

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Background:

The State Board is committed to addressing and increasing awareness around student's mental health and well-being. Several months ago the Board agreed to establish a Mental Health Committee/Workgroup to, with the support of department staff, explore mental health issues that are adversely impacting our students and schools and identify best practices and future recommendations to assist and support the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), local education agencies (LEAs) and other statewide partners in addressing them.

Two areas that emerged as immediate concerns from the work groups initial discussions are incidents of suicide and human trafficking among youth, due in part to the prevalence and increased attention garnered at the state and national level around these important issues. As shared in a previous presentation to the Board, in Maryland suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for students aged 10-14, and the 3rd leading cause of death for students aged 15 – 24 (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (2015). Suicide: Maryland 2015 Facts and Figures). Further, according to Maryland's Human Trafficking Task Force, "Maryland's central location has facilitated its development as a pass-through state and destination for human traffickers."

Purpose:

The goal of the Mental Health Committee/Workgroup is to expand upon MSDE's existing efforts, working in collaboration with local school systems/districts, state agencies, policy makers and community partners, and bring greater awareness and visibility to these issues and develop a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach that includes prevention, intervention and postvention strategies and supports.

Priorities:

- 1) Increase awareness and visibility
- 2) Provide statewide guidance, training /professional development, technical assistance and support
- 3) Gather and maintain relevant local and statewide data (clearinghouse) and improve data collection methods/mechanisms
- 4) Encourage/facilitate coordination and collaboration among LEAs, state agencies, policy makers and community partners.
- 5) Identify policy gaps and opportunities to develop new and strengthen existing regulations to ensure the necessary supports at the state and local levels

Summary of Activities:

The committee has met regularly since its inception to gather information and dialogue with various community partners engaged in mental health initiatives throughout the state to gain a better understanding of the issues and how the State Board and MSDE can have an impact. A summary of the committees meetings and activities to date is attached. The committee will use the information gathered to inform the development of recommendations to present to the State Board for consideration and future planning.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES TO DATE

DATE	TOPIC/DISCUSSION	PRESENTERS
MAY, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Overview and discussion of existing state mental health statute(s) and regulations ➤ Overview of Maryland Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Network (MD-SPIN), Kognito and the expansion of Lauryn's Law ➤ Discussion of the recently released docuseries, "13 Reasons Why" 	<p>Jackie LaFiandra Assistant Attorney General</p> <p>Lorraine Bernstein, Outreach and Training Program Manager, MD-SPIN</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reviewed and provided feedback on MSDE's new suicide prevention and human trafficking websites: <p>MSDE's Child Abuse, Neglect, and Human Trafficking Webpage http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DSFSS/SSSP/CAN-HT/index.aspx</p> <p>MSDE's Suicide Prevention Webpage http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DSFSS/SSSP/Suicide/index.aspx</p>	
MARCH, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussion of suicide prevention efforts and Youth Mental Health First Aid Training ➤ Overview of Talbot County Schools' Yellow Ribbon Program for suicide prevention ➤ Bullying and suicide prevention ➤ Update on MSDE/Araminta Human Trafficking Pilot Program 	<p>Lea Ann Browning-McNee, Deputy Director and Jennifer Treger, Director, Mental Health Association of Maryland</p> <p>Dr. Robert Schmidt, Behavior Specialist, Talbot County Public Schools</p> <p>Shenetta Malkia, Survivor and Advocate for the Prevention of Suicide and Bullying</p> <p>Alicia McDowell, Executive Director, Araminta Freedom Initiative</p>

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FEBRUARY, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Overview and discussion of human trafficking in Maryland, steps the Governor's office has taken on this issue and general conversation on how the State Board can coordinate with Annapolis to address this issue ➤ Discussion of mental health awareness from the national and state perspective and the overlapping priorities of the Community of Practice, along with focused action steps 	<p>Thomas Stack, Public Safety Policy Analyst, Governor's Office of Crime, Control & Prevention</p> <p>Nancy Lever, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Maryland School of Medicine; Co-Director, Center for School Mental Health</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review and feedback on MSDE suicide webpage and data collection form 	MSDE Staff
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Information about Children's Mental Health Matters Campaign 	Kari Gorkos , Director, Youth & Family Programs, Mental Health Association of Maryland
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presentation to the State Board 	Nancy Winston , Senior Director, Shared Hope International
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ DRAFT work plan presented for review and feedback 	MSDE Staff
JANUARY, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review of findings of needs assessment of suicide and human trafficking programs, strategies and supports among LEAs ➤ Overview of state approaches to addressing student mental health and health education ➤ Reviewed risk assessment information 	MSDE Staff
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussion of SB 494 	

DATE	TOPIC/DISCUSSION	PRESENTERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussed and refined objectives of Mental Health Committee 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presentation of Mental Health Priorities Action Plan 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presentation of list of potential experts to address the mental health committee 	
SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Needs Assessment Data Collection and Report Preparation 	MSDE Staff
JULY, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presentation to the State Board on Suicide Prevention and Human Trafficking 	MSDE Staff
JUNE, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Meeting with MSDE staff to discuss department's suicide prevention and human trafficking efforts 	MSDE Staff