

# Youth Suicide Prevention in Schools and Communities







# Welcome!

- Please <u>mute</u> your line
- If you have a <u>question</u>, technical <u>problem or comment</u>, please type it into the "Questions" box or "raise your hand" by clicking the hand logo on your control panel



NOTE: All slides and information covered with be shared via email following the presentation

## Introductions



Each Mind Matters is California's Mental Health Movement. We are millions of individuals and thousands of organizations working to advance mental health.



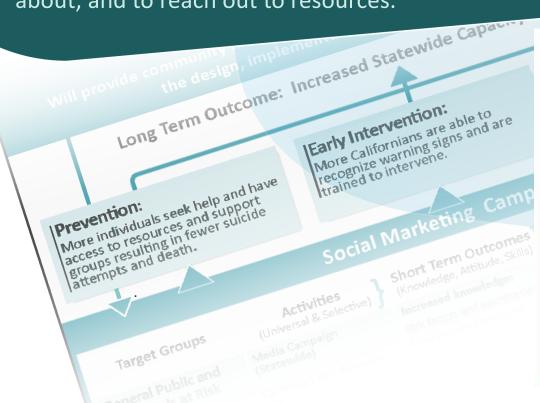






Know the Signs is a statewide suicide prevention social marketing campaign with the overarching goal to increase Californians' capacity to prevent suicide by encouraging individuals to know the signs, find the words to talk to someone they are concerned about, and to reach out to resources.





50%
Californians were

exposed to the Know the

was rated by an expert

with best practices and

Signs campaign that

panel to be aligned

one of the best media campaigns on the subject.

"The results provide further evidence that the Know the Signs campaign is making Californians more confident in their ability to intervene with someone at risk of suicide."



suicide is preventable.org

elsuicidio**es**prevenible.org



#### **Tools and Resources**

A wide range of mental health and suicide prevention educational resources are available for diverse communities across the lifespan:

- African American
- API youth
- Cambodian
- Chinese
- Filipino
- General public
- Hmong
- Individuals in crisis
- Korean

- Lao
- LGBTQ youth and young adults
- Middle aged men
- Spanishspeaking
- Vietnamese
  - Russian
  - Punjabi









#### Student Policy Updates: Mental Health and Suicide Prevention



Monica Nepomuceno
California Department of Education
Education Programs Consultant



# Assembly Bill 2246 (AB2246):

- AB2246: Passed in Sept. 2016, required all LEAs serving pupils in grades 7-12 to implement suicide prevention policies by 2017-18 school year
- CDE released "Model Youth Suicide Prevention Policy" which recommends:
- Training for all staff
- Specialized training in risk assessment
- Review/update of referral processes
- Vetting and referral of community resources
- Utilization/sharing of crisis resources

- Implement/update re-entry procedures
- Focus on high risk groups
- Student engagement/education
- Creation of a "postvention plan"

# Going Beyond AB2246

- AB 2639: Requires that school suicide prevention policies be updated, at a minimum, every five years
- AB 1808: Funding for online suicide prevention training for staff and students



SB 972: Crisis resources on student ID cards

# Assembly Bill 1808 (online training opportunities)

- The CDE shall identify one or more evidence-based online training programs for staff and students
- The program(s) must:
  - Be evidence-based
  - Be consistent with CDE "Model Youth Suicide Prevention Policy"
  - Address needs of high-risk groups: LGTBQ,
     Disabilities/Substance Abuse/Mental Illness,
     Loss Survivors, Homeless /Out-of home
     settings
  - Track aggregate statewide usage
  - Assess trainee knowledge (before and after)
- CDE shall provide grants to local County Offices of Education
  - COE shall make the training program available to local LEAs at no cost
  - LEAs are not required to use training program

# Senate Bill 972: Student IDs

- July 1, 2019, a public school (including a charter school, or a private school) that serves pupils in any of grades 7 to 12, and that issues pupil identification cards shall have printed on either side of the pupil identification cards:
  - The telephone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-8255.
  - The Crisis Text Line, which can be accessed by texting HOME to 741741.
  - A local suicide prevention hotline telephone number.



