2013 Garrett Lee Smith Combined Annual Grantee Meeting

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Action Alliance Subcommittees

• Focused upon youth within Juvenile Justice

• Interdisciplinary in expertise & experience
Process

• Review of policies & procedures voluntarily submitted from states

• Interviews

• Literature Reviews
Suicide is often the most common cause of death in secure justice settings.

• Suicide among youth in contact with the juvenile justice system occurs at a rate about four times greater than the rate among youth in the general population because of the prevalence of many risk factors.
Barriers/Risk Factors

• Barriers & risk factors often can become interchangeable

• Policies & procedures need to be designed to recognize barriers such as inadequate communication and documentation as well as risk factors
Barriers/Risk Factors

• Common risk factors need to be acknowledged in order to reduce risk and enhance protective factors such as building relationships, and modeling respect which leads to a shift in culture
Risk Factors

• A history of or existing mental illness and substance abuse.

• A history of suicidal behaviors

• Lack of mental health care
Risk Factors

• A history of abuse (e.g., emotional, physical, sexual)

• Family discord/abuse

• Impulsive aggression

• A history of interpersonal conflict
Risk Factors

• Prior involvement in special education

• Legal/disciplinary problems

• Family history of suicide
Risk Factors

• Prior offenses

• Referral to juvenile court

• Experiencing a lack familial structure
Recommendations

• Systematic planning of comprehensive policies and programs to prevent suicide and provide care in the aftermath of a suicide death or attempt.

• Unified policies and programs
Recommendations

• Initial and annual training for all direct care, medical, and mental health personnel

• Initial intake and ongoing assessment of incarcerated persons

• Enhanced communication along the continuum of the justice system (arrest through a return to the community)
Recommendations

• Levels of supervision for persons at risk of self-harm and suicide

• Appropriate suicide-resistant housing

• Plans for an intervention

• Better reporting structures
Action Alliance Webpage

- http://actionallianceforsuicideprevention.org
Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition

Donald P. Belau, Ph.D
David Miers, Ph.D.
Co-Chairs
webpage

- [http://www.suicideprevention.nebraska.edu/](http://www.suicideprevention.nebraska.edu/)
- Outcomes of GLS grant
  - Promoted suicide prevention awareness activities
  - Enhanced gate keeper training
  - Local community coalitions were seeded
  - Clinician training
  - School suicide prevention specialists
Next Steps

• Apply for Continuation
• Utilize Needs assessments
• Connect with evidenced-based approaches