



# GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON SUICIDE PREVENTION

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## MARYLAND

Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention Meeting  
May 19, 2021 1:00pm-3:00pm

### **Commission Members Presentation**

Robert Anderson	Department of Juvenile Services
Donna Holland Barnes	National Organization for People of Color Against Suicide
Ed Bartlinski	Police, Local Corrections, or Fire and Rescue
Lynda Bonieske	Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Dana Burl	Department of Veterans Affairs
Amanda Celentano	Department of Aging
Janel Cabbage (Chair)	Behavioral Health Administration
Johanna Dolan	Substance Use Recovery Community
Christina Drushel-Williams	Children and Youth Division, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
The Honorable Adelaide Eckardt	Member of the Maryland Senate
Monica Guerrero Vazquez	Hispanic/Latino Community
Kevin Johnson	Faith Community
Amy Kulp	Suicide Prevention Group
Jennilyn Landbeck	Family Member
Georgette Lavetsky	Deputy Secretary Public Health
Cynthia Macri	Asian American/Pacific Islander Community
Lynne Muller	Maryland State Department of Education
Dustin Richardson	American Indian Community
Kirsten Robb-McGrath	Department of Disabilities
Maura J. Rossman	Local Health Officer
Gabrielle Ryder	High School Representative
Kristin Washington	Representative of Active/Former Armed Forces Member
Holly Wilcox (Vice Chair)	Academic Community
Eileen Zeller	Mental Health Association of Maryland

### **Workgroup Lead**

Lanny Berman	Suicide Fatality Review Workgroup
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### **Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Staff**

Natalie Miller	Behavioral Health Administration
Alex Walker	Behavioral Health Administration
Indu Radhakrishnan	Behavioral Health Administration
Barry Page	Behavioral Health Administration
Kathleen Rebbert-Franklin	Behavioral Health Administration

### **Welcome**

Commission Chair Cabbage welcomed all attendees to the Commission meeting.



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### **Commissioner Introductions**

Commissioners were introduced via Zoom chat in alphabetical order for attendance.

### **March Meeting Minutes**

The March 17th meeting minutes were approved with no revisions.

### **Commission Roles and Responsibilities Vote**

Commissioner Cabbage reviewed the requirements and responsibilities of the commission, as outlined in the Commission Roles and Responsibilities document. All commissioners voted to approve the following roles and responsibilities with no revisions moving forward:

- Providing Representation of an Agency or Community
- Addressing Unique Challenges for Diverse Populations
- Including Policy Interventions in Strategies Discussed and Implemented
- Bridging Gaps in Data, Research, and Clinical Care
- Dissemination of Data and Educational Resources
- Addressing the Lack of Cultural Humility and Responsiveness in Services
- Leveraging Networks for Commission Activities

Commissioners discussed the purpose of revising the Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention bylaws for membership to include a new article stating " In the event of an absence, a designee is recommended and encouraged to attend". Next meeting, the commissioners will vote on what language to include to officially adopt this article into the bylaws.

Commissioner Cabbage provided three objectives for the commission to engage the commission members and identify an area of focus, per the State Plan for Suicide Prevention. The three objectives included:

- Objective 2.3 Mean safety and access to lethal means: promote efforts to reduce access to legal means of suicide among individuals with identified suicide risk.
- Objective 3.3 Postvention: providing care and support to individuals affected by suicide deaths and attempts to promote healing and implement community strategies to help prevent further suicides.
- Objective 4.2 Data: improving the usefulness and quality of suicide related data

Commissioner Cabbage opened the floor for commissioners to ask questions or provide comments or rationale for their support of the focus area or objective that they feel we should select as the commission. The Commission used a Zoom Poll to vote on a focus area for future meetings. Commissioner Cabbage announced the results of the poll, 4% of Commissioners voted to focus on "Means safety/access to lethal means", 17% of the Commission voted to focus on "data", and 79% of the Commission voted to focus on "postvention". Commissioner Cabbage moved to approve postvention as the focus for the Commission. Strategy steps for focusing on each objective will be discussed in subsequent meetings.



### **Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and Families Update**

Commissioner Burl gave updates on the Governor's Challenge. The Implementation Academy took place on March 29<sup>th</sup> and the Implementation Academy virtual site visit is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup>. The Implementation Academy has developed an action plan to address three goals for the next year and a half, to expand the Asks the Questions Campaign, develop a plan for implementing lethal means safety training for primary care providers, and the establishment of a service member veterans and families peer credential. Commissioner Burl also commended Harford County's Suicide Prevention Coalition for their crisis intercept mapping project with SAMHSA to identify gaps barriers and challenges to response to crises and intervention specifically for Service Members, Veterans and Families. The project will continue into September.

The action plan for Maryland's Governor's Challenge to Prevention Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and Families has been shared with all Commissioners and shared with BHA for edits. The action plan was developed using the Maryland State Suicide Plan, the National Action Plan on Suicide Prevention and the Department of Veteran's Affairs Suicide Prevention Plan to coordinate goals and efforts.

### **Legislative Update**

The Legislative Session for 2021 closed in April. The Commission will review and discuss relevant bills on behavioral health, mental health, and suicide next meeting.

### **BHA Update**

Commissioner Cabbage provided an update on the Office of Suicide Prevention. Suicide data reports for CY2020 will be sent to the Local Behavioral Health Authorities (LBHAs) or Core Service Agencies (CSAs) of all local jurisdictions on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The Office of Suicide Prevention recently received funding for a statewide care coordination project pilot in collaboration with 211, Maryland. The Office of Suicide Prevention will be piloting a program that provides care coordination and caring contacts the people who have been discharged from the emergency department or inpatient hospitalization following a suicidal crisis. All licensed social workers counselors and psychologists received information on extreme risk protection orders and Maryland safe storage map.

The Office of Suicide Prevention is working on creating a funding opportunity for culturally specific suicide prevention materials for five identified groups: the LGBT community, the black community, the Hispanic and Latino community, the American Indian and Native American community, the Haitian and Creole community, and the Asian American community. Commissioners will be notified when this proposal is released. The Office of Suicide Prevention



is in the process of completing the condition of awards for the local suicide prevention projects that will be starting in FY 22. In consultation with Commissioner Ryder, The Office updated all social media handles for continuity and launched an Instagram account to reach the younger population. The Office is developing a Meet the Team campaign to highlight commission members and all of the contributions made. Commissioners will be contacted and asked to provide a picture and brief biography. The Office is preparing to interview applicants for the vacant Suicide Prevention Training Coordinator position.

### **988 Planning Coalition Presentation**

Laura Burns Hefner, BHA, the state project lead for the 988 Implementation Process, presented on the 988 Planning Coalition. Laura Burns discussed the Suicide Prevention lifeline transition to 988 and the role of the planning coalition in response to the transition and include an overview of the Maryland System 211 press one. Starting July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 988 will be the direct line to the lifeline counselors and with this transition Lifeline hopes to reach more people in crisis, reduce the use of resources including law enforcement, public health, and other safety resources, reduce health care spending using more cost effective early intervention and meet the growing need for crisis intervention. Commission members discussed concerns with the 988 implementation strategy and offered feedback on this system from professional experiences.

### **Open Discission**

Commissioner Wilcox suggested adopting a future focus area on upstream approaches to suicide prevention. Commissioner Eckardt discussed the benefits of voting on length of time to dedicate to each objective and focus area, and what the Commission plans to accomplish with that focus area.

**The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 pm.**

**The next Commission meeting will be held on July 21, 2021 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.**