<table>
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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Key Points</th>
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| Laura Gallo, PhD, LPC, NCC                  | Boise State University - Counselor Educator                                 | • Supports the plan fully  
• Anticipates being engaged in the process of implementing the plan  
• Identifies that funding will assist in training gatekeepers, and will decrease suicide risk |
| Kathie Garrett                              | Former State Representative for District 17, past Chair for the Idaho Governor's Council on Suicide Prevention | • The planning group has momentum and is moving forward evidenced by changing the group name to include "action" in lieu of "planning"  
• Believes the new coordinated effort and plan will have a profound effect for Idahoans  
• Strongly supports the DHW budget request  
• Identifies that the best opportunity for success includes the continuation public/private partnership |
| Jeni Griffin                                | Suicide loss survivor of her 16 year old son who died in 2003                | • Supports the plan fully  
• Acknowledges the opportunities that increased funding would provide to save lives  
• States she will assist in implementation of the plan  
• Key to moving forward is building capacity and infrastructure for the plan |
| Jeni Griffin                                | Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN) - Executive Director                 | • Appreciates the initial funding through the State for suicide prevention  
• Need to continue with an active and robust coordinated statewide suicide prevention plan  
• Need continued support of the state suicide prevention program and stakeholders |
| Mary Pierce                                 | Boise Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) - Suicide Prevention Coordinator | • Fully supports the plan presented  
• Invested in participating in implementation of the plan  
• The Idaho State Suicide Prevention Plan is in alignment with the Department of Veterans Affairs Suicide Prevention Plan  
• VAMC will support the plan and integrate with stakeholders. |
| Christine Pisani                            | Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities - Executive Director             | • Co-occurring mental health diagnoses are present in 61% of adults on the Developmental Disability Waiver, leading to concern that there may be an increased risk for suicide  
• The Council anticipates to be involved in planning and implementation of the plan |
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Support Comments</th>
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| Michael Sandvig | National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Idaho - President | • Board of NAMI Idaho fully support the plan  
• Fully vested in the successful implementation of the plan statewide  
• The plan has the potential to reduce the high suicide rate in Idaho |
| Corey Surber  | Saint Alphonsus Health System - Director of Advocacy | • Supports the plan fully  
• Saint Alphonsus will continue to collaborate and be actively involved  
• Will work toward specific objectives that align with the plan |
| Lora Whalen   | Panhandle Health District - Director    | • Invested in supporting plan  
• Will bring key players to the table to support efforts  
• All public health districts are committed to the success of the statewide suicide prevention plan |
Date: January 14, 2019

To: Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee

RE: Idaho’s Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

During the 2018 Legislative Session the Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee (JFAC), through legislative intent language, authorized funding for and requested the creation of a coordinated statewide strategic plan to address suicide prevention in Idaho. During the Spring of 2018, a planning team was created to develop that plan. I participated as a member of the planning group and continue with those efforts today.

As an active participant in the meetings, I had the opportunity to develop and comment on all activities, tasks, objectives and goals of the plan. I am in full support of the plan presented to you and invested in participating in its implementation.

To align with the new plan, I plan to continue meeting with this group to support looking at ways to educate others in suicide prevention, continue finding innovative ways to train future counselors, and offering my assistance in K-12 prevention programming. I have worked as a school counselor and public educator for 2 decades and now as a counselor educator, and understand the need to educate our gatekeepers to help decrease suicide with youth.

I anticipate being actively involved in the continued planning/implementation meetings for the next few years and am fully vested in its successful implementation statewide.

This plan will impact me, my family, and all Idahoans in the following ways, should it be fully implemented as outlined:

Sincerely,

Laura L. Gallo

Laura L. Gallo, Ph.D., LPC, NCC
Counselor Educator
January 20, 2019

To: Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee

Re: Idaho’s Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan

Dear Chairman Bair and Chairman Youngblood and members of the Committee

Idaho’s suicide prevention efforts began in 2001 with a small group known as the “Coffee Shop Three.” Over the following years it has grown to many groups and hundreds of citizen advocates across the State.

My own involvement with suicide prevention began in 2003 as a Freshman Legislator. In 2005 I carried HCR 17 Teen Suicide Prevention/Teacher Education. In 2006 I carried HCR 31 endorsing the Idaho Suicide Prevention Plan. From 2006 through 2012 I served as Chair to the Governor’s Council on Suicide Prevention. I continue to stay involved with support and participation in the efforts of the Hotline, SPAN, the Coalition, NAMI and other advocacy groups and efforts.

Last year JFAC correctly identified the need for a new comprehensive and coordinated effort and plan. Armed with the intent language from JFAC, a team of over 50 state, regional and local stakeholders participate in an all-out push to meet the deadline of August with a new comprehensive plan. I am proud to say we met that goal and that I was an active participant of that process.

It is important to note that the momentum of this group continues to move forward. On January 18, 2019 the Group agreed to change their name from one of “planning” to one of “action.”

