



July 2018



OSPF
Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation
OhioSPF.org



Issue 4

OSPF Highlights Current Summertime News & Events!

The Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation (OSPF) shares its 4th bimonthly newsletter for 2018, featuring recent community events and new programming!

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In the News: Stand Up Together Comedy Event Fundraiser

On Saturday, July 21st, [ComedyConnected](#), OSPF, and the [ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County](#) successfully hosted a fundraiser in Lakewood, OH benefiting Ohio suicide prevention programming—[Stand Up Together: An Evening of Comedy Honoring Nick Ramsey!](#)

Various mental health service providers and agencies held information booths while numerous Cleveland-based comedians performed. **A total of 68 comedians were present throughout the night, including headliners Mike Polk Jr. and [Bill Squire](#), Co-host of the WMMS's Alan Cox Show!** The event provided the opportunity for community members to discuss mental health and suicide prevention, while generating laughs!



A group of hilarious comedians pose backstage!



OSPF Program Director Shawna Hite-Jones talks about Ohio suicide prevention efforts prior to the headliner show

In the News: Updates on Ohio House Bill 502

New Suicide Prevention legislation for public K-12 schools passed in the Ohio House of Representatives 82-0 on June 27th. [House Bill 502](#) was introduced by Representative Marlene Anielski on 2/13/18, and serves as an amendment to existing legislation. If approved by the Ohio Senate, Ohio K/12 public school staff would be required to receive suicide prevention training every two years, rather than every 5 years (per House Bill 543). The bill was introduced to the Senate on July 5th, 2018. OSPF will keep you posted as the legislation progresses!

OSPF Highlights Right Now: Ohio Campaigners for Hope, Vol. 2

On July 20th, OSPF, in collaboration with Kognito, administered its second round of the *Ohio Campaigners for Hope* learning CoP Webinar Series for Higher Education! Ten (10) institutions of higher education, both public and private, were selected from the application process to participate in the CoP. Participating schools included representatives ranging from administrators, suicide prevention task force members, veteran program coordinators, and even athletic directors!



The goal of the CoPs is to provide institutions of higher education with the skillset to effectively implement Kognito campus-wide, plan for sustainability, and gain buy-in from administrators, faculty, & staff.

Beginning on August 17th, OSPF will again be offering the *Ohio Campaigners for Hope, K-12 Learning CoP!* Learn how to incorporate Kognito simulations in your school district by participating in this 3-part lunch-and-learn webinar series. **Apply here by August 3rd: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/62DXZF7>. For more information, please contact Austin Lucas at austin.lucas@ohiospf.org.**

Resources for You: CDC Suicide Report

In June, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a report showing that suicide rates in the United States have increased by **25.4% from 1999-2016**. All but one State (Nevada only had a 1% decrease) saw increases in suicide rates, and *Ohio saw an increase of 36% during this time period.*

Data on known mental health disorders and other common factors/circumstances preceding suicide death from coroner and medical examiner records can be found within the report. This report can be used to provide context when promoting suicide prevention awareness and the importance of community-based approaches to suicide prevention. [CLICK HERE](#) for access to the full report and factsheet. *Let's all use this report to analyze our ongoing suicide prevention strategies, programs, and focus.*

Suicide rates rose across the US from 1999 to 2016.



SOURCE: CDC's National Vital Statistics System; CDC Vital Signs, June 2018.

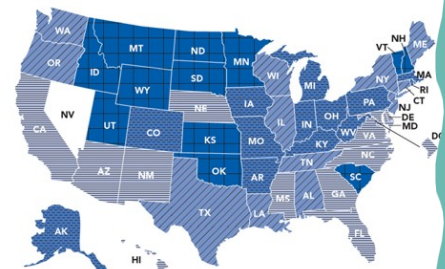


Image obtained from CDC

QUESTIONS? Contact: austin.lucas@ohiospf.org | (614)-429-1528 ext. 237

Community Spotlight: Scioto County Suicide Prevention Forum

Portsmouth, Ohio has suffered deaths to suicide of several adults and young people in recent months. In response, a Community Forum was held on July 21st. The event, which was attended by approximately 80 people of all ages, was moderated by former Portsmouth resident Voyd Bailey Burks, CEO of Righteous Resources, Inc.

