



Working Toward a Caring Community

The Samaritans of New York Projects FY 2008
New York State Office of Mental Health Grants

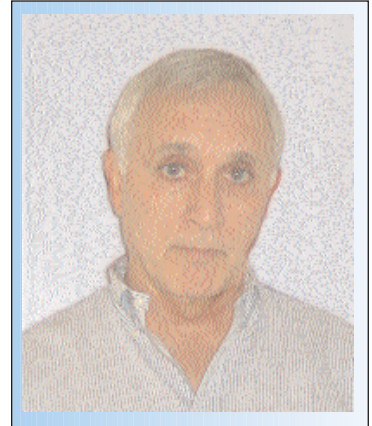
NYC SUMMIT on Suicide Prevention
Caregiver Needs Analysis Survey
Caring Community Conferences
Community Coalition Building
Suicide Prevention Sensitivity Training

Introduction

The information that follows documents the 14-month Samaritans of New York's "Working Towards a Caring Community" project which was the most extensive and intensive suicide prevention public education effort ever undertaken in our almost 25-year history working in New York City's remarkably diverse communities and neighborhoods.

Our *Caring Community* initiative was designed to provide education, information, skills training, knowledge of resources and a reality-based understanding of suicide and the keys to effective prevention to as many schools, groups and agencies working on the frontlines in NYC with populations that are at-risk for suicide as possible.

Caring Community continued Samaritans ongoing efforts to prevent suicide and befriend people in crisis that are practiced everyday by our 100 caring volunteers on our 24-hour confidential suicide prevention hotline, which answered over 51,000 calls in FY 2008.



This project was made possible by a series of grants from the New York State Office of Mental Health which has worked with and supported Samaritans' mission for many years. We want to thank OMH Commissioner Dr. Michael F. Hogan, his suicide prevention specialist, John Owens, NYC Field Office Director Anita Appel and their staff for their support, assistance and encouragement throughout this project.

We also want to thank the New York City Council, especially Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn, for its ongoing support of Samaritans and our public education suicide prevention work.

Finally, though this report contains a lot of numbers, lists and other forms of documentation of what was accomplished during this 14-month period, what is most important is that it represents people from every field, every area of expertise, every type of helping environment coming and working together to make New York City a more caring and responsive place for those who seek help and support, thereby, reducing the unnecessary loss of life that results from suicide.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Ross".

Alan Ross
Executive Director
July 22, 2008

Working Toward A Caring Community/Table of Contents

NYC SUMMIT on Suicide Prevention	4
Panels, Workshops and Discussion Groups	5
NYC SUMMIT Participant Needs Survey and Summary Report	8
Caring Community Conferences	10
Improving Crisis Response in the Bronx	12
Preventing Suicide By Practicing Empathy & Cultural Sensitivity (Queens)	13
Preventing Suicide in our College and University Communities (Brooklyn)	14
Preventing Suicide in NYC's Diverse Communities (Manhattan)	16
Community Coalition Building, Collaborations and Linkages	18
Samaritans Suicide Prevention Sensitivity Program	19

NYC SUMMIT on Suicide Prevention

Working Together to Build a Stronger and More Effective "Caring Community"

Wednesday, May 30, 2007

New York University, Skirball Center for the Performing Arts

The NYC SUMMIT on Suicide Prevention was designed to provide as broad a spectrum as possible of best practices, promising programs and the latest in research and treatment in one place for those caregivers, service providers, program administrators and others who are responsible for the implementation and delivery of suicide prevention programs in New York City's community-based organizations, government agencies, neighborhood voluntary services, colleges, universities, public and private schools.

With over 400 participants working with a cross-section of those populations that have been determined to be high risk for suicide (children, adolescents, college students, the elderly, homeless, chronic sick, mentally ill, victims of violence and sexual assault, those with alcohol and substance abuse problems, immigrants, veterans and uniformed services, members of the GLBTQ community and others), the goal was to provide key information, resources, skills development and cultural awareness and sensitivity that would impact and improve the effectiveness of identification, response and treatment.

A secondary--but just as significant--goal was to build and enhance community collaborations, coalitions and linkages; to tighten and strengthen the safety net for those people in New York City who are fragile, vulnerable, experiencing a crisis, a traumatic event or suffering from some form of illness or problem that increases their risk for suicide. With support from the New York State Office of Mental Health NYC Field Office, the New York City Council, the van Ameringen Foundation and the invaluable participation of so many key suicide prevention experts, organizations and government agencies, the NYC SUMMIT provided a significant step in expanding and shaping NYC's Caring Community.

Welcome

Alan Ross, Director, *The Samaritans of New York*

Keynote Speakers

Michael F. Hogan, Ph.D., Commissioner, *New York State Office of Mental Health*

Jorge Petit, MD, Associate Commissioner, *New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene*

Morning Program Presenters

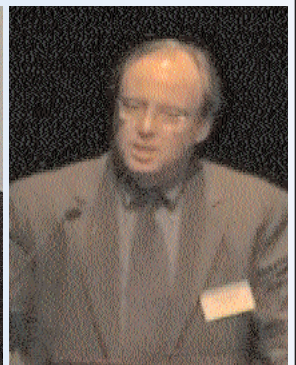
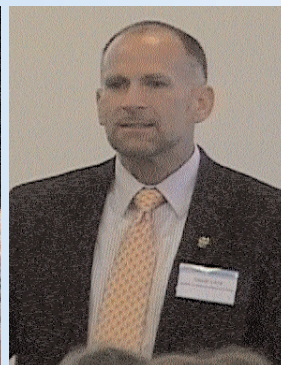
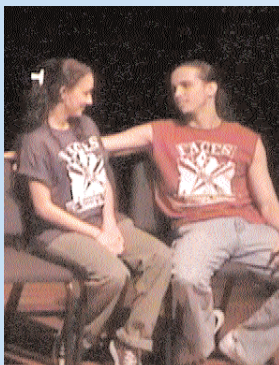
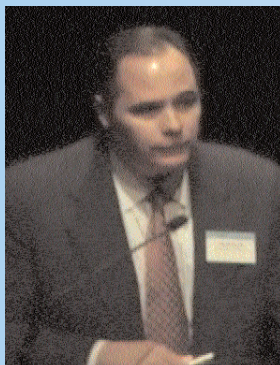
David Litts, O.D., F.A.A.O., Associate Director, *Suicide Prevention Resource Center*

David Rudd, Ph.D., ABPP, Chair, Department of Psychology, *Texas Tech University*

Joyce Wale, MSW, Senior Assistant Vice President, *NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation*

FACES, Maimonides Theater Network for Teens Outreach and Prevention Program

Jerry Reed, MSW, Executive Director, *Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN) USA, Inc.*



NYC SUMMIT Panels, Workshops & Discussion Groups

Counseling College Students and Youth One of the nation's most respected suicide prevention experts explores the keys to identification and assessment and the elements of quality care, including the latest research, ethical and legal issues facing providers. **M. David Rudd**, Ph.D., ABPP, Chair, Department of Psychology, Texas Tech University.

Responding to Latina Youth This workshop explores social, cultural, familial, immigration and religious issues tied to Latina suicide. **Veronica Rojas**, M.D., Associate Medical Director, Dept. of Psychiatry, Bellevue Hospital.

Treating the Elderly Understanding depression as well as the social and cultural biases they face are key elements in responding to the elderly. **Evelyn Laureano**, Ph.D., Executive Director, Neighborhood SHOPP (Self Help by Older Persons Project). **Amy Stern**, LCSW, Senior Social Worker, Irving Sherwood Wright Center on Aging.

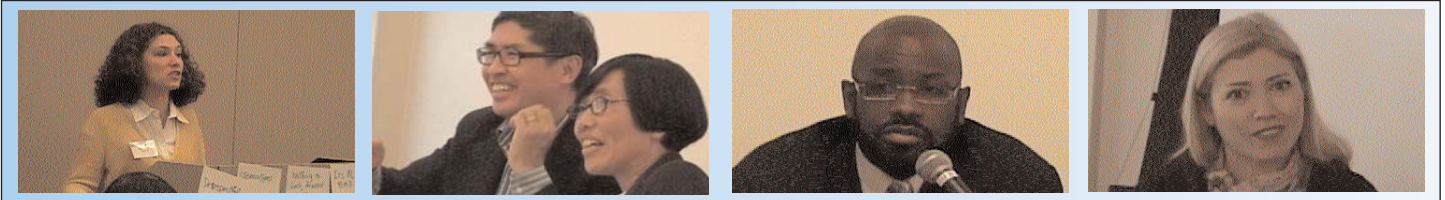
A Guide to Depression Screening This seminar provides an overview of depression screening tools. **Gerald Cohen**, M.D., a consulting psychiatrist at the NYC DOHMH, Division of Mental Hygiene. **Mina Fasolo** is the New York State TeenScreen Program Coordinator on the development and evaluation of local TeenScreen programs.