# Engaging the Community: What I Wish My Parents Knew



Scott Fisher
Principal (retired)
Poway Unified School District

- Developed by the community serving Poway Unified School District (San Diego County).
  - First event in fall of 2013
- Focused on engaging parents and the entire community in supporting youth
- As the title suggests, a key principle in engaging youth at every step in the process (from planning to presentations)
- Events are repeated 2-3 times throughout the school year (ideally district wide)



#### Key principles in our philosophy:

- Involve the power of the student voice
- Utilize strong teaching principles
  - No lengthy lectures (no "sit and get")
  - Interactive presentations
- Sessions would be open, interactive and confidential
- Avoid "the blame game", use a positive message always
- More than a "one time" event
- No personal profit or benefit (for planning team members)

## Outline / Agenda

- Resource fair for parents featuring local community resources (30 min, optional)
- Brief welcome/keynote remarks by principal or district administrator. Consider including a community leader or speaker (10 to 15 min)
- Concurrent break-out sessions featuring workshops on a variety of topics (2 repeating sessions, 45-60 min each)

- Form a planning committee of committed leaders
- 2. Identify and agree on principles
- 3. Send out student survey for input on topics
- 4. Set a date, location, and identify speakers
- 5. Promotion
- 6. Host event

#### **Involving Youth**

- Student survey asking youth "What they wish their parents knew" and what topics they would like covered
- Topics typically suggested by youth include:
  - Suicide Prevention and mental illness
  - Academic pressure
  - Communicating with youth/parents
  - Handling stress

- Substance abuse
- Social media
- Bullying
- Peer Pressure
- Managing expectations

#### **Involving Youth in Presentations**

- When possible, it is valuable to involve youth directly in the presentation (or at least on a panel)
- However, it is primary to consider the safety of youth involved especially for topics such as suicide prevention, mental health and bullying
  - Ensure youth are in a "safe place" and well into a "recovery phase"
- Confirm parent/guardian support and permissions
- Spend time prepping students and engaging safety supports
- Consider engaging youth who have recently graduated from the school/district

#### Partnerships and collaboration

- Promotion is key to success
- Work with local organizations (you trust) that reach youth and parents for presentations and promotion
  - In Poway, the key partner in our success was local faith institutions
  - Other partners include community based organizations focused on youth and parents: PTSA, YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, NAMI chapters, etc.

### **Lessons Learned / Steps to Success**

- There is no "right" answer for raising kids
- Build upon and rely on partnerships
  - Our planning team still has the same members
- Trust the experts, use the experts
- Continue to learn and adapt to the needs of your community (evaluate your sessions)
- Keep youth involved

# Tools and Resources available to support you:

- What I Wish My Parents Knew Toolkit
- Parent invitation email template
- Flier
- Planning guides:
  - Exhibitor Tracking
  - Presenter Tracking





# Responding After a Suicide: Postvention Postvention is Prevention

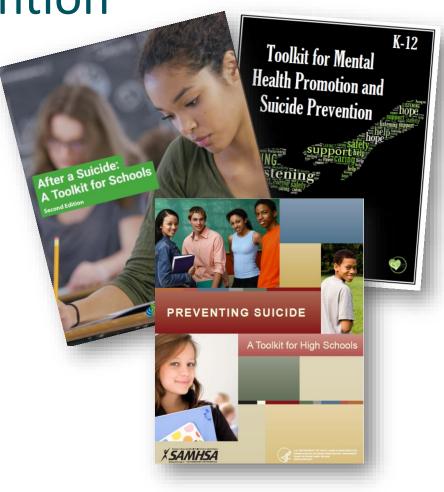
# Responding After a Suicide:

**Postvention** 

#### Resources

 After a Suicide: A
 Toolkit for High Schools

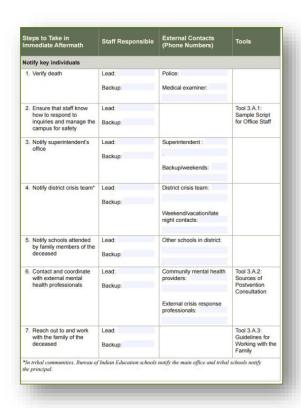
- Preventing Suicide: A
   Toolkit for High Schools
- HEARD Alliance: Toolkit for Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention



# Responding After a Suicide: Postvention

#### Key elements of an effective postvention plan include:

- Process for enacting Postvention Response Plan
- Confirmation of death (and cause)
- Contact with family of the deceased
- Notification to staff
- All staff meeting
- Identify students significantly affected
- Communication to students/community
- Memorial considerations
- Media response (including social media)



#### Responding After a Suicide: Postvention



Robert Coppo Principal Torrey Pines High School



# Postvention – Triage

- Just the Facts: The initial communication needs to include only facts, regardless of media, staff, student speculation
- Timely, Accurate Communication: In the information age, this is incredibly challenging
- Contact Affected Teachers & Set up Support
- You Aren't Alone: Immediately engage district, county and site support teams
- Staff Debrief: Don't rely on email, get in front of your staff
- Keep Media Off-Site: Designate a spokesperson, but do not bring them on campus
- Be Visible & Available: The community needs to see the principal out in front at a time like this

