

New Mexico Suicide Prevention Coalition

August Newsletter

August 20, 2007

In This Issue

[August Coalition Meeting
Reminder](#)

[Welcome New Executive
Director](#)

[Suicide Prevention Action
Network looking for Field
Liasons](#)

[A Million Voices for
Survivor Services](#)

This summer has brought lots of changes and activity for the New Mexico Suicide Prevention Coalition. Suzanne Udall, our past Executive Director, and others traveled around the state to numerous communities like Las Cruces, Farmington, Santa Rosa, Las Vegas, Dulce, and Taos providing workshops, coalition building and community action meetings. New local coalitions and task forces for suicide prevention are being started all over the state by many dedicated people like you. We have also hired a new Executive Director, Gwendolyn Packard, who we believe will help us take our organization to a whole new level so that we can provide even more services around the state.

Quick Links

[Visit our Website to
learn
More About Us](#)

We have also, been able to finally get lots more people added to our email list, but we still have more to go. So, if you signed one of our sign-in sheets for an event or at a tabling and have been wondering when you were ever going to hear from us, be assured, we never forgot about you and apologize for the delay. At the moment, we only have six board members (who for the most part have other full-time jobs) and one part-time ED. So, sometimes it is difficult to get things done on a timely basis. If you know of people who would like to receive our email newsletters and updates, please feel free to forward this to them. If you do not want to be on our email list, please see the bottom of this newsletter for how to unsubscribe.

And, as always, if you have events you would like for us to advertise, or story ideas for the newsletter, please let us know.

August Coalition Meeting Reminder

**Wednesday
August 22, 2007
9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Citibank Office
9521 San Mateo NE
Albuquerque, NM**

Directions:

>From I-25, take the Alameda exit going west (away from the mountains). The second light will be San Mateo. Turn right going north. Citibank is the last building on the left. There are two parking entrances; the first may be more convenient. You **MUST** enter through the south doors.

There is a sign-in process. Each person **MUST HAVE A PHOTO ID** to get a visitor badge for entering the building. Please arrive a few minutes early to have plenty of time to sign in.

We are working on the Agenda and will get it to everyone soon. If you would like some time to speak at the meeting, please contact Joan Murphy at JMurphy@nmsuicideprevention.org.

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions minutes	10
Officer reports (Treasurer; Secretary) minutes	10
Introduction of Executive Director minutes	10
Discussion of NMSPC growth, work and Grant Applications	20 minutes

Volunteers and support, ideals minutes	10
Update on Suicide Survivors' Day Conference	20 minutes
National Suicide Prevention Awareness Week September 9-15, 2007	20 minutes
Break/Networking minutes	15
Committees minutes	20
Updates minutes	10
Community Update	15 minutes
New Business minutes	15
Set next coalition meeting- November minutes	5

(e-mail jmurphy@nmsuicideprevention.org regarding the agenda, if needed)

Welcome New Executive Director

Greetings to all our Coalition members,

I am happy to announce that the Coalition Board has selected a new Executive Director, Gwendolyn Packard, who has already begun working for the Coalition. Gwen is from Albuquerque and has a lot of experience working in the non-profit sector.

Gwen has worked extensively for the past 28 years in Indian affairs, both at the national and tribal level. She has worked for such national Indian advocacy organizations as the National Congress of American Indians and the National Tribal Chairmen's Association. In addition, she has developed programs and organized national training programs for the National American Indian Court Judges Association and the National Association of Community Health Representatives. She has served as editor for six national Indian publications.

Gwen was instrumental in founding the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NOFAS) in 1990. She shows tremendous organizational abilities and has organized and implemented numerous training sessions and national conferences. She has in-depth experience in working as a community organizer. She has made a commitment to social change in working to address social issues that affect the health and well being of Indian people as documented in her work experience.

Gwen has indicated her commitment to Suicide Prevention and helping the coalition in all the areas we were looking for in an Executive Director. I hope you will join us at the next Coalition meeting in Albuquerque on August 22nd and warmly welcome Gwen to the New Mexico Suicide Prevention Coalition.

I look forward to seeing you then,

Joan

Joan Murphy, Chair
The New Mexico Suicide Prevention Coalition

Suicide Prevention Action Network looking for Field Liasons

SPAN USA has launched our new Field Liaison Program and is seeking a Field Liaison for each of the nation's 435 U.S. Congressional Districts. We invite each of you to consider reviewing the website www.spanusa.org/fieldliaison to learn more and complete an applicant profile (also attached).

A more thorough info sheet is attached, yet below are a few of the key elements of the role:

- Be dedicated to the cause of suicide prevention and suicide attempt reduction.
- Be a current SPAN USA Partner for Action by giving an annual financial contribution to SPAN USA
- Be the local catalyst for collaboration on the issue of suicide prevention.

- Read and respond to SPAN USA updates on public policy priorities.
- Keep SPAN USA informed of progress in your U.S. Congressional District
- Serve for the length of a full Congressional election cycle (up to 2 years)
- Actively encourage community members to participate in SPAN USA events & activities (e.g. Legislative Action Center & E-Newsletter)
- Learn about the latest research and resources in the field of suicide prevention and link others as needed.
- Provide acknowledgement and reference to SPAN USA when forwarding / distributing materials generated by the organization and its staff.
- Maintain contact information of those interested in this issue in your local area.

Once you're identified as your area's Field Liaison, we'll forward you the Field Liaison Handbook, *One Hour Activist* by Christopher Kush, as well as a few other resources and access to specialized web content specifically for our new Field Liaisons. Then we will help you to advance suicide prevention locally & nationally.

We look forward to hearing from you very soon.

A Million Voices for Survivor Services

The American Association of Suicidology (AAS) has launched a new project aimed at raising awareness about suicide in the United States as well as raising money for survivor services.

Interested in helping?

AAS is looking for someone to head up the campaign in New Mexico and volunteers willing to distribute cards. All you need is the ability to ask for \$1.

The A Million Voices Campaign (AMV) is simple in concept and simple to implement. AAS has printed several thousand three-part wallet cards (ultimately, one million will be printed) for the campaign. One panel is designed to be filled out by the donors with their name, an email address (so a thank-you note can be sent), and the amount contributed. Campaign volunteers remove that tab and leave the wallet card with the donor. Inside the card is information about the warning signs of suicide, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number, and AAS contact information.

The goal is to raise at least \$1 million from one million people across the country. AAS has pledged to use 85% of the Campaign's proceeds for survivor services such as assistance with starting new support groups, materials for support group facilitators and attendees, and assistance with the cost of attending the annual Healing After Suicide Conference.

The AMV Campaign has been pilot-tested in several states, and will continue to expand as AAS is registered as a charitable organization in each state. See the AAS web site, www.suicidology.org for a list of states that are eligible and those that are pending.

If you would like to serve as the state coordinator for New Mexico (or distribute some cards), please email Michelle Linn-Gust at michelle@siblingsurvivors.com.