Addressing Asian Suicide Workshop and panel explore the stresses of immigration, family issues, shame, stigma and cultural isolation impacting this problem. **Irene Chung**, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Hunter College School of Social Work and **Peter Yee**, LMSW, President, NY Coalition for Asian American Mental Health. Additional panelists: **Dr. Teddy Chen**, Charles B. Wang Community Health Center; **Ruchika Bajaj**, MPH, MSW, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families; **Tracy Luo**, MSW, MHA of NYC.

Suicide in the GLBTQ Community Understanding the impact of suicide across the lifespan within the GLBTQ community. **Jessica Davis**, Citizens Advice Bureau, HIV Prevention, Gay Men's Health Crisis Community Education.

Understanding Young Children At Risk Responding to children who are displaying suicidal behavior is something even the most experienced mental health professionals find challenging. **Alexandra DeGeorge**, Psy.D., Institute for Anxiety and Mood Disorders, NYU Child Study Center.

What Am I Supposed To Do? Here is an opportunity to bring your worst case scenarios and ethical dilemmas and do creative team problem-solving facilitated by one of the most knowledgeable people in the field. **Jerry Reed**, MSW, Executive Director, Suicide Prevention Action Network USA, Inc.



Strategic Suicide Prevention Planning This workshop for program directors and administrators is presented by a national expert from the SAMHSA-funded Suicide Prevention Resource Center. **David Litts**, O.D., Associate Director, SPRC, and served as Special Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Health and the US Surgeon General.

Resources Round Table Experts from Covenant House's NineLine, HRA, DYCD, *LifeNet*, *CornellCares* share their knowledge of resources available in NYC for those who are at risk. **Risa Breckman**, LCSW, Weill Cornell Medical College's Division of Gerontology. **Gillian Murphy**, Ph.D., Director, LifeNet, Mental Health Association of NYC. **Denise DeVito**, M.S., Director of Training, Covenant House.

From A Faith-Based Perspective Explores the role that religious, spiritual and faith-based practice has for those people who experience emotional problems/mental illness and seek help. **Mary Ragan**, Ph.D., clinical social worker, Psychotherapy and Spirituality Institute. **Pete Peterson**, an ordained Deacon in the Episcopal Church.

NYC Health & Hospitals' SPIRIT Program Suicide Prevention, Intervention, Recovery and Information Toolkit (SPIRIT) is a prevention tool utilized throughout NYC. **Flora Solarz**, MPS, Director of Training and Development, NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation. **Terri Timberlake**, M.D., Queens Hospital Center, Department of Psychiatry.

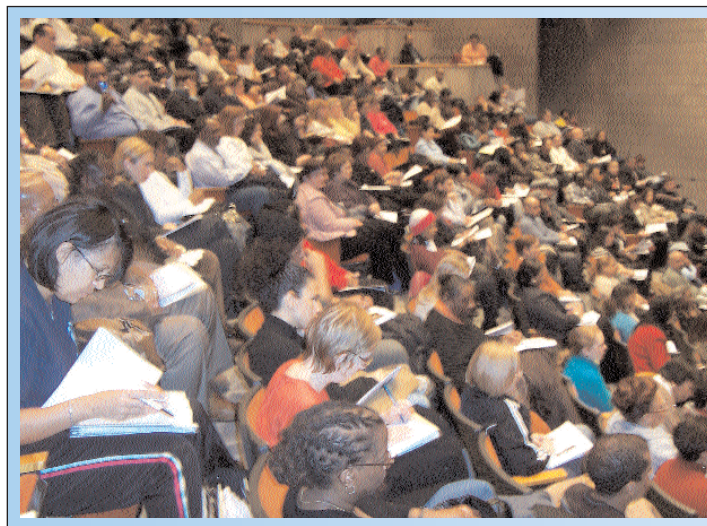
Understanding Adolescents At Risk This seminar covers the latest research, resources and keys to identification and effective treatment of adolescents. **Christopher P. Lucas**, M.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, NYU School of Medicine, and Director of the Early Childhood Service at NYU Child Study Center.

Traumatic Brain Injury & PTSD Studies show that those suffering from TBI are high risk for attempting suicide and research tied to PTSD is of growing significance. **Marcela Bonafina-Caraccioli**, Ph.D., Clinical Assistant Professor, Psychiatry Department, NYU School of Medicine; Assistant Director, TBI Unit, Bellevue Hospital. **Michael Kramer**, Ph.D., VA New York Harbor Healthcare System.

A cross-section of participants' titles and job descriptions

Director of Mental Health Services, Chief Medical Officer, Psychologist, Social Work Supervisor, Vice President of College Student Affairs, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Resident, Director of Multicultural Clinics, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Executive Deputy Chief Psychiatrist, Director of Education and Training, Research Analyst, Outpatient Mental Health Clinical Coordinator, Physician, Coordinator for Suicide Prevention, ASIST Trainer, Dean of Students, Director of Public Policy, Director of Research, Clinical Risk Manager, Assistant Commissioner, NYPD Sergeant, Executive Board Member, Nonprofit President, Associate Professor, Caregiver Services Coordinator, Assistant Unit Chief, Policy Associate, Vice President for Older Adult Services,

Supervisor of School Psychologists, Coordinator of Clinical Training, Director of Nursing, Deputy Director of Public Affairs, EAP Specialist, Chief of Quality Assurance and Resource Development, Peer Educator, Community Health Specialist, Supervising Activity Therapist, Hotline Supervisor, Youth Initiatives Director, Regional Health Director, Director of School Programs and Development, Nurse Practitioner, Children and Youth Counselor, Training Design and Implementation Director, Content Area Expert for Guidance Counseling, Domestic Violence Counselor, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Director of Social Services, Director of Field Operations, Clinic Director, Medicaid Service Coordinator, Teen Depression Screening Coordinator, Hospital Outpatient Division Director



The following is a comprehensive list of community-based organizations and agencies that attended the SUMMIT

Administration for Children's Services - Division of Child Protection; Child Protective Support Team (CPST); Training Unit; James Satterwhite Academy
Adelphi University - Counseling Center
Aid for AIDS - NY Immigrant AIDS Link
Alianza Dominicana - Children, Adolescent and Family Support Clinic; Best Beginnings; MS 201 Beacon School Youth Programs
Barnard College - Furman Counseling Center
Bellevue Hospital Center - Center for Asian Families; Dept. of Social Work; Community and Ambulatory Psychiatry Unit
Bronx Mental Health Court
Bronx Psychiatric Center
Bronx VA Medical Health Center - Mental Health/PTSD Program; Social Work Program; Patient Care Center; Outpatient Mental Health Clinic; Telephone Triage Unit
Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service, Inc.
Brooklyn Children's Center
Catholic Charities
Catholic Charities Brooklyn & Queens - Flowers with Care Educational Programs; Older Adult Services
Charles B. Wang Community Health Center
Chinese-American Planning Council
City College of New York - Wellness and Counseling Center
City Comptroller's Office
Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Inc.

