Suicide Prevention Round Table

Facilitator: Gary McConahay

Notetaker: Ken Boegli

* Many Oregon communities have experienced youth suicides.
  + Attendees from both high schools and elementary schools remarked that they had been dealing with one or many recent suicides and were hoping to come away with some effective approaches to suicide prevention.
* SBHCs have been involved in school response to suicides.
  + Communication between the schools and SBHC’s has been challenging in certain areas.
  + It’s unclear how to best utilize SBHC mental health clinicians in times of crisis like a suicide.
  + Important to train all SBHC and school staff to be able to identify kids who are at risk and intervene.
* Suicide ideation and attempts in younger kids.
  + More than one attendee expressed concern around what they see if a rising prevalence of suicidal attempts and ideation among 7 and 8 year old children. Further, discussions around dealing with suicide attempts, completions, and ideation among children in grades 2-6 delved into the complexities surrounding childhood poverty and crises at home.
  + Unclear whether the children who attempted suicide considered death or were just looking to escape their current living situation.
* Current programmatic approaches mentioned included “Mental Health First Aid” and “QPR” (Question, Persuade, and Refer).
* Other resources include: the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC.org).