I believe that this new coordinated effort and plan will have a profound effect for Idahoans across all of Idaho and help us to reduce the tragedy of lives lost to suicide.

Key to moving forward is building the capacity and infrastructure to ensure successful statewide adoption and implementation. I believe the best opportunity for success is to continue this public/private partnership and therefore strongly support the budget request from the Department of Health and Welfare.

Sincerely,

Kathie Garrett, Former State Representative, District 17
2281 W Trestle Drive
Meridian, Idaho 83646
(208) 921-8581
To: Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee

RE: Idaho’s Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan

January 21, 2019

Dear Mr. Chairmen and members of the Committee,

I am a survivor of my sixteen year old son’s death by suicide in 2003. I personally see the need to continue with an active coordinated statewide strategic suicide prevention plan. I have been involved in prevention and survivor efforts for the last 13 years in Idaho. When I first became involved it was a slow process without much state support for implementation of effective programs and awareness. Fast forward to 2016 when legislation was passed to fund and house a specific Suicide Prevention Program at Health & Welfare Division of Public Health. I was thrilled to finally see support. And the momentum has been astounding! At last we are seeing opportunities and strategies to increase prevention. But, the need is far greater than ever before.

Please support this plan presented to you. I along with many others take great attention and devotion in participating in its implementation.

I have participated in a dedicated and passionate planning group since last spring to develop something of magnificent and detailed design to save individuals and families from going through what I have experienced that was tragic, painful and preventable.

I wish that I had known more. I wish that programs that are now available would have been available then. I wish that more support from our state government would have been in existence. You have the opportunity to back this proposal so we can continue this necessary implementation process to save Idahoans from dying by suicide.

I will continue my efforts to raise awareness, support implementation and continued use of best practiced and evidence based programs that are safe. I will educate my local and state representatives of the importance of suicide prevention strategies and platforms that will save lives and help those at risk. I will mourn with those affected by suicide loss. I will do this in remembrance of my son, Todd.

I need you to represent those in Idaho who are working towards a healthier, safer and suicide-free state. You have the power to save lives by supporting this plan. Please think of the importance of this request.

Respectfully and with hope,

Jeni Griffin
Mother of Todd Griffin who died by suicide at the age of sixteen in 2003
January 21, 2019

To: Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee

Re: Idaho’s Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan

Dear Mr. Chairmen and members of the Committee,

I am a survivor of my sixteen year old son’s death by suicide in 2003. I personally see the need to continue with an active and robust coordinated statewide strategic suicide prevention plan. I have been involved in prevention and survivor efforts for the last 12+ years in Idaho.

We were thrilled in 2016 to have support from our legislature when funding was finally given to house a specific Suicide Prevention Program at Health & Welfare Division of Public Health. Much progress has taken place as we have moved forward with identifying and using appropriate programs to educate and implement strategies that can save lives. But, the need is far greater than ever before.

SPAN Idaho has been involved in suicide prevention for almost 18 years. Our regional chapters across the state have forged great collaboration with their communities to implement these various programs and educate about suicide prevention. We need the continued support of the state program and stakeholders to assist our many vulnerable populations and cities to decrease suicide risk. Having a developed and workable plan is crucial for our state. These current and active regional groups want compassionate government officials that value the importance of suicide prevention and survivor of loss support.

I have participated in a dedicated and passionate planning group since last spring to develop something of magnificent and detailed design to save individuals and families from suicide loss. Please support this plan presented to you. I along with many others take great attention and devotion in participating in its implementation.

Suicide is preventable, but requires more awareness and action on everyone’s part.

The risk for suicidal behavior is complex and it’s important for us to continue to improve and empower individuals and communities about prevention efforts as well as survivor support.

Please join me in this life saving endeavor. Support this plan because Idaho is a great place to LIVE!

My best to you,

Jeni Griffin, Executive Director
Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN) Idaho

PO Box 2656, Idaho Falls, ID 83403 208-860-1703 www.spanidaho.org
Date: January 22, 2019

To: Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee

RE: Idaho’s Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

During the 2018 Legislative Session the Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee (JFAC), through legislative intent language, authorized funding for and requested the creation of a coordinated statewide strategic plan to address suicide prevention in Idaho. During the Spring of 2018, a planning team was created to develop that plan. I participated as a member of the planning group and continue with those efforts today.

As an active participant in the meetings, I had the opportunity to develop and comment on all activities, tasks, objectives and goals of the plan. I am in full support of the plan presented to you and invested in participating in its implementation.

The new Idaho State Suicide Prevention plan is in alignment with the Department of Veterans Affairs Suicide Prevention Plan.

The Boise VAMC, Suicide Prevention Program will provide ongoing support for the plan by active participation with ongoing planning and implementation of the State Plan. The VAMC Suicide Prevention Program will integrate, as possible, with the many stakeholders involved in executing the goals and objectives of the State Plan.

I anticipate being actively involved in the continued planning/implementation meetings for the foreseeable future and am fully vested in its successful implementation statewide.

