



Community Suicide Prevention

Community Meeting Minutes From September 4, 2025

In attendance:

In Person:

Timalee Geisler
Rick Croft
Tina Wheatley
Matthew Queen

Christine Adams
Marco Erickson
Lynne Wade
Ronda Cornforth

Lisa Elkins
Russ Wheatley
Eric Adams

Zoom:

RaeAnne Buerstatte
Brandie Weaver
Melinda Kettles
Tina Ricks

Andrea Hamilton
Nicole Hill
Liz Behrend
Sara White

Betsy Hammar
Dan Bruderer
Senia Canales

Excused:

Brandi Daw
Melissa Schrade

Jan Eastman

Bonny Jennings

Not excused:

Katie Dodge

Rick welcomed attendees and invited each to introduce themselves. Those attending in person were invited to get some lunch.

CSP updates for the month of September for Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

- Lisa reported on an event in Pocatello on September 3 through Please Just Stay. There was a good turnout, 3x as many as last year. 20 organizations represented. Rachel White spoke. Businesses put up Please Just Stay on

marquees and signs and there are yard signs with Please Just Stay on them. The signs were shown from Please Just Stay storefront.

- Eric Adams is adding September is Suicide Awareness Prevention Month. Tina asked that Eric send a picture so that CSP can challenge other businesses do the same.
- There was a color run in American Falls at the end of August. There was a great turnout. At least 100 people attended. Planning on the event for next year.
- Marco Erickson updated on 988. East Idaho News did a story on 988. The bill sponsors are looking at clarifying the language in the law for underage individuals needing parental permission to get healthcare and mental health care. Looking at updating the Good Samaritan Law. Idaho would be the third state to do this after Wyoming and one other state. Barb Ehardt and Kelly ? are the sponsors. CSP can write a letter to say how the bill is affecting the health of youth in our area, Marco can push the letter on to the sponsors. The wording in the legislation ties the hands of the 988 operators/specialists. Some clinician groups are suggesting individuals bypass 988 and call 741741 instead because we would rather have safe kids than dead kids. Or contact the Trevor Project at [24/7 Suicide Hotline for LGBTQ Youth - We're here for you Now](#). Next year also looking for support for 988 and upgrade 911.

September activities

Memorial Walks

- September 11 at 6:30 pm at Community Park in Idaho Falls
- September 13 at 3 pm at Stebbins Park on Bennet Avenue in American Falls
- September 20 at 5:30 pm at Courtyard Park in Blackfoot
- September 23 at 6 pm at Clyde Keefer Memorial Park in St. Anthony. The bench will be dedicated.
- September 24 at 6:30 pm at Centennial Park in Pocatello
- September 25 at 6 pm at Rigby South Park
- There will be no event in Rexburg this year.

AFSP memorial walk on September 13 in the morning.

Lights on the Lake at Jefferson County Lake in Rigby on September 27. Register for event on Eventbrite.

NAMI board meeting is cancelled for September.

Friday, September 19 is the 7th Annual Suicide Prevention and Awareness Conference at ISU in Idaho Falls. We have 126 registrants as of today. Registration remains open through September 11. Dr. Kent Corso is the keynote speaker. He is from Virginia. Dr. Janet Allen will speak on working with survivors of suicide loss. Willow Abrahamson LCSW from Fort Hall will speak about culture and connectedness in suicide prevention. 7 CEUs are available. Lunch provided.

Jan Eastman was awarded a prestigious award. In addition, CSP was awarded a \$10,000 grant for our efforts in working toward suicide prevention and awareness.

Liz reported that Malad holds an event on suicide prevention and awareness event at the Malad School. This is a community-based event on September 16 at 6 pm. They walk through the cemetery and end at a memorial in the cemetery. Nice walk for reflection.

Betsy updated that the mobile crisis units are responding 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year. Someone to talk to, someone to come, somewhere to go.

CSP has a couple of board seats open. The deadline for those applications is September 15. Find the application on the CSP website. The new board members will start as soon as possible.

Next CSP Community Meeting is scheduled for
Thursday, October 2nd, 2025, at Noon
at Eastern Idaho Public Health, 1250 Hollipark, Idaho Falls.