

Alaska Statewide Suicide Prevention Summit

Event Summary



February 11, 2010

Stakeholders from all over Alaska came together in Anchorage in January to take a hard look at our suicide prevention systems, decide what the strengths and weaknesses are of those systems, and think about ways that we can improve how we prevent suicide in Alaska.



Attendees came from Barrow, Kotzebue, Bethel, Sitka, Toosok Bay, Nome, Ketchikan, Homer, Juneau, Eagle River, Fairbanks, Hoonah, King Cove, and Anchorage. They represented survivors of a loss to suicide, survivors of an attempted suicide, law enforcement and public safety, clergy, youth, seniors, the military and veterans, coalition members, business owners, mental health professionals, educators, caregivers, university students, and policymakers.

With the help of a diverse group of presenters to inform and inspire the discussion, Summit attendees spent three days identifying the strengths of the suicide prevention system, then the weaknesses (the holes in our "net"). With this assessment of the system, attendees then worked together to find ways that each of them could take action to improve suicide prevention efforts in their home communities, as well as ways that larger communities and the State could improve prevention efforts.

Attendees have already begun to take action in their home communities:

- ★ Renee Schofield, from Ketchikan, has coordinated a statewide showing of short suicide prevention DVDs by GCI.
- ★ Eric Boyer, from Anchorage, and Colonel Audie Holloway, director of the Alaska State Troopers, are working together to have all Alaska troopers and VPSOs (370 people) trained as Gatekeepers over the next two years.
- ★ SFC Russell Overman has coordinated a series of ASIST trainings offered by the Alaska National Guard for Southeast communities .

What's Next?

Attendees agreed to meet monthly for the next three months — February through April — to develop the report and plan from the Summit. After that, we'll meet quarterly to track our progress.

***For more information about the Summit,
call Kate Burkhart at
(907) 465-8920 or 1-888-464-8920.***

Media Coverage:

[KTUU TV BROADCAST
\(JANUARY 10\)](#)

[KTUU TV BROADCAST
\(JANUARY 12\)](#)

[JUNEAU EMPIRE STORY
\(JANUARY 12\)](#)

[APRN RADIO BROADCAST
\(JANUARY 13\)](#)

[KTVA TV BROADCAST
\(JANUARY 13\)](#)

[THE DUTCH HARBOR FISHERMAN \(JANUARY 22\)](#)

