

Washtenaw Alive Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2019
LRC
1:30 pm

- Present: Charles Wilson (WH), Robin Batten (WACC), Michelle Walters (WACC), Tyson Gatermann (VA), Paul Brown (Havenwyck), Kari Mapes (WCC), Steph Harrigan (Bank of America), Beth Manuel (AADL), Neal Elkin (Physician), Lisbeth Harcourt (ME Dept), Kathy Wyatt (WCSO), Kathy Arnold (FCC), Jessie Marshall (Medical Director), Adreanne Waller (WH), Holly Heaviland (WISD), Anne Daws-Lazar (Wash CISM/TERN)
- Presentation of current suicide statistics in Washtenaw County – Adreanne Waller

Adreanne gave a presentation on where things stand right now in the county regarding suicide prevention. She had a copy of U.S. CDC 2017 Preventing Suicide – with 7 important areas of Evidence Based Practice:

- Strengthen economic supports
- Access and delivery of care
- Create protective environment
- Promote connectedness
- Teach coping and problem solving skills
- ID and support people at risk
- Lessen harm and prevent future risk

Some key statistics: January-April 2019 – 19 suicides (15 white males)
January –April 2018 – 8 suicides

Ypsi Twp suicide rate 63% higher than rate for Washtenaw County
5 years – 37 suicides – Ypsi Twp

In Washtenaw County suicide is 8th leading cause of death,
in Ypsi twp it is 6th leading cause of death

In zip codes in Washtenaw County with poverty at 10-20% 77% higher suicide rate compared to zips with 5-10% poverty

We then had a discussion about what's being done and where we need to go from here

What's being done?

Creating protective environments – RU?OK, WACC, others

We need to create/ensure that we have a unified message across the county – that everyone knows what everyone else is doing in

the suicide prevention effort.

'Things that prevent suicide also improve the quality of life!'

It was suggested that WA may need to get involved at a political level – policy change.

WA may need to connect with 'SHOC'

This was a great presentation (will be sent out) and a really great conversation followed.

- Dr. Jessie Marshall – She has been involved in conversations with several entities who have reached out to authorities in the field of suicide prevention: Dr. Polly Gibson, Dr. Cheryl King from UM. The three top areas that stand out in suicide prevention and youth : 1) Childhood maltreatment – across all races, etc. 2) Connectedness (trusted adult) is a protective factor. 3) Develop resilience
 - Develop a framework in the county that is applicable across all areas of service and community (schools, medical community). (Washtenaw Alive should be involved in these discussions).

Calendar: There is a WA calendar. Let us know what you have going on in the area of suicide prevention/mental health. We'll put it on the calendar.

Mark your calendar: June 6 11:30-1:30 Mobile Youth Resilience Van get together. If you haven't been part of this discussion come see what the fuss is about. Flyer attached. This will take place at the fellowship hall of Grace Fellowship, 1301 S Harris, Ypsilanti.

- Subgroup meeting TBD

Next meeting: July 18 at the LRC, 1:30pm