntarily submitted from states
- Interviews
- Literature Reviews

# **The 2012 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention Individuals in Justice and Child Welfare Settings**

Suicide is often the most common cause of death in secure justice settings.

- Suicide among youth in contact with the juvenile justice system occurs at a rate about four times greater than the rate among youth in the general population because of the prevalence of many risk factors.

# Barriers/Risk Factors

- Barriers & risk factors often can become interchangeable
- Policies & procedures need to be designed to recognize barriers such as inadequate communication and documentation as well as risk factors

# Barriers/Risk Factors

- Common risk factors need to be acknowledged in order to reduce risk and enhance protective factors such as building relationships, and modeling respect which leads to a shift in culture

# Risk Factors

- A history of or existing mental illness and substance abuse.
- A history of suicidal behaviors
- Lack of mental health care



# Risk Factors

- A history of abuse (e.g., emotional, physical, sexual)
- Family discord/abuse
- Impulsive aggression
- A history of interpersonal conflict

# Risk Factors

- Prior involvement in special education
- Legal/disciplinary problems
- Family history of suicide

# Risk Factors

- Prior offenses
- Referral to juvenile court
- Experiencing a lack familial structure

# Recommendations

- Systematic planning of comprehensive policies and programs to prevent suicide and provide care in the aftermath of a suicide death or attempt.
- Unified policies and programs

# Recommendations

- Initial and annual training for all direct care, medical, and mental health personnel
- Initial intake and ongoing assessment of incarcerated persons
- Enhanced communication along the continuum of the justice system (arrest through a return to the community)

# Recommendations

- Levels of supervision for persons at risk of self-harm and suicide
- Appropriate suicide-resistant housing
- Plans for an intervention
- Better reporting structures

# Action Alliance Webpage

- <http://actionallianceforsuicideprevention.org>

# Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition

Donald P. Belau, Ph.D

David Miers, Ph.D.

Co-Chairs



# webpage

- <http://www.suicideprevention.nebraska.edu/>
- Outcomes of GLS grant
  - Promoted suicide prevention awareness activities
  - Enhanced gate keeper training
  - Local community coalitions were seeded
  - Clinician training
  - School suicide prevention specialists

# Next Steps

- Apply for Continuation
- Utilize Needs assessments
- Connect with evidenced-based approaches