## Postvention – Fallout

- Everyone Is An "Expert": Be ready for lots of advice
- This Isn't About Failure Or Blame: Don't lose sight of what you do well, or how many kids you've already helped
- Teacher Support: Some will be triggered, others are not capable of engaging students on this level
- Take Care of Yourself: Principals, by nature, fix things, but we need to be aware of our own stress level
- Memorials: Balance the community need to heal with the school's need to continue to be a school

# Postvention – Lessons Learned

- There Isn't a Script: Even with all of our experience, no postvention is ever the same
- Local News Is a Challenge: Respect their role, but protect the family and your school
- Known vs. Unknown Students: Postvention efforts are different considering the circumstances of the student

## Postvention – Lessons Learned

- Can We Even Say the "S-word?": Respect the families wishes
- Staff Support: Our staff trusted fellow staff members
- Graduation: Engage the family and student leaders in the plan
- Be Prepared for the Anniversary: Depending on the circumstances, this might be big deal, or it might not



# More than a film contest: The Directing Change Program and Film Contest



#### **The Directing Change Program and Film Contest**

# **Learning Methodology**

Directing Change integrates sound pedagogical principles into the filmmaking process so that participants are engaged via all methods of the "learning spectrum": to see, experience, discuss, and apply. Once created films are used in schools and communities to raise awareness and start conversations about these topics.







#### The Directing Change Program and Film Contest

#### Directing Change is effective at:

- Increasing knowledge and skills
- Changing attitudes and behaviors related to mental illness and suicide prevention

"It is remarkable that significant findings persisted even months after the program had ended—with fielding of the survey among participants in the program 3 - 6 months after completing their film submissions"





## The Directing Change Program and Film Contest

#### Submit 30-second or 60-second films in one of the following categories:

- Mental Health Matters (MHM)
- Suicide Prevention (SP)
- •Through the Lens of Culture (MHM or SP)
- SanaMente (Spanish, 30-seconds)
- Animated Short (30-seconds)
- Walk in Our Shoes (60-seconds)



Directing Change

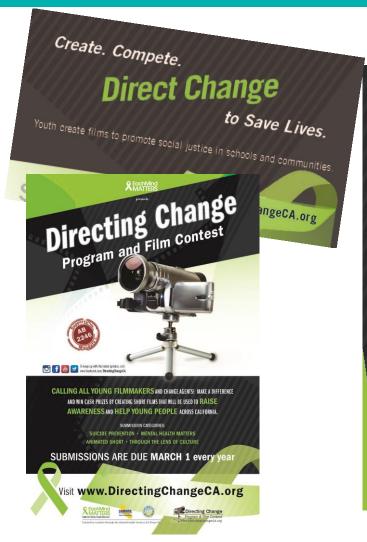
Program & Film Contest

#### The contest is open to students in grades 6-12, youth and young adults ages 14 to 25

- •All film teams need to identify an adult advisor to review the film.
- •There is no limit on the number of submissions by participants, schools, or organizations.
- •There is no limit on the number of people who can work on a film

Submission Deadline: March 1, 2019

## The Directing Change Program and Film Contest



#### **Youth Suicide Warning Signs**

Talk to a trusted adult or reach out to someone you are concerned about if you observe one or more of these warning signs, especially if the behavior is new, has increased or seems related to a painful event, loss or change:

- 1. Talking about or making plans for suicide
- 2. Expressing hopelessness about the future
- Displaying severe/overwhelming emotional pain or distress
- Showing worrisome behavioral cues or marked changes in behavior, particularly in the presence of the warning signs above.

Specifically, this includes significant:

- Withdrawal from or changing in social connections/situations
- Changes in sleep (increased or decreased)
- Anger or hostility that seems out of character or out of context
- · Recent increased agitation or irritability

If you are concerned about someone, reach out and ask: "Are you thinking about suicide?"

Whatever you're going through, you're not alone. If you're in pain or concerned for someone else, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800.273.8255 (TALK) or text HOPE to 741-741. You can also visit suicideispreventable.org for more information.