Coler-Goldwater Specialty Hospital & Nursing Facility - Psychiatry Unit
Columbia University TeenScreen Program
Community Association of Progressive Dominicans (ACDP) - Department of Family and Clinical Service
Community Healthcare Network - CABS Health Center, Mental Health Program
Comunilife, Inc. - HIV/AIDS Division; Administrative Office
Coney Island Hospital - Outpatient Division; Behavioral Health Dept., Nursing Division
Covenant House - Nineline Hotline; Under 21 Health Services
Creedmoor Psychiatric Center
DC 37 Union - Legal Services Plan
East New York Diagnostic & Treatment Center
Elmhurst Hospital Center - Nursing; In-patient Psychiatry; Asian Mental Health Program
Fashion Institute of Technology - Counseling Center; Department of Residential Life
FDNY Counseling Service Unit
Federal Aviation Administration - EAP
FECS - Brooklyn Continuing Day Treatment (CDT) Program; Transitional Support Center; Administrative Office
Fordham University - Counseling and Psychological Services
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) - Hotline; David Geffen Testing Center
Gouverneur Hospital

Girls, Inc. - National Headquarters, Latina Initiative
Green Chimneys Children's Services
Greenwich House - AIDS Mental Health; Chemical Dependency Program; Parole Dept.
Hamilton-Madison House - Behavioral Health Program; Korean Clinic
Harlem Hospital Center
Health Net, Inc - Managed Health Network, Outpatient HMO Team
Heritage Health and Housing, Inc.
Health and Hospitals Corporation
Health and Hospitals Health & Home Care
Hofstra University - Student Counseling Svs.
Hunter College - Office of Student Affairs
Institute for Community Living
Institute for Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly - Clinica Nueva Esperanza; El Cemi Housing Development; Caregiver Services
Institute for Urban Family Health - Washington Irving School-Based Health Center, Psychosocial Services; Urban Horizons Family Practice
Interfaith Medical Center - Psychiatry Behavioral Health Program
Iona College - Counseling Center; Department of Student Development
Ittleson Foundation
Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services
Mental Health Services to Older Adults; Youth Counseling League (YCL)

Kings County Hospital Center - Forensic Psychiatry; Adult Division Training Unit
 Kingsboro Psychiatric Center - Carnasie Clinic; Central Administration; Clinical Svcs.
 Kingsborough Community College - Student Development Dept, Access-Ability Center
 Korean American Behavioral Health Assn.
 La Asociacion Benefica Cultural Father Bellini
 Latina PAC - Suicide Prevention Committee
 Lehman College - The Counseling Center
 LGBT Community Center - Center CARE
 Lincoln Medical & Mental Health Center
 Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services - Toddler Nursery; Administration
 Long Island University - Brooklyn Campus, Mental Health Counseling Program
 Lower Eastside Service Center
 Lutheran Family Health Network
 Lutheran Medical Center - Sunset Terrace Outpatient Mental Health
 Manhattan Psychiatric Center - Psychology Department; Community Services Dept.
 Marymount Manhattan College - Counseling and Psychological Services
 Mental Health Association of NYC
 Morris Heights Health Center - Community Health Worker Program; Youth Changing Paths Program
 Mount Sinai Medical Center - Adolescent Health Center
 National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) New York State and NYC Metro Offices
 New York Institute of Technology - Counseling and Wellness Services Center
 New York-Presbyterian Hospital - Irving Sherwood Wright Center on Aging
 New York University - Counseling and Behavioral Health Service; School of Social Work; Student Health Center; Steinhardt Dept. of Applied Psychology, Counseling for Mental Health & Wellness Program; Health Promotion; Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development
 North Central Bronx Hospital - Behavioral Health Division
 New York Committee on Occupational Safety and Health - Immigration Project
 New York Coalition for Asian American Mental Health

NYC City Council - Office of Council Member Gale Brewer
 NYC Department of Education - Office of Youth Development; Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Program; Committee on Special Education Regions 1, 6, 7 & 10; Office of School Intervention and Development; Office of School Health; Bronx Office for Students in Temporary Housing; Related and Contractual Services
 NYC Department for the Aging
 NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) - Office of School Health; Correctional Health Svcs; Program Svcs.; Contract Programs; Health Svcs.
 NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) - Commissioner's Office; Out of School Time; Runaway and Homeless Youth Services
 NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA) - Social Services Department; Community Operations Administration & Citywide Program
 NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA) - Infoline; CASA VI (Homecare); Home Care Service Program; Office of Constituent and Community Affairs
 NYPD Early Intervention Unit
 NYS Office of Children and Family Services
 NYS Office of Mental Health
 NYU Child Study Center
 Odyssey House
 Pace University - Counseling Center
 Passages - Counseling Program
 Pathways to Housing
 Polytechnic University
 Pratt Institute - Health and Counseling Svcs.
 PSCH, Inc. - Mental Health Services
 Queens College - Counseling and Resource Center; Counselor Education Program
 Queens Community House - Young Adult Borough Center (YABC)
 Queens Hospital Center - Nursing Department; Inpatient Psychiatry; Risk Management
 Rhode Island College - Counseling Center
 Sacred Heart University - Student Health Center
 Safe Horizon - Families of Homicide Victims Program
 Sakhi for South Asian Women

SCO Family of Services
 Services for New Adult Persons, Inc.
 South Bronx Mental Health Council
 St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction - Mental Health Department
 St. Francis College - Student and Health Services
 St. John's University - Counseling Center
 St. Joseph's College - Student Life; Wellness Center; Counseling and Career Development
 St. Vincent's Hospital - Children and Adolescents Program
 STAR NYC (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience)
 Staten Island Mental Health Council
 Stony Brook University - Counseling Center; Women and Gender Resource Center
 Suffolk County Community College - Counseling Center
 SUNY Downstate Medical Center - Student Counseling Service
 The Center for Family Support - Community Services, Medicaid Service
 The Icarus Project
 The Jed Foundation
 The Juilliard School - Counseling Service
 The League Treatment Center - Joan Fenichel Therapeutic Nursery (JFTN) and The League School
 The New School - Student Health Services
 The NY Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children - Trauma Recovery Program
 University Consultation Center
 University Settlement - Consultation Center
 Urban Health Plan - Club TIA
 Us Against Abuse
 van Ameringen Foundation
 Vassar College - Student Psychological Svcs.
 Violence Intervention Program - Residential Services
 Westchester Community College - Counseling and Student Development; Transfer Services
 Westside Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing - Valley Lodge; West 74th St. Home
 Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center
 Yeshiva University - Counseling Center
 Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice - Wellness Department
 Zappalorti Society



NYC SUMMIT Participant Needs Survey and Summary Report

(data analysis provided by Monica Matthieu, Ph.D., LCSW, George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Center for Mental Health Services Research, Washington University, St. Louis)

We asked participants at the NYC SUMMIT for their analysis of the current state of suicide prevention in their communities, with the goal of advancing awareness, education, program development and planning in NYC. *The Participant Needs Analysis and Questionnaire* had two components--1) a five-part series of questions adapted from survey tools developed in 2005 by Kerry Knox, Ph.D. and Monica Matthieu, Ph.D. of the University of Rochester, in their work evaluating the efficacy of Samaritans Public Education training program; 2) a series of four open-ended questions inviting participants to provide their thoughts about their knowledge, comfort and readiness to respond to someone who is talking about suicide; the areas of information, knowledge and skills they would like to receive more education in; the activities, programs and services *they think* would help reduce suicide and the types of networks and collaborations they would like to see.

A. Please check the box to questions 1-5 that best describes your perspective before attending the SUMMIT.

- | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. How would you rate your level of knowledge about the cause(s) of depression and suicidal behavior? | <input type="checkbox"/> very low | <input type="checkbox"/> low | <input type="checkbox"/> medium | <input type="checkbox"/> high | <input type="checkbox"/> very high |
| 2. How would you rate your level of confidence in responding directly to someone who is talking about suicide? | <input type="checkbox"/> very low | <input type="checkbox"/> low | <input type="checkbox"/> medium | <input type="checkbox"/> high | <input type="checkbox"/> very high |
| 3. How would you rate the amount of suicide prevention and awareness training you have received in your career? | <input type="checkbox"/> very low | <input type="checkbox"/> low | <input type="checkbox"/> medium | <input type="checkbox"/> high | <input type="checkbox"/> very high |
| 4. How would you rate your knowledge of the warning signs and risk factors associated with suicide? | <input type="checkbox"/> very low | <input type="checkbox"/> low | <input type="checkbox"/> medium | <input type="checkbox"/> high | <input type="checkbox"/> very high |
| 5. How would you rate your ability to effectively determine the "degree of suicide risk" of a client or student? | <input type="checkbox"/> very low | <input type="checkbox"/> low | <input type="checkbox"/> medium | <input type="checkbox"/> high | <input type="checkbox"/> very high |

Overall, close to 50% of respondents who are almost all working actively in the field either responding directly to at-risk clients/students or overseeing programs and services that respond to or treat at-risk populations rating their knowledge of the causes of depression and suicide, level of confidence responding to those at risk, knowledge of warning signs and risk factors and ability to effectively determine risk as between *very low* and *medium*. This result indicates that this sampling of a cross-section of NYC caregivers and providers is acknowledging their lack of comfort, preparation and readiness in identifying, assessing and responding to those individuals and populations that are at-risk.

