

Outagamie County Child Death Review Team

Melissa Blom, MSW

Coordinator

Manager of Children, Youth & Families

MISSION: Through a comprehensive and multidisciplinary review of child and domestic abuse related deaths, we will better understand how and why children and victims of domestic violence die and use our findings to take action to prevent other deaths and improve the health and safety of our community.

GOALS

- IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF HOW & WHY CHILDREN DIE
- IDENTIFY THE NEED TO INFLUENCE POLICIES & PROGRAMS
- IMPROVE CHILD HEALTH, SAFETY, & PROTECTION
- PREVENT OTHER CHILD DEATHS

Effective Suicide Reviews

- RECORDS NEEDED
- WHO TO INVITE
- KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT SUICIDE
- RISK FACTORS TO CONSIDER
- DISCUSSION
- PREVENTION EFFORTS

RECORDS NEEDED

- AUTOPSY REPORTS, INCLUDING TOXICOLOGY
- SCENE INVESTIGATION REPORTS AND PHOTOS
- SUICIDE NOTE(S)
- BALLISTICS ON FIREARMS
- INTERVIEWS WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS
- EMS
- PRIOR CPS, MENTAL HEALTH & SCHOOL RECORDS
- ANY SIGNIFICANT EVENT LEADING UP TO
- PRIOR SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

WHO TO INVITE

- CORONER
- LAW ENFORCEMENT LEAD DETECTIVE
- EMS/HOSPITAL CLINICIANS
- SCHOOL LIASON
- FUNERAL HOME DIRECTOR
- HARMONY CAFÉ-NAMI'S TEEN MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP & PFLAG
- COMMUNITY OF HOPE of the FOX CITIES
- LGBTQ SUICIDE PREVENTION TEAM
- MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN
- PASTOR

KNOW THE FACTS

- COME PREPARED WITH LOCAL & STATE STATISTICS
- PRINT OFF OUR CDR REPORT
- SUICIDE IS THE THIRD LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR TEENS
- MALES COMPLETE SUICIDE MOST OFTEN DUE TO USING FIREARMS
- DEPRESSION COUPLED WITH SIGNIFICANT EVENT
- SCHOOL SETTING
- CLUSTER SUICIDE RISKS

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- A NOTE WAS LEFT?
- CHILD TALKED ABOUT?
- PRIOR ATTEMPTS?
- SUICIDE COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED?
- RUN AWAY BEHAVIOR?
- SELF MUTILATION?
- SUICIDE WAS PART OF A MURDER-SUICIDE?
- PART OF A PACT?
- SUICIDE PART OF A CLUSTER?

WAS THERE A HISTORY OF PERSONAL CRISIS?

- PHYSICAL ABUSE
- FAMILY DISCORD
- RAPE/SEXUAL ABUSE
- PARENT'S SEPERATION/DIVORCE
- AODA PROBLEMS
- ARGUMENT WITH BOYFRIEND OR BREAK-UP
- RELIGIOUS/CULTURAL
- FRIENDS/BULLYING
- ANOTHER DEATH
- INVOLVEMENT IN COMPUTER GAMES
- SCHOOL FAILURE
- RECENT MOVE
- PREGNANCY

DISCUSSION

- Is the investigation complete, or should we recommend further investigation?
- Are there services that should be provided to family members and other persons in the community?
- Has CPS determined that other children are at risk of harm? If so what further intervention?
- Should we recommend any changes to agency practices or policies based on what we know?

DISCUSSION

- What risk factors were involved in this child death?
- Could this death have been prevented?
- What do we recommend should be done to prevent another similar death in the future?
- Who should take the lead in implementing our recommendations for prevention?
- Is our review of this case complete or do we need to discuss it at our next meeting?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- LEAVE ENOUGH TIME TO HAVE FULL DISCUSSION
- ARE PICTURES NECESSARY?
- BALANCE THE NEED TO KNOW INFORMATION VS. CURIOUS FACTS THAT ARE NOT RELEVANT
- MEMBERS OF THE TEAM TO CLOSE TO THE DEATH?
- RULES OF CONFIDENTIALITY
- SECONDARY TRAUMA-SELF CARE- “The National Center on Family Homelessness”

<http://www.familyhomelessness.org/media/94.pdf>

PREVENTION IDENTIFIED

- CREATE A TEAM
- IS THERE A TREND TO BE EXPLORED
 - CLUSTER
 - LGBTQ
- USE THE “WRITING EFFECTIVE RECOMMENDATION TEMPLATE”
- BRING THE EFFORT TO THE COMMUNITY

CALL TO ACTION

- CDR PREVENTION MESSAGE—SEE HANDOUT
- MEDIA-
http://www.afsp.org/files/Misc_/recommendations.pdf
- CURRENT SUICIDE AWARENESS & PREVENTION INITIATIVES IN OUTAGAMIE COUNTY
- CONNECT THE INITIATIVES
- MONITOR YOUR PROGRESS

PREVENTION RECOMENDATIONS

- PURCHASED MAGNETS AND POSTERS “211” to increase awareness of existing mental health services
- SUPPORTED LOCAL QPR TRAINING
- SCHOOL POSTER CONTEST
- SUPPORT FOR EXISTING MH COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES
- DECREASE ACCESS TO LETHAL MEANS
- SUPPORT TO GROUPS THAT ENCOURAGE RESPECT & SUPPORT FOR GLBTQ YOUTH

CONTACT INFORMATION

MELISSA BLOM, MANAGER
OUTAGAMIE COUNTY DEPT. OF HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES
COORDINATOR
OUTAGAMIE COUNTY CHILD DEATH REVIEW
TEAM
920-832-5183
Melissa.blom@outagamie.org