Sincerely,

Mary Pierce, LCSW
Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Boise Veterans Affairs Medical Center
500 W. Fort Street, Boise ID 83702
Wk (208) 422-1000 ext 7517
January 25, 2019

To: Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee

RE: Idaho’s Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan

Dear Mr. Chairmen and members of the Committee,

The Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities works to bring about social and policy change that promote the capacity of Idahoans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families to determine, access, and direct the services and supports they need to live the lives they choose, and to build the community’s ability to support their choice. The Council is comprised of 23 volunteers appointed by the Governor.

According to the Independent Assessment Provider, of the 4,510 adults on the Developmental Disability Waiver in March 2018, 2,773 (61%) experience a co-occurring mental health diagnosis. The Council has identified these individuals who have an I/DD with a co-occurring mental illness as an unserved and underserved population in our state. Even with an accurate mental health diagnosis, individuals do not receive access to appropriate mental health services. The population is often not considered in state level mental health discussions. The Council is concerned that the high prevalence of often untreated individuals with mental illness increases the risk of suicide.

The Council writes in full support of the plan presented to you and is invested in participating in its implementation. To align with the new plan, the Council has taken and will continue to take the following steps:

➢ The Council anticipates being actively involved in the continued planning/implementation meetings and is fully vested in its successful implementation statewide.
➢ The Council will continue to promote awareness of the mental health needs of individuals with I/DD who have a co-occurring mental illness.
➢ The Council will provide best practice training to mental health clinicians in order to improve the specific skill set needed to serve this population.

Please protect this funding for much needed services.

Sincerely,

Christine Pisani, Executive Director
Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities
January 21, 2019

To: Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee

Re: Idaho’s Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan

Dear Senator Bair, Representative Youngblood and committee members,

During the 2018 Legislative Session the Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee (JFAC), through legislative intent language, authorized funding for and requested the creation of a coordinated statewide strategic plan to address suicide prevention in Idaho. During the Spring of 2018, a planning team was created to develop that plan. One of our members, former Representative Kathie Garrett, participated as a member of the planning group.

As an active participant in the meetings, she had the opportunity to develop and comment on all activities, tasks, objectives and goals of the plan. We, the board of directors of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Idaho, are fully in support of the plan presented to you and invested in participating in its implementation.

We have another member of our board, Christina Cernansky, who is actively involved in the continued planning and implementation efforts. We are fully vested in its successful implementation statewide.

The negative impacts of suicide on Idahoans are too great to ignore. This plan has the potential to lower the high suicide rate Idaho experiences. We ask you to provide appropriate funding for this effort.

Sincerely,

Michael Sandvig, President
NAMI Idaho
January 14, 2019

Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee
Idaho State Legislature
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

RE: Idaho’s Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan

Dear Chairmen and JFAC Members,

During the 2018 Legislative Session the Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee (JFAC), through legislative intent language, authorized funding for and requested the creation of a coordinated statewide strategic plan to address suicide prevention in Idaho. Last Spring, a planning team was convened to develop that plan, and Saint Alphonsus partnered with other organizations to provide financial support for the strategic planning/facilitation process. I participated on behalf of Saint Alphonsus as a member of the planning group and continue to be actively involved with ongoing refinement of the plan.

As an active participant in planning meetings, I had the opportunity to develop and comment on all activities, tasks, goals and objectives of the plan. I am in full support of the plan presented to you, and Saint Alphonsus looks forward to partnering with other private & public entities statewide in its successful implementation.

To align with the new plan, Saint Alphonsus will continue to be actively involved in the continued planning and implementation meetings over the coming years and will work toward specific objectives applicable to our organization across our service area.

I urge your support for funding to support Idaho’s Suicide Prevention Plan and stand ready and willing to be an active team member in ensuring that we reduce the burden of suicide on the State of Idaho.

Sincerely,

Corey Surber, Director of Advocacy
Corey.Surber@saintalphonsus.org
208-367-7078
January 11, 2019

To: Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee

RE: Idaho’s Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan

Dear Mr. Chairmen and members of the Committee,

During the 2018 Legislative Session the Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee (JFAC), through legislative intent language, authorized funding for and requested the creation of a coordinated statewide strategic plan to address suicide prevention in Idaho. During the Spring of 2018, a planning team was created to develop that plan. I represented local public health as a member of the planning group and continue with those efforts today.

As an active participant in the meetings, I had the opportunity to develop and comment on activities, tasks, objectives and goals of the plan. I am in support of the plan presented to you and invested in participating in its implementation.

Suicide is a public health issue. One of local public health’s strengths is our ability to bring key players to the table to solve community problems. Through this grant we would have resources and funding at the local level to implement evidence-based community strategies to decrease our regional suicide rates.

The seven public health districts of Idaho are committed to the success of the Statewide suicide prevention plan and will work to see that all 44 counties benefit as a result of plan implementation.

Sincerely,

Lora Whalen, Director