The NYC SUMMIT Participant Needs Survey results indicate that the participants (N=214) were employed professionals from a range of disciplines (e.g., social work, counseling, psychology, nursing, medicine) with over half of the sample having a masters degree with the remaining participants completing high school (7%), an associates or bachelors degree (17%) or possessing an MD, Ph.D. or other doctorate (18%). The trainees had from 0 to 42 years of experience with an average of 12.9 (SD=9.2) years practicing in the field. The populations served included those identified by age (i.e., children 0-18, adults, elderly), ethnicity (i.e., Asian adults, Koreans), other socio-demographic characteristic (i.e., veterans, GLBTQ, college students), service sector (i.e., law enforcement, schools, mental health) or service focus (i.e., HIV, domestic violence, forensics, SMPI).

Participants were asked to rate their knowledge, confidence and abilities regarding suicide and suicidal behaviors prior to the SUMMIT on a five point scale from very low to very high (0-4). Nearly three quarters of the participants (72%; n=153) reported that they have received very low to medium amounts of suicide prevention and awareness training in their career (M=1.91; SD=1.05). With regard to their level of knowledge about the cause(s) of depression and suicidal behavior, 45% (n=95) of the participants rated their knowledge as very low to medium (M=2.62, SD=0.83).

While almost half of the participants (49%; n=105) had very low to medium levels of confidence in responding directly to someone who is talking about suicide (M=2.48; SD=0.96), the perception of their (48%; N=102) knowledge of warning signs and risk factors associated with suicide was also at very low to medium levels (M=2.51; SD=0.84). Finally, 49% (n=102) of participants reported a very low to medium ability to effectively determine the "degree of suicide risk" of a client or student (M=2.39; SD=0.93).

Participants offered specific comments in connection with their response to these questions:

- "I continue to feel inadequate in regards to responding to a suicide threat."
- "While there are trainings [about] identifying signs/risks there seems to be little trainings on actual effective interventions that clinicians, medical providers can do.... "
- "I have some knowledge due to training in current job but still need training in increasing awareness and what to do with this knowledge."

This confirms Samaritans ongoing observations and feedback received from countless training programs and conferences, namely that there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done to just get to the *baseline* level of competence in terms of this issue, even for those mental health professionals with advanced education and extensive clinical experience.

- "There needs to be more/adequate training of social service providers in all level on suicide prevention and identify if high risk factors."
- "Intervention focused training on suicide prevention is critical and is not available on a frequent enough basis, even in the Tx [treatment] community."
- "In NYC Department of Education there are regulations on suicide prevention but there needs to be yearly training on risk factors, depression and suicide behavior and best practices for prevention intervention and postvention."

Participants' responses also seem to suggest, since the vast majority of the respondents (79%) have advanced degrees and/or clinical/professional titles, that formal education in social work, psychology, counseling, etc. is not providing the necessary awareness and skills that lead to comfort and confidence in responding to those who are at risk.

- "In my educational training we learned about the risk factors and signs but not how to respond to situations."
- "It is absolutely true that the amount of attention given to address suicide is minimal in the college class settings. At least is was for me."
- "Suicide prevention and education ought to be mandatory in undergraduate & graduate education; because it is a critical issue in the field of social work."

And the fact that in question #3 (*How would you rate the amount of suicide prevention and awareness training you have received in your career?*) 72% of participants rated themselves as very low-medium and only 28% high-very high certainly strongly emphasizes the need for a broader-based, more immediate, comprehensive and accessible approach to training than that which is currently available.

- "Would like more training in managing my own emotions in relation to this."
- "I have a BA in psychology, 19 years in social services, but I still feel I need more training."
- "Today's program provided me with more information than I have received throughout my educational and professional experience."

The SUMMIT participants were also asked to identify areas of information, knowledge or skills that they would like to receive additional education or training in. Over half of the participants (55%; n=118) identified that more training in the warning signs of suicide and assessment would be beneficial. Slightly less than half of the participants at 43% (n=91) were interested in information on the availability of resources. One quarter of the participants also expressed an interest in awareness and sensitivity training (22%; n=47) as well as statistics and research (20%; n=43).

Working Towards A Caring Community Suicide Prevention Conferences

Presented in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens, NYC, FY 2008

Overview

The Samaritans of New York's *Working Towards A Caring Community* public education and awareness conferences were designed to provide suicide prevention training to lay and professional caregivers and service providers to improve their ability to engage, identify, respond to and treat those who are in crisis and suicidal, and to increase the dissemination of information, linkages and collaborations among those government, non-profit and community-based agencies that serve at-risk populations in New York City which, it could be argued, contains more diverse cultures and communities than any city in the United States.

The recipients of this education and training came, primarily, from the New York City public school system, our colleges and universities and the City's community-based organizations that are frequently the only source of help accessed by those who are hesitant to utilize health services, do not have adequate (or any) health coverage or who (for countless reasons, cultural bias, stigma, legal issues, etc) are resistant to seek treatment. In addition to the populations that have been clearly identified as high risk--teenagers, college students, the elderly, young Latinas, young and older Asians females--we also served those groups that work with victims of violence and abuse, the GLBTQ community, veterans, immigrants, the homeless, alcohol and substance abusers, the mentally ill, emergency responders (police, firefighters, EMS) and others.

Attendees and Organizations Served

The four Caring Community conferences served a total of 947 attendees from 632 unique NYC public schools, colleges and universities, community-based organizations and government agencies. Invitations to the conferences resulted from intensive research by Samaritans into the organizations and community groups that worked most closely with those at-risk for suicide. Particular attention was paid, especially with the NYC Department of Education, to identify individuals and departments within schools and agencies that worked on the frontlines with high-risk populations or those that came into daily contact in some manner with those at-risk for suicide.

The breakdown of those who attended the conferences from all of NYC's five boroughs is:

544 Department of Education staff from 486 public schools, 9 supervisory divisions and 2 special programs

320 community-based organization and government agency staff from 98 CBOs and government agencies
(comprising 174 departments and programs within those organizations and agencies)

82 NYC Metropolitan area college and university staff from 37 colleges and universities
(comprising 57 departments and programs within those colleges and universities)

Participant Titles and Job Descriptions

A cross-section of the participants' titles and roles includes: Guidance Counselor, Bilingual School Social Worker, Psychologist, Director of College Counseling, NYPD School Safety Officer, EAP Health Service Consultant, Peer Health Educator, Senior Vocational Manager, Director of Adult Mental Health Services, Dean of Students, Nursing Director, Pediatrician, Director of Pastoral Services, Teacher, EMT, Case Planner, Academic Adviser, Site Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Assistant Rehabilitation Specialist, Chief of Adolescent Medicine, Nonprofit President, Family Support Services Program Coordinator, Minister, Senior Job Coach, Epidemiologist, Rape and Sexual Assault Senior Case Manager, Disability Services Counselor, Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention Specialist (SAPIS), Assistant Principal-Pupil Personnel Services, Therapist, HIV/SAC, Director of Housing and Residence Life, Nurse Practitioner, Hotline Trainer, Intake Worker, Director of Social Work, Clinical Research Assistant, Vice President for College Communications, Residence Hall Manager, Director of Career Development.

The Program Model

The Caring Community conference model is composed of the primary components--awareness, sensitivity and cultural diversity, warning signs and assessment, clinical information and available resources--that have been identified as requisite components of comprehensive public education training on this issue by current literature and the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. Except for the initial pilot at Lehman College in the Bronx (where the Cultural Sensitivity Panel was first utilized), the conferences were presented in an all-day format, which provided participants with both group breakfasts and lunches which allowed them to develop relationships with other members of the "helping community" and expand their social and professional networks. The conference programs consisted of:

A morning awareness, sensitivity and cultural diversity program presenting: suicide statistics, trends, myths and misconceptions, stigma and difficulties caregivers face in responding to those at risk; followed by an expert panel addressing the issues and needs of various at-risk populations.