# More than a film contest: The Directing Change Program and Film Contest



Alex Graham
Film Teacher / Instructor
Canyon High School
Chapman University





# Canyon High School & Directing Change

- My classes have participated for the past 5 years
- Over 200 students per year make films in groups (over 1,200 total over 5 years)
- Finished PSA's are broadcasted to the entire campus in our school's weekly broadcast as well as submitted and screened in various film festivals in the Southern California area
- Students have received many awards and recognition from peers, local & state government, press/media as well as awards from Directing Change

# **Our Process**



- Focus on learning how a PSA is constructed from a writing, filmmaking & visual-storytelling perspective
- Research the topics and GET EDUCATED about facts and resources
- Watch and assess PSA's that address the topics of Suicide Prevention and Mental Health (Are they appropriate, sensitive, powerful, thought & action provoking?)
- Do exhaustive research the subject matter with a small group and plan their own film and shoot their own film with the intent to CHANGE the mind of an audience (often requiring role playing and creative ways to introduce facts and solutions)

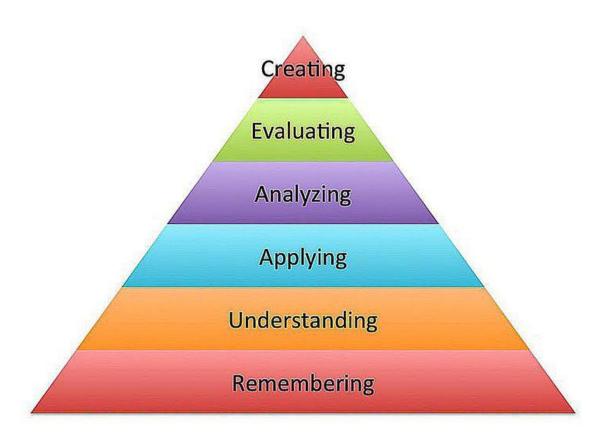
# No Equipment Needed

(it's easy and the kids already know how do it...

and they are already doing it in their other classes!)



Anyone can listen to a speaker and remember a few things, but CREATING a film takes the student to the highest level of Bloom's Taxonomy



# The Results

- Conversations open up between teachers and students who are in great need & get help immediately
- Students reach out for friends they are concerned about to get help and KNOW the resources
- Students have even decided they want to pursue careers in Social Work (or similar fields) after the entire experience
- In the future, our kids will certainly encounter these experiences in their lives and will know what they can do to help



### Raising Awareness

- Range of resources from event planning guides, posters, guides on engagement through social media, and suggestions for activities to get your community involved
- Available in print and electronically on the Each Mind Matters website.

# Mental Health Matters Month

May (California)



# **Suicide Prevention Awareness Toolkit**

First full week in September (National)

### Mental Health Awareness Week

First full week in October (National)

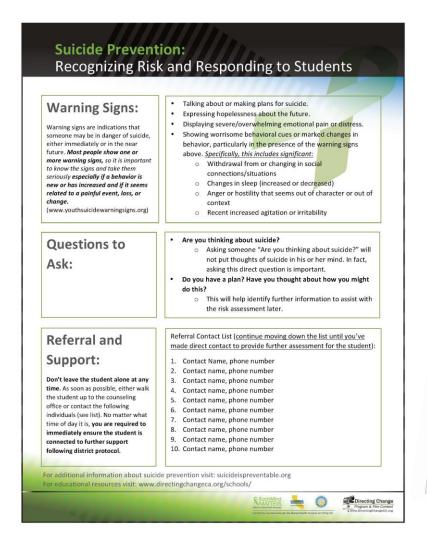
# Activities and Tips for Schools

- 1. Work with youth to host a **Suicide Prevention Activity.**
- 2. Host a What I Wish My Parents Knew Event to educate parents about suicide prevention and mental health.
- 3. Engage youth by **creating a film about suicide prevention** or by implementing a suicide prevention activity.
- 4. Create a **Suicide Prevention Hand-out** and distribute it to all staff.
- 5. Complete the **postvention checklist** for your school.

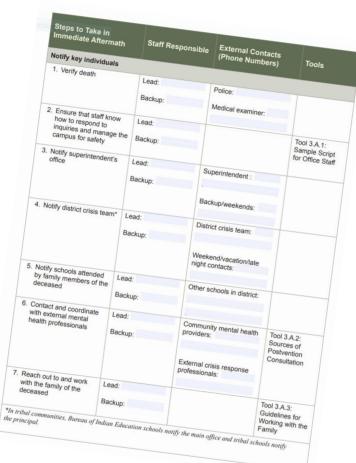
#### In the Toolkit:

- What I Wish My Parents Knew Event Guide
- School-based Suicide
   Prevention Activity Tip Sheet
- Suicide Prevention One-Pager for School Staff
- Postvention: Responding to Suicide in your School Community
- Resources

#### Staff Hand-Outs



#### **Create a Postvention Plan**



## The Directing Change Program and Film Contest

# www.DirectingChangeCA.org





**My Friend Tyler** https://youtu.be/gq4B8tB84io

Please view and download the amazing films created by our young and talented film makers and check out this **tip sheet** for ideas to use the films. You can also **contact us** to receive a DVD with the films and please let us know how you are using the films!

