

Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Grant
Pennsylvania Resource for Continuity of Care in Youth Serving Systems and Transitions
(PRCCYSST – “PERSIST” Project)

Goal #1: Promote early identification and referral of youth at risk of suicide within youth-serving systems, including schools, colleges, and primary care.

- Increase the number of gatekeepers trained to identify and refer suicidal youth.
- Increase the number of youth-serving organizations using standardized suicide screening to identify suicide risk.

Goal #2: Increase capacity-building among behavioral health providers to screen, assess, manage, and treat youth at risk of suicide.

- Increase the number of behavioral health providers across levels of care trained to utilize evidence-based practices for assessing and managing suicide risk among youth.
- Increase the capacity of youth-serving behavioral health agencies to engage families and deliver evidence-based treatment to youth at risk of suicide.

Goal #3: Expand partnerships to support care transitions, reentry, and follow-up for youth admitted into and discharged from hospitals and treatment centers.

- Identify and engage state, county, and community partners in 5 regions to identify barriers and solutions to improve care coordination for youth at risk of suicide.
- Increase the number of youth-serving systems that have established protocols and cross-systems MOUs to facilitate care transitions (e.g., hospital admission or discharge).
- Improve communication between county crisis response teams and other youth-serving systems (e.g., schools, colleges, primary care, outpatient, and inpatient).

Goal #4: Develop a comprehensive and sustainable statewide model for continuity of care for youth at risk of suicide based on lessons learned from targeted county-level efforts.

- Engage a broad stakeholder group through Prevent Suicide PA, including youth and family members with lived experience, to provide input and feedback on project implementation.
- Develop a toolkit with recommended procedures and strategies for building continuity of care for youth among behavioral health providers in diverse settings (e.g., schools, colleges, primary care, outpatient, inpatient etc.).

Overview of Available GLS Grant Strategies

The GLS grant team plans to make the following activities and resources available to partnering counties. Other implementation activities may be made available later on, based on identified needs. The grant is unable to provide funding directly to counties and instead provides support in the form of the activities below.

Training

- 1) Gatekeeper training (e.g., QPR, Youth Mental Health First Aid/Mental Health First Aid)
- 2) Suicide Risk Assessment
- 3) Safety Planning
- 4) Family Engagement
- 5) Attachment-based Family Therapy

While the GLS grant can generally cover the costs associated with the above trainings, there may be limits to the number of local trainings that may be able to be provided due to cost of travel and materials. This will be discussed between the GLS team and county contacts in advance of any trainings.

Screening and Assessment

- 1) Behavioral Health Screen (adolescent/school versions)
- 2) Behavioral Health Screen (child version)
- 3) Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS)

We realize that many counties/agencies are already using the BHS web-based screen through SAP. We hope to expand this tool into other child-serving systems to promote continuity of care and seek feedback about how and where this measure may be utilized.

Technical Assistance/Consultation

We plan to offer technical assistance/consultation to convene relevant stakeholders at the local level, identify needs/gaps, and strategically plan with relevant partners to work to improve continuity of care, a historically entrenched problem in mental health services, particularly for youth at high risk of suicide. As part of this, we would aim to support your agencies/counties with establishing more refined protocols and procedures to improve care coordination and seek to evaluate the outcomes of these efforts.

Awareness Activities and Other Resources

- 1) Suicide Prevention Online Learning Center/Facilitator Guides
- 2) Higher Education Suicide Prevention Coalition (HESPC)
- 3) Annual Suicide Prevention PSA Contest for High School Students
- 4) Youth Suicide Prevention Programming through grant partnerships with Aevium and the Jana Marie Foundation

Overview of Expectations for County Partnerships

Counties that agree to partner with the GLS team to implement more targeted strategies (see above) are expected to help facilitate these efforts by ensuring that there is both willingness and capacity to address the following:

Grant Proposal (prior to receipt of award)

- Letter of Commitment (*note: the team will provide templates if needed*)
- Point of contact to provide information regarding the following:
 - General needs within the county that align with grant goals/objectives
 - Information about existing infrastructure/resources within the county, including county-level cross-systems team (e.g., System of Care team)

Grant Term (after receipt of award)

- Lead contact to coordinate and communicate with GLS team and local county stakeholder group and provide support with the following:
 - Identifying contacts from child-serving systems and behavioral health entities (e.g., schools, primary care, crisis, psychiatric hospitals)
 - Scheduling of meetings and training events
 - Data collection and evaluation efforts
- Letter of Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding
- Data Collection:
 - Completion of needs assessment related to continuity of care barriers and resources, with multiple stakeholder involvement
 - Training Data
 - Training reports (e.g., numbers trained, locations, training type, etc.)
 - Training evaluation surveys (pre, post, follow-up)
 - Screening Data
 - Screening outcomes, referrals, and follow-up (e.g., access to treatment) for youth that screen positive for suicide risk (individual-level data, deidentified)
 - Aggregate screening data
 - Other Data Collection Measures (as applicable):
 - SAP Data: PDE 4092/JQRS
 - Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS)
 - Crisis referral tracking
- Engagement in a strategic planning process based on the needs assessment to address gaps and barriers to care coordination
 - Ongoing evaluation related to implementation of strategic plan to address needs will be discussed between local county stakeholders and GLS team, with frequency of data collection and reporting to be determined.