An afternoon program consisting of: a) active listening and interpersonal communications skills necessary to effectively engage those at-risk; b) warning signs, risk and protective factors and effective assessment and emergency response protocols; c) information and referrals available, how to access them, how they are best utilized and other possible treatment resources.

Each conference had a specific theme and focus and emphasized programs and services in the particular borough where it was presented. The subject-matter experts and cultural sensitivity and diversity panel members were also selected with an emphasis on the theme of that conference and the areas of interest and need that our research and feedback revealed to be of highest priority to attendees (i.e., in Queens, there was great concern on assessing risk in young children under nine years old; in Brooklyn, the ethical and legal issues that college health clinic counselors face on a regular basis, etc.).

Funding and Support

Major funding for the Caring Community conferences was provided to Samaritans through a New York State Office of Mental Health suicide prevention grant for FY 2008, with additional funding by the NYS Office of Mental Health NYC Field Office. Matching funds were also provided by NYC Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn and the NYC Council Manhattan Delegation, NYC Council Members Daniel R. Garodnick (Manhattan), Robert Jackson (Manhattan), Rosie Mendez (Manhattan), Joel Rivera (Bronx) and David Weprin (Queens). Lehman College (Bronx), John Jay College of Criminal Justice (Manhattan), Queensborough Community College (Queens) and St. Francis College (Brooklyn) each provided additional support by arranging to host the conference events at little or no expense to Samaritans.

NYS Assemblyman Peter M. Rivera, the NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, the NYS Office of Mental Health, NYC Suicide Prevention Consortium, NYC Department of Education, NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation, NYU Child Study Center, Columbia University, New York Coalition for Asian American Mental Health, Mental Health Association of NYC and The Jed Foundation also provided assistance and support in designing and presenting these programs.



Improving Crisis Response In The Bronx

Lehman College in the Bronx, December 18, 2007

With a focus on Bronx-based public schools and community public health and social service organizations, a total of 247 total attendees (91 community-based organization staff, 138 NYC Department of Education (DOE) staff and 17 NYPD School Safety Officers) from 25 community-based organizations and government agencies (from 51 individual sites and departments) and 168 public schools and 3 Department of Education supervisory divisions.

Welcome

Jose Magdaleno, *Lehman College, Vice President for Student Affairs*

Opening Remarks

Assemblyman Peter M. Rivera, Chair, *New York State Assembly Mental Health Committee*

Understanding the Problem

Alan Ross, Director, *The Samaritans of New York*

Cultural Sensitivity Panel

Ady Ben-Israel, MA, LMSW, *LGBT Community Center, Center CARE Program (GLBTQ community)*

Irene Chung, Ph.D., LCSW, *Hunter College School of Social Work (Young and Older Asians)*

Alexandra DeGeorge, PsyD., *NYU Child Study Center, Institute for Anxiety & Mood Disorders (Children & Adolescents)*

Gabriela Marquez, LMSW, *Montefiore School Health Center (Young Latinas)*



Participating community-based organizations and government agencies:

Administration for Children's Services - Bronx Division of Child Protection, Bronx Field Office; Child Evaluation and Family Assessment Programs

Adolescent and Family Comprehensive Services, Inc. - Community Based Abstinence

Bronx AIDS Services

Bronx Children's Psychiatric Center

Bronx VA Medical Center-Mental Health Patient Care

Casa Promesa

Children's Aid Society - Bronx Family Center; Bronx PINS Diversion Program; Programs at Community School 61 / Intermediate School 190 and Intermediate Schools 98 and 218

Citizens Advice Bureau-Adolescent Development Program, Safe Passage

Jewish Home LifeCare - Adult Day Care Center for the Visually Impaired; Adult Day Health Care

Lincoln Hospital Medical & Mental Health Center - Social Services, Ambulatory/Medicine & OBS/Maternity

Montefiore School Health Program - Administration & Walton High School Campus Clinic

Morris Heights Health Center - Behavioral Health Svcs.

New York City Housing Authority - 12 sites: 1200 Waters Place; 45 Allen Street Clinical Unit; Armstrong Houses; Astoria Houses; Fort Washington Houses; Haber Houses; Jefferson Houses HARTS Program; Pomonok Houses; Thurgood Marshall Houses; Union Avenue Consolidated; Van Dyke Houses; Vandalia Houses

North Central Bronx Hospital

NYPD - School Safety Division In-Service Training Unit

Phipps Community Development Corporation - Mapes Court; Phipps Town and Country Residence

River Center for Counseling

Safe Horizon Bronx Community Program

The Bronx Health Link

VIP Community Services - Opioid Treatment Program (OTP); Women's Center; Poder Apartment; Administrative Offices

Walton Family Health Center

Westchester Avenue Center

Women's Housing and Economic Development Corp. (WHEDCo) - Family Support Department

Participating public schools:

Elementary Schools: PS 2, PS 6, PS 7, PS 9, PS 15, PS 16, PS 19, PS 20, PS 33, PS 36, PS 41, PS 46, PS 53, PS 55 Benjamin Franklin, PS 56, PS 65, PS 68, PS 72, PS 79, PS 85, PS 89, PS 94, PS 100 PS 106, PS 110, PS 126, PS 140 Eagle School, PS 142, PS 160, PS 163, PS/MS 194, PS 277, PS 279, PS/MS 279, PS 280, PS 291, PS 310, PS 329, PS 340, PS 360, PS 396

Intermediate and Middle Schools: MS 45, MS 80, MS 98, MS 101, IS 125, MS 127, MS 145, MS 166, MS 180, MS 201, MS 203, MS 212, MS 219, IS 229, MS 237/244, MS 286 Fanny Lou, MS 301, MS 302, MS 313, MS 318, MS 368, MS 390, MS 391, Forward School (287)

High Schools: Academy of Letters, Al E. Smith, Christopher Columbus, Columbus High, Crotona Academy High School, Evander Childs, Felisa

Rincon, Fordham HS for the Arts, Harry Truman, Jane Addams, John F. Kennedy, Jonathan Levin, Law & Community Service, Lehman High School, Metropolitan High School, New School for Arts & Sciences, Performance and Stagecraft, Stevenson, The Bronx HS of Science

Additional Schools: 001, 005, 018, 019, 025, 032, 036, 041, 045, 048, 051, 057, 058, 065, 068, 069, 072, 073, 075, 076, 080, 089, 090, 092, 096, 100, 105, 107, 109, 119, 123, 128, 130, 132, 134, 138, 142, 151, 152, 154, 156, 160, 166, 170, 178, 180, 181, 189, 198, 203, 204, 205, 211, 214, 215, 226, 229, 243, 244, 252, 253, 254, 267, 272, 282, 284, 289, 290, 296, 298, 299, 303, 304, 306, 313, 318, 325, 327, 328, 333, 335, 337, 366, 367, 374, 377, 379, 390, 399, 415, 440, 450, 455, 477, 517, 519, 527, 530, 540, 542, 547, 549, 550, 660, 670, 684, 690, 692, NYC Department of Education Office of School and Youth Development

Preventing Suicide By Practicing Empathy & Cultural Sensitivity **Queensborough Community College in Queens, March 4, 2008**

With a focus on Queens-based public schools, a total of 206 attendees (198 NYC Department of Education staff and 8 community-based organization and government agency staff) from 161 public schools (84 elementary, 46 middle and 32 high schools), 3 DOE supervisory divisions, 2 DOE special programs and 6 CBOs and government agencies.