Films by County
Films for Diverse Communities

Download



# OUR SHOES





WalkInOurShoes.org

ponteenmiszapatos.org/



# OURISHOES



# FOR GROWNUPS

#### **NEED HELP NOW?**

#### **FOR TEACHERS**

Mental health challenges are more common than one realizes. As an educator, you play a crucial role in introducing the subject of mental health to your students. In fact, some of your students have probably experienced their own mental health challenges.

The following resources provide information about mental health, a synopsis of the Walk In Our Shoes campaign and a Classroom Facilitation Guide, with accompanying activities, that familiarize students with mental health and wellness.

INTRODUCING MENTAL HEALTH (TEACHERS)
ABOUT WALK IN OUR SHOES
CLASSROOM FACILITATION GUIDE
CLASSROOM LESSON PLANS
CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

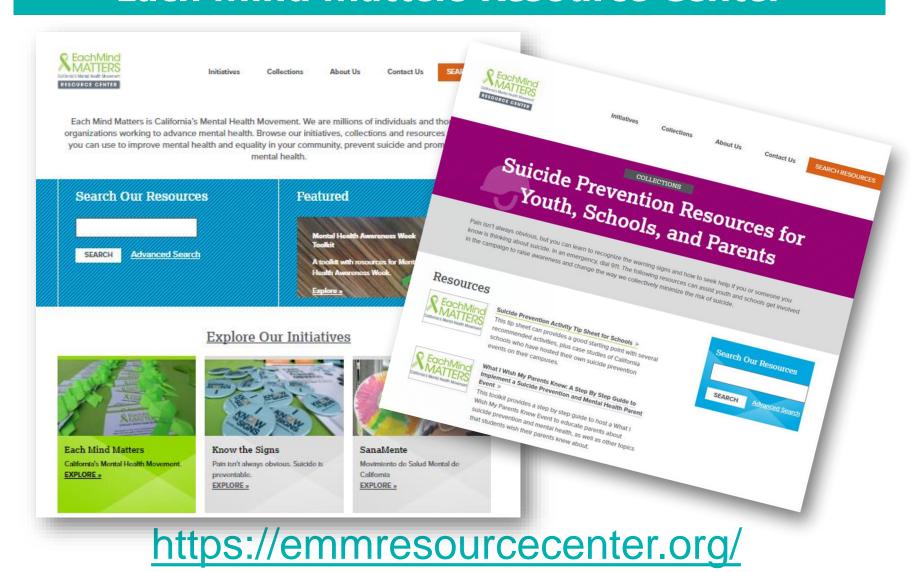
### **Additional Resources for Youth**

National Alliance on Mental Illness

- Active Minds:
  - "Be a Friend" Resources
  - www.ActiveMinds.org
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
  - NAMI on Campus Clubs
  - Ending the Silence (classroom) presentations) MAMIOn Campus
  - https://namica.org/



#### **Each Mind Matters Resource Center**







Mental Health

Stories

Get Involved

Events

Partners

Blog

## Shop

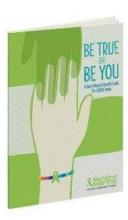
The Each Mind Matters Shop provides promotional and educational materials for supporting California's Mental Health Movement. If you would like to order materials with a Purchase Order, please review the Purchase Order Process. If you have any questions about your order or the Shop, please contact Store@EachMindMatters.org.

Your purchase helps fight stigma in your community! All proceeds from the Each Mind Matters store go to support mental health outreach and education across California.





"A New State of Mind" Documentary DVD Toolkit



"Be True and Be You" Booklet for LGBTQ Teens



"Stories of Hope, Resilience and Recovery" Vignette DVD

# & Bookmark us!

EachMindMatters.org

SuicideIsPreventable.org

**EMMResourceCenter.org** 

**DirectingChangeCA.org** 

WalkinOurShoes.org



SanaMente.org

ElSuicidioEsPrevenible.org

PonteEnMisZapatos.org







Funded by counties through the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act (Prop. 63).



Twitter: @eachmindmatters



Facebook.com/eachmindmatters



Instagram: eachmindmatters

#### For questions email: info@suicideispreventable.org

To access the Each Mind Matters Collection for Suicide Prevention for Youth, Schools and Communities online: https://emmresourcecenter.org/collection/suicide-prevention-resources-youth-schools-and-parents

