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Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation

Connecting For Life

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Issue 1

OSPF Highlights New and Upcoming Changes for 2018

The Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation (OSPF) shares its first bimonthly newsletter for 2018, new staffing changes, and many new resources for Ohioans!

Newsletter Contents:

- ◆ OSPF Highlights: OSPF is Offering New Kognito Co-Ops!
- ◆ Resources for You: The Ohio Violent Death Reporting System (OH-VDRS)
- ◆ LOSS Teams Corner: Ohio LOSS Team Info & Upcoming Trainings
- ◆ Community Spotlight: Sandy Hook Promise Presents: *Start With Hello Week*
- ◆ Community Spotlight: FrontLine Service Provides Follow-Up Calls
- ◆ Coalitions Corner: New Mini Grant Application & Other Opportunities
- ◆ Board of Directors Corner: Search for New Board Members
- ◆ OSPF Staffing Changes: OSPF Welcomes its New Grant Coordinator
- ◆ Special Recognition Spotlight: Honoring the Work of Dr. Yvette Jackson

OSPF Highlights: New Kognito Co-Ops!

On January 12th, OSPF, in collaboration with Kognito, conducted its first-ever *Ohio Campaigners for Hope, K-12 Learning Co-Op!* **Over 15 schools were selected and participated in the first lunch-and-learn Co-Op, connecting well-respected teachers, school counselors, and administrators.**

The mission of the Co-Op is “to grow a community of leaders that promotes the well-being and mental health of all students” by incorporating Kognito suicide prevention trainings into staff and student curriculums. Initial conversations involved discussions on potential implementation ideas, potential barriers, and how Kognito courses meet the requirements of the Jason Flatt Act, Ohio HB 543. **Two more lunch-and-learn webinars remain for the K-12 Kognito Co-Op (January 26th and February 9th).**



Beginning on February 16th, OSPF will be offering the *Ohio Campaigners for Hope, Higher Education Learning Co-Op for free!* Learn how to incorporate Kognito simulations at your institution of higher education by participating in this 3-part lunch-and-learn webinar series to be hosted February 9th, March 3rd, and March 16th at noon. Apply here by January 29th: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HigherEdCoop>.

Feel free to contact Shawna Hite-Jones at shawna.hite@ohiospf.org with any questions about the Kognito Co-Ops.

Resources for You: The Ohio Violent Death Reporting System

Are you looking for the most accurate, up-to-date, and state-specific suicide data? [The Ohio Violent Death Reporting System \(OH-VDRS\)](#) provides detailed Ohio suicide death statistics broken down into many different demographics varying from age, sex, location, education, drug & alcohol toxicology results, methods, and much more.

Data summaries are compiled by analyzing vital statistics data, county-wide coroner data, state & local law enforcement data, and Child Fatality Review data (younger than 18 years old). OH-VDRS data is a valuable resource to consider when assessing the local needs of suicide prevention efforts and while measuring program effectiveness.

[Click here to access the 2014 OH-VDRS Annual Report.](#) Be sure to stay tuned for the release of the 2015 data!

OSPF LOSS Teams Corner: Updated Ohio LOSS Team Information

Contributed by: Denise Meine-Graham, Director of Franklin County LOSS.

How many LOSS Teams are there in Ohio? There are 15 LOSS Teams throughout Ohio representing 22 counties. This includes one team that provides a day-after phone call (not on-scene) and a couple of other teams that are less formalized.

Several counties are having conversations about where and how to begin with a LOSS Team launch, while some are making plans to host a LOSS training in their county. **Denise Meine-Graham is visiting Ross and Fairfield counties in January to discuss next steps. Denise will be in Lorain county and in the 6-county region surrounding Muskingum County in February to conduct trainings.** Denise works with each community to make sure the training provided covers the unique needs of the specific county. Have you made plans to further your suicide Postvention services in 2018? Please feel free to contact Denise at Denise@franklincountyloss.org.

The 2018 National LOSS Conference planning is underway. The conference will take place in Phoenix, AZ in October, 2018. Stay tuned for more details!

Community Spotlight: Sandy Hook Promise Presents: *Start With Hello Week*



Image obtained from
Sandy Hook Promise

The Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation is supporting and promoting Sandy Hook Promise's annual **Start With Hello Week, February 5th-9th.** *Start With Hello* teaches students grades 2-12 the skills they need to promote a healthy environment of inclusion in order to counteract increasing levels of social isolation—that can ultimately lead to elevated symptoms of depression and even suicide.