Keynote Speakers

David I. Weprin, *New York City Council Member, Queens*

Understanding the Problem

Alan Ross, Director, *The Samaritans of New York*

Cultural Sensitivity Panel

Alexandra DeGeorge, PsyD, *NYU Child Study Center, Institute for Anxiety & Mood Disorders (Children & Adolescents)*

Denise DeVito, MS, *Covenant House, Nyneline (Youth At-Risk)*

Kin Wah Lee, MPS, *New York State Office of Mental Health, Kingsboro Psychiatric Center (Asian Youth)*

Dana Lizardi, Ph.D., *Columbia University School of Social Work (Young Latinas)*

Afternoon Program

Alan Ross, *The Samaritans of New York (Crisis Communications)*

Doug Beer, MD, *Elmhurst Hospital & Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, Dept. of Psychiatry (Warning Signs & Assessment)*

Karen Carlucci, LCSW, *Mental Health Association of NYC, LifeNet (NYC-based Resources)*

Participating public schools:

Elementary Schools: 51st Avenue Academy, Abigail Adams School, Aerospace Science Magnet School, Alexander Bell School, Alfred Zimberg School, Arthur Ashe School, Bay Terrace Elementary School, Bayside School, Bayview School, Cadwallader Colden, Cambria Heights School, Cambridge Family School, Captain Vincent Fowles School, Chester Park School, Chris Galas School, Christa McAuliffe School, Clearview School, Cynthia Jenkins School, Dorothy Borewit Kole School, Edward Funk School, Edward K. Ellington School, Edward Mandel School, Elmhurst School, Fairview School, Forest Park School, Hammond School, Harry Eichler School, Hillside School, Jackie Robinson School, Jackson Heights School, James B. Colgate School, Jaqueline Onasis School, Jean Paul Richter School, John Golden School, John Harvard School, Joseph P. Addabbo School, Judge Charles Vallone School, Juniper Valley School, Kew Gardens School, Kissena

Elementary School, Langston Hughes School, Lorraine Hansberry School, Louis Simeone School, Lynn Gras Discovery School, Mary D. Carter School, Maspeth Elementary School, Maure School, Maurice Fitzgerald School, Nathaniel Woodhull School, Old South School, Patricia Larkin School, Peter G. Van Alst School, PS 120, PS 121, PS 16, PS 212, PS 233, PS 29, PS 4, PS 52, PS 78, PS 811, PS 9, Queens Valley School, Ralph Bunche School, Raymond York Elementary School, Rego Park School, Richard Arkwright School, Ronald McNair School, Rosedale School, Roy Wilkins School, Ruby S. Couche School, Samantha Smith, State School, Sunnyside School, Talfourd Lawn Elementary School, Thomas Dooley Elementary School, Thomas Jefferson School, Thurgood Marshall Magnet School, Walter Ward School, William Hallett School, William Wordsworth School, Woodhaven School

Middle/Intermediate Schools: Adrien Block Intermediate School, Albert Shanker School of Visual and Performing Arts, Bell Academy, Brian Piccolo Middle School, Catherine & Count Basie Middle School, Crossroads School, Edward Bleeker Junior High School, Elizabeth Blackwell, Glendale School, Horace Greeley, Jacob August Riis School, Jean Nuzzi Intermediate School, Joseph Pulitzer, Laurelton School, Louis Armstrong Middle School, Mamie Fay School, Marie Curie Middle School, Middle Village School, Nathaniel Hawthorne Middle School, Osmond A. Church School, Paul Klapper School, IS 77, PS/IS 266, PS/IS 268, PS/IS 270, PS/IS 295, Rachel Carson Intermediate School, Renaissance Middle School, Richard R. Green School, Richard S. Grossley Junior High School, Ridgewood Intermediate School, Robert A. VanWyck Middle School, Robert F. Kennedy Intermediate School, School by the Sea, SIGMA, Springfield Gardens Middle School, Steinway Intermediate School, Stephen A. Halsey Junior High School, Susan B. Anthony Academy, Thom J. McCann Woodside School, Tri-Community Junior High School, Virgil Grissom School, Walt Whitman Junior High School, Walter H. Crowley School of Leadership, William C. Highley School, William Carr Junior High School

High Schools: Academy of American Studies, Academy of Finance and Enterprise, ACORN Community High School, August Martin High School, Aviation Career & Technical Education High School, Beach Channel High School, Brooklyn Academy of Science and the Environment, Cypress Hills Collegiate Preparatory School, Forest Hills High School, Frank Sinatra School of the Arts, Grover Cleveland High School, High School for Construction Trades, Engineering and Architecture, High School of Applied Communication, Hillcrest High School, Information Technology High School, Jamaica High School, John Adams High School, John Bowne High School, Legacy School for Integrated Studies, Long Island City High School, Mathematics, Science Research and Technology Magnet High School, Newtown High School, Pathways College Preparatory School, Queens Vocational & Technical High School, Richmond Hill High School, Robert F. Kennedy High School, Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Secondary School for Arts and Technology, Scholars' Academy, South Shore High School, Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Education High School, William Cullen Bryant High School, World Journalism Preparatory School

Participating community-based organizations and government agencies:

Department of Education Administration & Special Programs

Department of Education Queens Central Office - Committees on Special Education (Regions 3 & 4)
Department of Education Queens Integrated Service Center
Queens School District 79 GED Plus Program
Peace Academy Afterschool Program

Community-Based Programs

Community Mediation Services, Inc. - School-Based Mediation Programs; Queens Adolescent Diversion Program
The Child Center of New York - Child and Family Clinic Plus
Positive Beginnings Special Education Preschool
ENACT, Inc. - Attendance Improvement Dropout Prevention (AIDP)

Preventing Suicide in Our College and University Communities **St. Francis College in Brooklyn, May 2, 2008**

With a focus on preventing suicide amongst older adolescents and college students at colleges and universities in all five boroughs and Brooklyn and Staten Island-based high schools, a total of 223 total attendees (82 college and university staff, 126 Department of Education staff, 15 community-based organization staff) from 37 colleges and universities (and 57 departments and programs within those colleges), 75 high schools and 7 community-based organizations.

Understanding Suicide

Alan Ross, Director, *The Samaritans of New York*

Cultural Sensitivity Panel

Carrie Spindel, Psy.D., *NYU Child Study Center, Institute for Anxiety & Mood Disorders (H.S. & College Students)*
Grace Hwang Hudson, LCSW-R, *NYU Student Health Center (Culturally Diverse & International College Students)*

Afternoon Program

Manuel Lopez-Leon, MD, *NYU School of Medicine; NYC Health & Hospitals Corp. (Warning Signs and Assessment)*
Victor Schwartz, MD, *Yeshiva University, Dean of Students (Social, Ethical and Legal Challenges)*
Karen Carlucci, LCSW, *Mental Health Association of NYC, LifeNet (NYC-Based Resources)*
Anita Schillhorn van Veen, *The Jed Foundation (ULifeline Web-Based and Other Resources)*

Participating colleges, universities, community-based organizations and government agencies:

Adelphi University - Public Affairs Department
Aetna Employee Assistance Program - College Wellness
Barnard College - College Activities
Borough of Manhattan Community College - Student Life Department
Brooklyn College - Public Safety; School Psychology Graduate Program

City College of New York - Wellness and Counseling Center
College of Mount Saint Vincent - Student Health Center
College of Staten Island - Student Counseling Center
Columbia University - Center for Student Advising; School of Nursing
Columbia University Medical Center - Student Health Service

Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art - Office of Student Services
 Cypress Hills LDC - College STEPS Program; YouthLEAD
 Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) - FIT-ABLE, Office of Disability Services; Health Services
 Five Towns College - Counseling Services; Residence Life Office
 Hunter College - Personal Counseling Service; Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge (SEEK) Program
 John Jay College of Criminal Justice - Educational Talent Search Program; Liberty Partnership Program
 Laboratory Institute of Merchandising - Office of Academic Advising
 Long Island University - Academic Advisement Department; Health Services; University Health and Medical Services
 Marymount Manhattan College - Residence Life

Polytechnic University - Counseling Center; Residence Life; Student Development Office
 Queens College - Counselor Education Department
 Sarah Lawrence College - Student Health Services
 School of Visual Arts - Student Health and Counseling Services
 St. Francis College - Athletic-Sports Medicine Department; Office of Freshman Studies; Student Health Services
 St. Joseph's College - Office of Counseling and Career Development; Office of Student Life
 SUNY Geneseo - Residence Life
 SUNY Maritime - Housing and Residence Life Office; Student Life and Health Services
 The Art Institute of New York City - Counseling and Disability Services
 The Brooklyn Hospital Center



Medgar Evers College, CUNY - Student Affairs Services
 Molloy College - Athletics Department; Student Development
 Nassau Community College - Psychological Counseling Office
 New Jersey City University - Counseling and Wellness Center
 New York University - Counseling and Behavioral Health; Moses Center for Students with Disabilities; School of Social Work
 New York Institute of Technology - Counseling and Wellness
 Nyack College - Counseling Center; Residence Life

