

# **Suicide Prevention Initiatives at SAMHSA**

**Campus Suicide Prevention  
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**“Suicide is a serious public  
health challenge that has not  
received the attention and degree  
of national priority it deserves.”**

**- The President's New Freedom  
Commission on Mental Health, 2003**

## Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act

- In 2004, the Congress passed and the President signed into law, the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act.
- For the first time, funding for community based suicide prevention has become widely available for states, tribes, and colleges across the country.
- Implementing community based suicide prevention is Goal 4 of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention.

## Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act

- We have all been entrusted with a critically important responsibility, to show that community and campus based suicide prevention efforts can be successful.
- In order to accomplish this, we all need to work together as a team to support your efforts to implement and evaluate youth suicide prevention and early intervention programs.

## Campus Suicide Prevention Grantee Meeting

- I would like to introduce to you some of the people who will be working with you during this grantee meeting and thereafter
- SAMHSA GPO's
- SPRC
- MACRO staff

## Campus Suicide Prevention Grantee Meeting

- We have structured this meeting to maximize our ability to work together to assist you in implementing and evaluating your programs.
- Most of the sessions are structured to allow considerable time for working through and problem solving issues, concerns, challenges and opportunities that you are experiencing in your programs.

## Campus Suicide Prevention Grantee Meeting

- While we have invited experts to present, we have tried to minimize lectures and power points, maximize grantee sharing and learning. We have asked our experts to stay after their presentations and serve as consultants and resource experts.
- We want to thank several of our grantees in particular who took the time to come to Washington to meet with us and advise on the structure of this meeting.

## SAMHSA Matrix

- Suicide Prevention is now a priority area across SAMHSA
- SAMHSA is comprised of three centers
- CMHS, CSAT, CSAP
- Office of Communications-Public Education Campaign

## Federal Working Group on Suicide Prevention

- Working across the Executive Branch
- Many of them will be here for this meeting
- SAMHSA, NIMH, CDC, Indian Health Service, DOD, VA, DOJ, DOE, HRSA, AOA, AHRQ
- Working to implement the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention

**“The Commission urges swiftly implementing and enhancing the NSSP to serve as a blueprint for communities and all levels of government.”**

**- The President’s New Freedom  
Commission on Mental Health, 2003**

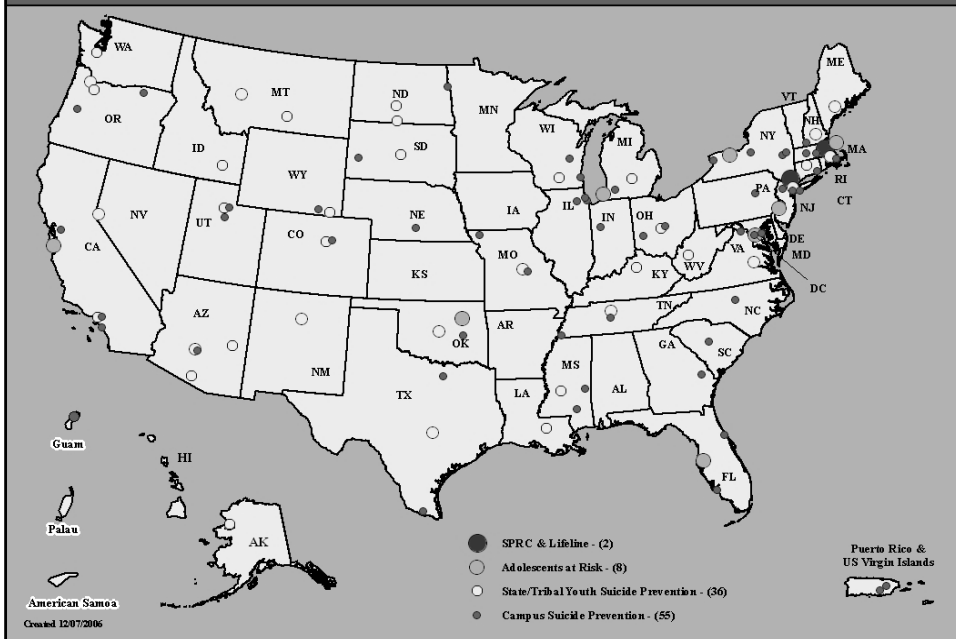
## SAMHSA Suicide Prevention Activity

- SAMHSA's activity in suicide prevention has increased dramatically
- At the start of 2005, there were two competitive grant awards for suicide prevention
- At the end of 2005, there were 46
- At the end of 2006, there are over 100, including 29 states, 7 tribes/tribal organizations, and 55 colleges.

## SAMHSA Suicide Prevention Programs

- State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Grants-Cohort 1(14 grants), Cohort-2 (22 grants)
- Linking Adolescents at Risk to Mental Health Services Grants-8 grants

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration/Center for Mental Health Services  
All Suicide Prevention Grantees



## Adolescents at Risk grants

- 8 grantees
- Focus on school based suicide prevention programs
- Purpose is to evaluate whether youth at risk can be identified, families engaged, and youth linked to services

## Suicide Prevention Resource Center

- National resource center for suicide prevention (Objective 4.8 of the NSSP)
- Provides technical assistance to all of our Garrett Lee Smith grantees
- Facilitated the development of statewide suicide prevention plans across the country
- Develops and disseminates resources

## National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

- National toll free number 1-800-273-TALK
- Calls routed automatically to the closest of 120 networked crisis centers
- Spanish speaking sub-network
- Partners with NASMHPD
- On-going evaluation effort (Rutgers and Columbia)