During the week of February 5-9, students and youth organizations in Ohio are encouraged to implement no-cost and easy to use activities ranging from media events, student contests, assemblies, and public proclamations. **Start With Hello Week is the perfect opportunity for youth-led programs to aid in preventing bullying and symptoms of depression and aggression!**

For more information on registration and examples on how your students and/or community can support this campaign, please visit <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/startwithhelloweek> or contact Tony Baker at tony.baker@sandyhookpromise.org

Community Spotlight: Frontline Service Follow-Up Calls

OSPF is proud to highlight the results of FrontLine Service's follow-up phone calls to youth and young adults treated for suicidality in Cleveland Clinic hospitals! [FrontLine Service](#), located in Cleveland, OH, has implemented a system in which a series of follow-up phone calls are conducted after patients have been discharged either from Cleveland Clinic's Fairview location ER or inpatient unit following suicidal thoughts or suicide attempts. It has been shown through the research that the **risk of suicide is three times higher within the first week of being released from the hospital after a suicide attempt**. Thus, it is imperative to successfully maintain contact, and to confirm that the person is following up with outpatient services afterward.



Reaching out. Resolving crisis.

Image obtained from *FrontLine Service*

Since July of 2017, FrontLine Service has received **27 referrals from the ER, and has successfully connected with 24 of the patients**. Moreover, 7 referrals have been made from Cleveland Clinic's Fairview location inpatient unit, and FrontLine has been able to connect with all 7 of them.

If you have any questions about FrontLine Service, please do not hesitate to contact Rick Oliver, Director of Crisis Services at Rick.Oliver@frontlineservice.org.

OSPF Coalitions Corner: New Mini-Grants & Other Opportunities

Spring mini-Grant applications are now available for coalitions! Ohio suicide prevention coalitions can apply for 7 different menu-driven mini-grants. If selected to receive mini-grants, a maximum of 2 mini-grants can be awarded per coalition. **Click [here](#)** to view the application instructions.

A webinar was presented on January 22nd to address any questions regarding the application process, and a video was [recorded here for viewing if you](#) weren't able to participate in the live webinar. **The mini-grant application is due no later than February 5th at 11:59PM**. To access the online application after reading the application instructions, follow this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018minigrant_app

Coalitions are also encouraged to join the [Statewide Prevention Coalition Association \(SPCA\) of Ohio](#) in 2018. OSPF is offering free registration for all suicide prevention coalitions to become SPCA members! Membership in [SPCA offers many benefits](#), including coalition development support, 6 state-wide prevention association meetings, online resources, educational info, discounts on trainings and webinars, and more!

The free registration opportunity will open in February, 2018. Feel free to contact Shawna Hite-Jones (shawna.hite@ohiospf.org) with any questions on joining SPCA.

Board of Directors Corner: New Board Member Search

OSPF is searching for 6 additional board members to join our diverse Board of Directors. Applications are now being accepted until **March 1st, 2018**. Feel free to download the [OSPF Board Recruitment Letter](#) and [Application](#) to share with your contacts.

Please email OSPF's Board Chair, [Sandra Williams](#), with any questions.

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

OSPF Staffing Changes: OSPF Welcomes its New Grant Coordinator

OSPF is excited to announce that it has hired a new full-time Grant Coordinator! As some of you may know, Austin Lucas was previously an intern, and then more recently, a consultant for The Foundation. Austin applied alongside over 75 applicants, was interviewed with 8 other top-tier candidates, and was offered the full-time position of Grant Coordinator in late December of 2017. **He officially began his new role on January 3rd, 2018.** Austin graduated from The Ohio State University in May 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a minor in Communications.

As an intern, Austin developed a passion for the field of prevention (particularly suicide prevention) through his participation in OSPF's special events, meetings, conferences, and projects. Through his work as a consultant, Austin has aided in the development of key relationships with various partners including suicide prevention coalitions, LOSS Teams, and ADAMH Boards. Austin has experience in public relations, public speaking, event planning, and community outreach. Moreover, through his education at Ohio State and attendance at various seminars with OSPF, Austin has learned the nature of behavioral health disorders, suicidality, and ways to address suicide prevention via a public health model. Austin is extremely excited to begin his new role by working with Ohioans in developing, implementing, and educating on new workforce trainings, mini-grant opportunities, and gatekeeper trainings.



Please feel free to reach out to Austin by email at austin.lucas@ohiospf.org or by phone at (614)-429-1528 x401 if you have any questions regarding OSPF's programs and initiatives!

OSPF Director's Corner: Farewell from Dr. Jackson

OSPF offers a sincere thank you to Dr. Yvette Jackson amidst her departure from The Foundation. Dr. Jackson honorably resigned from her role of OSPF's Executive Director and CEO after nearly 7 years of dedicated service (4 as a consultant, 3 as CEO) to pursue other opportunities on December 29th, 2017.



Dr. Jackson truly led the Foundation's mission and vision in a new, positive direction through her unquestionable passion, dedication, and faithfulness to suicide prevention in Ohio. She opened many new opportunities, relationships, and partnerships for The Foundation including her work with coalitions, LOSS Teams, and other organizations that will last far beyond her tenure at OSPF.

A celebration for Dr. Jackson was held on January 19th with OSPF staff, partners, and colleagues to commemorate her hard work and dedicated service for The Foundation. The search for a new CEO is underway and significant progress has been made by OSPF's transition team. Please contact Jeannette Harrison (Transition Team Lead) at Jeannette.harrison@ohiospf.org if you have any questions regarding this process.