The New School - Student Health Services
 Touro College
 Turnaround for Children
 United Federation of Teachers (UFT), Safety and Health Service, Counseling Unit
 Visiting Nurse Service of New York - Comprehensive Care Management Program
 Wagner College - Student Health Service; Public Safety Department

Participating public schools:

Abraham Lincoln High School, Acorn Community High School, Acorn High School for Social Justice, Alternate Learning Center @ Stevenson (Suspension Site), Automotive High School, Bedford Village, Belmont Academy Suspension Center, Boys and Girls High School, Bronx School of Science Inquiry and Investigation, Brooklyn Collaborative Studies (The Brooklyn New School), Brooklyn Collegiate High School, Brooklyn High School of the Arts, Brooklyn Integrated Service Center, Brooklyn Latin School, Brooklyn Preparatory High School, Brooklyn Secondary Studio School, Brooklyn Technical High School, Brownsville Academy High School, Bushwick Community High School, Bushwick Leaders' High School, Chelsea High School, Cobble Hill School of American Studies, Dr. Susan S. McKinney Secondary School of the Arts, EBC High School, EBC High School for Public Safety and Law, ER Murrow High School, Erasmus Hall, Expeditionary Learning School for Community Leaders, FDNY High School, FDR High School, Fort Hamilton High School, Franklin K. Lane High School, Frederick Douglass Academy VII, George Westinghouse High School, Goldstein High School, Green School, High School for Enterprise Business and Technology, High School of Civil Rights, High School of Sports Management, High School of Urban Law & Justice, James Madison High

School, John Dewey High School, Juan Morel Campos Secondary School, Lafayette High School, Leon M. Goldstein High School for the Science, Lew Wallace School, Life Academy High School for Film and Music, Lillian Rashkis High School, Lyons Community School, Maxwell High School, Medger Evers College Preparatory School, Metropolitan Corporate Academy, Midwood High School, MS 172, MS 49, Multi-Cultural High School, New Dorp High School, New Utrecht High School, Nicholas Herkimer Junior High School, Pacific High School, Paul Robeson High School, Queens Integrated Service Center, Queens Vocational and Technical High School, Queens/Brooklyn High School (1-Year Suspension Center), Sankofa Academy, School 21, School for Global Studies, School for International Studies, Science Skills, Secondary School for Research, Sheepshead Bay High School, Sinnott Magnet, South Shore High School, St. Catherine Academy, Teacher's Prep, Thomas Jefferson High School, Tilden High School, Transit Technical High School, Upper Ten Eyck Middle School, Urban Assembly School of Music and Art, W.A.T.C.H. High School, W.E.B. Dubois High School, William E. Grady Career & Technical High School, William H. Maxwell Career and Technology Education High School, Wings Academy High School, World Academy for Total Community Health

Preventing Suicide in NYC's Diverse Communities

John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Manhattan, June 13, 2008

With a focus on befriending NYC's diverse communities from all five borough and students in Manhattan-based public schools, a total of 271 attendees (189 community-based organization (CBO) and government agency staff and 82 DOE staff) from 60 CBOs and government agencies (39 CBOs, 17 hospitals and community health centers and 4 government agencies--representing 108 departments and programs) and 73 public schools (18 elementary, 29 middle, 26 high schools).

Keynote Speakers

Assemblyman Peter M. Rivera, Chair, *New York State Assembly Mental Health Committee*

Council Member Gale A. Brewer, *New York City Council, Co-Chair, Manhattan Delegation*

Presenters

Alan Ross, *The Samaritans of New York* (Understanding Suicide; Crisis Communications and Suicide Assessment)

Karen Carlucci, LCSW, *Mental Health Association of NYC, LifeNet* (Available NYC-Based Resources)

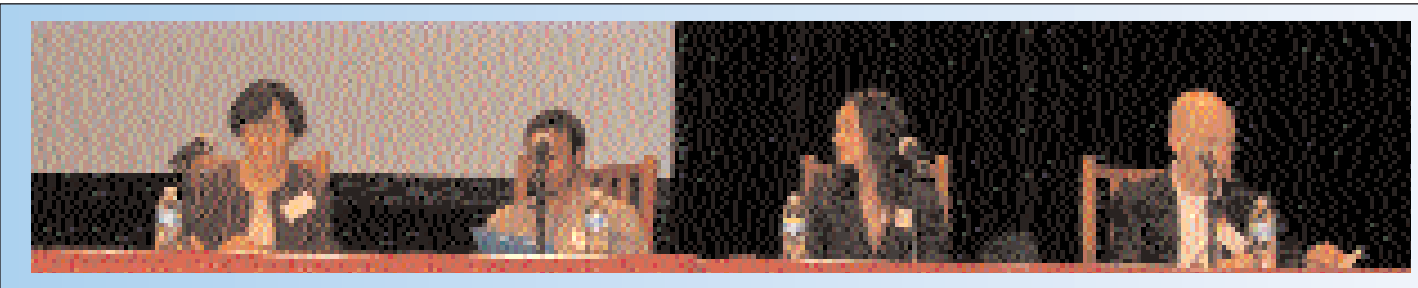
Cultural Sensitivity Panel

Irene Chung, Ph.D., LCSW, *Hunter College School of Social Work* (Asian populations and immigrants)

Dana Lizardi, Ph.D., *Columbia University School of Social Work* (Young Latinas)

Robert Ludwig, *Long Island College Hospital, The Healing Center* (GLBTQ community)

Randall Richardson-Vejlgaard, Ph.D., *New York State Psychiatric Institute* (African-Americans)



Diversity Panel

Carrie Spindel, Psy.D., *NYU Child Study Center, Institute for Anxiety & Mood Disorders* (At-Risk Youth)

Evelyn Laureano, Ph.D., *Neighborhood Self-Help by Older Persons Project (SHOPP)* (The Elderly)

Beth Brodsky, MD, *Columbia University Medical Center, Psychiatry Department* (Personality Disorders)

Ana Rodriguez, MS, *Safe Horizon, Counseling Center* (Victims of Assault and Abuse)

Participating community-based organizations, hospitals and government agencies:

Aids for AIDS - New York Immigrant AIDS Link
Barrier Free Living, Inc. - Non-Residential Domestic Violence Program
Bellevue Hospital - Ambulatory Care Unit; Bilingual Treatment Program; HIV/AIDS Service Program; Nursing Department
Bialy Stoker Center of Nursing and Rehabilitation
Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center - Family Medicine
Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service - Metro Club Clubhouse; Transitional Living Community Program
CAMBA, Inc. - COBRA/Community Follow-up Program; Grant Funded Case Management; Morris Manor Housing; New Beginning Housing Program; Prevention Services for Women; Scattered-Site Housing; Second Chance Housing Program
Catholic Charities - Mental Health Programs & Services, Monica House
Catholic Guardian Society and Home Bureau - Foster Boarding Home Program; Post-Adoption; Quality Assurance; Teen Unit, Foster Care
Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS) - Quality Assurance;

Rikers Island Single Stop Center
Charles B. Wang Community Health Center - Social Work Department
Chinese American Planning Council - Family Support Services
Community Association of Progressive Dominicans - Attendance Intervention and Dropout Prevention (AIDP)
Community Healthcare Network - HR Dept.; Queens Center; Downtown Health Center (formerly LES Health Center); Social Service Program
Covenant House - Intake Department; Minors Unit; Mother and Child Unit; Rights of Passage Mentor Program
Cumberland Diagnostic and Treatment Center - Bio-Chem Lab; Nursing
EAC, Inc. - Adult LINK
Fedcap Rehabilitation Services - Chezton Loft
Fordham Tremont Community Mental Health Center - Continuing Care Unit, MICA Program
Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS) - Transitional Independent Living Program (TIL)

