

**TITLE:** Comprehensive Suicide Postvention Response: Lessons Learned from Three Oregon Counties

**AUTHOR(S):** N/A

**PRESENTER(S):** Whitney Schumacher, MPH Galli Murray, LCSW Debra Darmata, M.S

**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** No

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** Program Developers

**ABSTRACT:** The suicide rate in Oregon is 19 versus the national rate of 14 per 100,000 ranking Oregon as 14th in the nation for suicide. Postvention, the evidence-based activities and interventions that occur following a death by suicide to prevent contagion, are a vital component to a comprehensive suicide prevention program and aim to decrease the suicide rate in Oregon. Through an interactive panel presentation, Suicide Prevention Coordinators from Clackamas, Deschutes, and Washington Counties will share their unique and different approaches to postvention practices. Clackamas County will highlight their Postvention Team which provides immediate extensive outreach via phone contact to friends and family members who recently lost a loved one to suicide. Deschutes County will lay out their extensive Suicide Communication and Response Protocol involving strategic immediate, mid-term and long-term responses among several entities. Washington County will share information about the nationally awarded Washington County Suicide Fatality Review Board and provide a toolkit that can be used to begin a fatality review board in other counties.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** Define suicide prevention, intervention, post-intervention and postvention. Compare several postvention strategies that can be utilized to reduce the rate of suicide in Oregon. Design a Suicide Fatality Review Board in one's own county.

**PANEL MODERATOR:** PhyuSin Myint, Ph.D

**PANEL ABSTRACT 1:** The Suicide Fatality Review Board was created in 2015 and is a subgroup of the Washington County Suicide Prevention Council. In 2012, Washington County had one of the highest suicide rates in Oregon and by 2018 it has dropped by nearly 40%, now one of the lowest and low below the national rate. The Chief Epidemiologist with Washington County Public Health received the 2018 National Susan P. Baker Public Health Impact Award from the National Association of Medical Examiners for developing and implementing an innovative suicide surveillance system that has been proven to save lives and is influencing national practice. Three different perspectives will be highlighted: Looking through the lens if the Suicide Prevention Coordinator; Epidemiologist and Deputy Medical Examiner. Workshop participants will learn the purpose and process by which the Suicide Fatality Review Board operates. In addition, the results of data collected using the suicide surveillance system will be shared with a focus on its implications to prevention efforts. A toolkit developed by the Chief Epidemiologist will be provided to all interested participants.

**PRESENTER 1:** Debra Darmata

**PANEL ABSTRACT 2:** Deschutes County will provide an overview of their Postvention Response Protocol, which balances community need, current capacity and resources, as well as level of risk for contagion. The speaker will also highlight how the protocol was created and how collaboration among internal and external emerged. The Postvention Response Protocol details strategic immediate, mid-term and long-term postvention responses.

**PRESENTER 2:** Whitney Schumacher, MPH

**PANEL ABSTRACT 3:** Clackamas County will highlight their Postvention Team which provides immediate extensive outreach via phone contact to friends and family members who recently lost a loved one to suicide. Participants will hear about how the Postvention Team began and presently operates in addition to the differing roles that make up the team.

**PRESENTER 3:** Galli Murray

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