Several community members spoke about their personal stories of suicide attempts and losses of friends and family members. There was also extensive discussion on dispelling the stigma around suicide and talking openly about warning signs and prevention strategies. Local counseling centers were on hand to provide linkage to the services. Attendees also received information on the Crisis Text Line and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, as well as other materials provided by OSPF.



Community Forum members gather in the Portsmouth High School Gymnasium

The Forum is the first in a planned series of community strategies to increase awareness of available mental health resources. An additional event, *The 1st Annual Celebration of Life/Suicide Awareness*, has been planned for August 11th in Portsmouth. For more information on this upcoming event, contact Jennifer Bendolph at 740-821-4722.

Community Spotlight: Bedding at Allen County Juvenile Detention Centers

Article Submitted by Donna Dickman, Executive Director of the Partnership for Violence Free Families

In juvenile detention centers, even the right kind of bed could mean the difference between a lost life and a young person's future. Judge Glenn Derryberry and Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) Clinical Director Dr. Thomas Hull met with Allen County Commissioners over an error made during the bidding process for new beds for the new Juvenile Treatment and Detention Center. The county planned to purchase a group of steel-framed beds that could be utilized to attempt suicide. *"Our concern is that if the style is incorporated, it provides too many opportunities for self-harm and suicide,"* Derryberry said. To fix the problem, Allen County Commissioners must decide to place a change order that will add \$24,000 to the roughly \$6.8 million new center project in order to ensure the right beds are procured. The commissioners thanked Dr. Hull and Derryberry for bringing it to their attention. *"We don't want to have it where something is a cause of danger,"* Sneary said.

Judge Derryberry has been an advocate for Mental Health Wellness and has had two of his staff trained as Mental Health First Aid Instructors since 2014. The Allen County Judge mandates all Juvenile Court staff complete both Youth and Adult MHFA for the health of staff and the youth they serve.

Have a community success you would like to share? Reach out to austin.lucas@ohiospf.org with your interest in writing a short 1-2 paragraph summary of your suicide prevention success for feature in future newsletters!

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LOSS Teams Corner: Spring 2018 Postvention Demographics Report

OSPF is excited to share that it has published the Spring 2018 Postvention Demographics Report. This report surveyed coalitions and LOSS teams engaging in postvention across Ohio. The report provides invaluable information on the demographics of Ohio's LOSS Teams, common postvention activities/services being provided by coalitions and LOSS Teams, and shared needs identified by the counties engaging in postvention.

OSPF will use the information provided in these surveys to plan for future state-level efforts to support postvention in Ohio. OSPF also plans to make this survey an annual occurrence every Spring whereby growth in LOSS teams, new activities in postvention, and changes in needs can be monitored and affectively addressed over time.

OSPF thanks those who took time to complete the survey! Your work is appreciated and invaluable! The report is available to read under the "What's New" Section on ohiospf.org or by [clicking here](#).

NAMI Ohio Corner: Introduction to OSPF's New Administrator

OSPF has joined forces with NAMI Ohio and is excited to receive their administrative support to increase suicide prevention in Ohio. NAMI Ohio provides an introduction to its organization below.

Submitted by Katie Dillon, NAMI Ohio Director of Communications & Outreach

NAMI Ohio (National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio) was created in 1982 by a small, dedicated group of family members to provide mutual support, education, and advocacy for individuals and families affected by serious brain disorders. Over the years, membership has expanded to include family members, those living with mental illness, providers, community mental health boards, mental health organizations and other supporters.



As a grassroots organization advocating for mental health issues, *NAMI Ohio* has an outstanding history of affecting public policy and legislation regarding care and resources for persons with serious mental illness.

NAMI Ohio members testify before the General Assembly, educate business and education leaders, and sit on state planning and advisory committees, community mental health boards, and various task forces.

NAMI Ohio's network of 39 local affiliates, serving most of Ohio's counties, plays an active role providing support, education, and advocacy on a local level.

Local affiliates provide *NAMI* educational programs and support groups in the communities they serve at no cost to participants.

To learn more about *NAMI Ohio's* programs and services or to find a local affiliate, visit www.namiohio.org.

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