



Community Suicide Prevention

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Community Meeting

Minutes from Thursday, January 8, 20206

In attendance via zoom:

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Betsy Hammar | Andrea Hamilton | Melissa Schrade |
| Sara White | Dan Bruerder | Jan Eastman |
| Lisa Elkins | Tina Ricks | Makayla Todd |
| Jodie Huber | Liz Behren | Melinda Kettles |
| Brandie Weaver | Cedo Marroquin | |

In person:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Rick Croft | Brandee Gordo | Tina Wheatley |
| Christine Adams | Timalee Geisler | Sara Colson |
| Jimmy Roberts | | |

Excused

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Russ Wheatley | RaeAnne Buerstatte | Ashley Jo |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------|

Not Excused

| | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Bonny Jennings | Katie Dodge | Brandie Daw |
| Seina Canales | | |

Rick Croft welcomed attendees. Lunch was provided for those attending in person. Attendees introduced themselves.

Rick introduced guest speaker Brandee Gordo from Rexburg. She is a survivor of suicide loss and shared her experience following the death of her son, Eliah, in 2024.

Eliah lost his battle with mental health in 2024. He was a talented, athletic, friendly kid. The community did not know he was silently struggling with mental health. Brandee is willing to share the hard of losing a child to suicide.

In February 2025, Brandee went to lunch with a friend. The friend struggles with suicide ideation. They talked about wanting to make a change and how suicide is a problem.

They started the Just Stay podcast in April 2025. They record and release a weekly episode on Monday. The podcast is unscripted. They invite guest speakers to share stories, struggles and information. Their guests have included students, law enforcement, therapists, and regular people who struggle in daily life. Brandee is always looking for guests to tell their story or share expertise. The goal is for people to leave the podcast with a sense of hope. The Podcast provides an opportunity for open dialogue, and it has opened many doors. The reach of the podcast includes listeners from all over the United States, Germany, Italy, and Asia. They have about 3000 followers. Find the podcast at [Juststay_podcast](https://juststay.podcasts.apple.com)

Her website is Juststay.net. The website is not active right now, but she anticipates it will be live again soon. The website provides local resources and promotes 988. Her e-mail is juststayapodcast@gmail.com

Brandee lets her heart and her son guide her and hopes the work she is doing is making her son proud. She believes if she can reach one person or save one person, her work is sufficient.

Jimmy, the Bingham County Coroner, is attending a legislative breakout session about 988. He will return and report on the discussion.

Tina Ricks shared a free resource. Please see the additional attachment.

The next CSP Community Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 5, 2026, at Eastern Idaho Public Health, 1250 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, ID. The speaker will be Bonneville County Coronor Shante Sanchez.