

Developing a Strategic Statewide Suicide Prevention Plan: Project Brief

The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission is charged with overseeing the implementation of California's Mental Health Services Act (also known as Prop 63) and the transformation of California's mental health system. The 16-member Commission is composed of one Senator, one Assemblymember, the State Attorney General, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and 12 public members appointed by the Governor to represent different sectors of society, including people with mental health needs, their family members, law enforcement, education, labor, business, and the mental health profession.

In collaboration with stakeholders, the Commission provides vision and leadership to expand awareness and understanding of issues facing community mental health. The Commission conducts projects to examine critical issues and make informed decisions on how to improve services and provide better care to consumers.

Through the more than \$2 billion generated every year by Prop 63, some \$350 million is earmarked annually for prevention and early intervention services and another \$100 million is designated for innovations. Most of those funds are distributed directly to counties to provide services with a range of goals, including reducing suicide. Assembly Bill 114 (Chapter 38, Statutes of 2017) authorized the MHSOAC to develop a new, statewide strategic plan for suicide prevention.

MHSOAC PROJECT ON SUICIDE PREVENTION

Suicide is one of the leading causes of death in California, for both youth and adults. More than 4,000 Californians die by suicide every year, and thousands more attempt suicide.

Suicide Prevention Subcommittee

Tina Wooton, Suicide Prevention Subcommittee Chair, MHSOAC Past Chair, and Consumer Empowerment Manager for Santa Barbara Department of Behavioral Wellness

Khatera Aslami-Tamplen, MHSOAC Vice-Chair, and Consumer Empowerment Manager for Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services

Mara Madrigal-Weiss, MA, M.Ed Counseling, M.Ed Educational Leadership, MHSOAC Commissioner, and Lead Coordinator for the San Diego County Office of Education

The purpose of this project is to develop a suicide prevention plan informed by best practice and in collaboration with community members on the basis of shared understandings of the challenges and opportunities to reduce suicide, suicide attempts, and suicidal self-harm, and to improve outcomes for survivors of suicide attempts and survivors of suicide loss.

The project is led by the Suicide Prevention Subcommittee, a subcommittee of Commissioners appointed by MHSOAC Chair John Boyd, Psy.D.

Ashley Mills, MS, MHSOAC Senior Researcher, is the project staff lead.

For more information, please visit the Suicide Prevention Project Page at <http://mhsoac.ca.gov/suicide-prevention>.