Girls Inc. - NYC Office
 Goddard Riverside Community Center - The Other Place
 Golden Eagle Interfaith Ministries
 Goodwill Industries - Supported Employment
 Grand Street Settlement - Early Childhood Programs (Headstart)
 HelpLine Telephone Services
 Henry Street Settlement - Naturally Occuring Retirement Community
 Icahn House East
 Institute for Community Living - Highland Park Center Clinic;
 Park Slope Shelter for Women; Marketing & Development Dept.
 Institute for Family Health - Compass Team
 Inwood House - Teen Choice
 Jacobi Hospital - Family Advocacy Program; Gunhill Clinic; Nursing;
 Pediatric Ambulatory Care; Social Work Department
 Jewish Board for Family and Children's Services - Beatman/Riverdale
 Counseling Center; Brooklyn Treatment Apartment Program (BTAP)
 Kings County Hospital - Psychology Department
 Lincoln Medical Center - Ambulatory Care Unit
 Lower Manhattan Healthcare Coalition
 Metropolitan Hospital Center - Community Health Education
 Morrisania Diagnostic and Treatment Center - Pediatrics; Social Services
 North Central Bronx Hospital - Ambulatory Care
 NY Foundation for Senior Citizens - NYS Ombudsman Program NYC
 NYC Dept. of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)
 NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene - WTC Health Registry Prog.
 NYC Housing Authority - Bronx Social Services; Central Office
 Programs; Manhattan Social Services Dept.; Staten Island Social Svcs

NYC Human Resources Administration - Infoline; Office of Constituent
 and Community Affairs (OCCA)
 Ohel Children's Home and Family Services - Mental Health Services
 Phipps Community Development Corporation - Lee Goodwin
 Residence; Mapes Court Family Services
 PSCH, Inc. - Anna Erika Home for Adults; Bronx Assertive Community
 Treatment Program (ACT) Team; Clinical Review Team; Mental
 Health Services; Out Of Home Respite Program; Psychology
 Program; Supported Employment Program
 Queens Hospital Center - Partial Hospital Program
 Riverside Language Program
 Safe Horizon - Brooklyn Community Program; Families of Homicide
 Victims Program; Queens Community Program
 Safe Space NYC, Inc. - Manhattan High Risk Youth Drop-In Center
 SCO Family of Services - Independence Inn I, Inn II, and Inn III
 Stanley Isaacs Center Neighborhood Center, Inc. - Pupil Attendance
 Care Team (PACT)
 The Association for Rehabilitative Case Management and Housing, Inc.
 Intake Department; Queens Treatment Apartment Program
 The Bridge Inc. - Continuing Day Treatment Program
 The CityKids Foundation
 The Floating Hospital
 The Health Center at Tremont - Social Work Department
 Us Against Abuse
 VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired - Rehab Services
 Visiting Nurse Service of NY - Enhanced Case Mngt.; Friends Clinic
 Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center - Mobile Crisis Team

Participating public schools:

Elementary Schools: Adolph Philip Randolph School, Alexander Humbolt School, Anna Short School, Countee Cullen School, Duke Ellington School, Ellen Lurie School, Hudson Cliffs School, Jacob H. Schiff School, James McCune Smith School, Luis Belliard School, Margaret Douglas School, Michael J. Buczek School, Shorac Kappock School, Yung Wing School, PS 173, PS 212, PS 298, PS 325

Middle/Intermediate Schools: 21st Century Academy, Academic and Athletic Excellence School, Adolph Ochs Academy, Amistad Dual Language School, Annette Goldman School, Arthur S. Somers School, Ballet Tech/NYC Public School for Dance, Bea Fuller Rodgers School, Castle Middle School, Clinton School for Writers & Artists, David Ruggles Middle School, Dual Language Middle School, Dyckman School, East Side Middle School, Eleanor Roosevelt School, George Gershwin School, Harbor Heights Middle School, John Ericsson Middle School, John Wilson School, Kappa II School, Patria Mirabal School, PS/IS 278, PS/IS 50, Renaissance Military Leadership Academy, Robert

F. Wagner Middle School, Salk School of Science, Salome Urena De Henriquez School, Shuang Wen School, Sojourner Truth School

High Schools: American Sign Language School, Bard High School, Beacon, Brooklyn School for Global Studies, City College Academy of the Arts, Edward A. Reynolds West Side High School, Eleanor Roosevelt, Fashion Industries, Frederick Douglass Academy, Gregorio Luperon High School for Science and Mathematics, High School for Health and Career Sciences, High School for Health Professions, High School for Law and Public Service, High School for Media and Communications, High School of Art and Design, Horizon Academy, International Business & Finance High School, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis High School, KIPP STAR College Preparatory Charter School, Landmark High School, Legacy School for Integrated Students, Life Sciences Secondary School, Millenium High School, New Explorations into Science, Technology and Math (NEST+M), Professional Performing Arts High School, School of the Future High School



Community Coalition-Building, Collaborations and Linkages

With the goal of replicating the approach that is often cited as a keystone of the U.S. Air Force Suicide Prevention Program, namely creating as many *points of access* (different forms, styles and sources of help and treatment) as possible for those who are at risk for suicide--especially for those who do not seek or are resistant to seeking professional help--Samaritans devoted considerable resources to further NYC-based collaborations and linkages amongst community-based, public health and government agencies.

This was accomplished by establishing, enhancing and/or supporting existing inter-relationships amongst NYC-based agencies and organizations that serve high-risk populations (e.g., youth, elderly, GLBT, uniformed services, immigrants, mentally ill, college students and homeless). In some cases, we identified groups that have not been involved in current suicide prevention collaborations (e.g., *NYC Housing Authority*, *New York Immigration Coalition*, *FDNY*); in others, we encouraged groups to join already established coalitions (e.g., *Gay Men's Health Crisis*, *NYC Department of Education*); and, in still others, we provided support to developing networks (e.g., those focusing on Latina and Asian suicide).



The work undertaken to advance these collaborations covered a broad range of activities: establishing contact with groups that did not recognize how suicide prevention fit their overall mission; site information-gathering and technical support; conference calls bringing various departments and leadership in a field together to explore their needs and challenges tied to advancing suicide prevention; problem-solving and strategic planning meetings focusing on specific populations; a community planning forum to gather frontline caregivers' perspectives on what is needed to implement more effective approaches; and the development of panels of experts who could present their knowledge to frontline service providers.

The outcome was a furthering of inter-agency and community collaborations, a greater awareness and sharing of resources, identification of needs to be addressed as we move forward, improvement of suicide prevention readiness and planning, and overall encouragement and support for more suicide prevention education and program development. And a palpable outcome was the creation of five cultural sensitivity and diversity expert panels that provided important and necessary awareness and perspective to close to 1,000 Samaritans *Caring Community* conference participants (focusing on children, adolescents, college students, the elderly, GLBTQ, Asian, Latina, African-American, victims and personality disorders).

Examples of the over 100 individuals and agencies involved in this process include:

Consultations and Meetings focus on individual populations and programs: *Bronx VA Hospital* (focusing on issues tied to responding to veterans); *NYC Department for the Aging* (overseeing dozens of projects serving the elderly in all five boroughs); *NYU Child Study Center* (exploring effective education models for identifying at-risk youth); *The Jed Foundation* (developing effective approaches training caregivers around suicide and college students); *NYC Police Department School Safety Division Training Unit* (developing effective suicide prevention training models for security staff in NYC public schools).

Lehman College Caring Community Cultural Sensitivity Panel focus on providing frontline caregivers with needed awareness about the cultural issues tied to suicide among children and adolescents, young Latinas, young and older Asians and the GLBTQ community: *NYU Child Study Center*; *Montefiore School Health Center*; *New York Coalition for Asian American Mental Health*; *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center*.

Asian Advisory Group focus on expanding their education initiatives: *Kingsboro Psychiatric Center; Korean American Behavioral Health Association; Hunter College School of Social Work; Hamilton Madison House; Asian American Federation of New York; University Settlement; New York Coalition for Asian American Mental Health.*

NYC Board of Education conference call focus on the needs of public schools: Citywide Coordinator, *Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Program*; Content Expert for School Guidance Counselors and Manhattan ACS Liaison, *DOE Manhattan Office of Youth Development*; High School SAPIR Worker, *Truman High School (Bronx), SPARK Program*; Supervisor of School Psychologists, *DOE Manhattan Office of Youth Development*; Bilingual School Social Worker, *PS 192 (Manhattan)*; Licensed Social Worker, *Montefiore School-based Mental Health Center, School Health Program, Montefiore Clinic*; Supervisor of Psychologists, *DOE Queens Office of Youth Development, Region 3.*

GLBTQ Advisory Group focus on needs and gaps in suicide prevention in the GLBTQ community: *Gay Men's Health Crisis; Green Chimneys Children's Services; LGBT Community Center; Youth Enrichment Services (YES) Program; Urban Justice Center; The Peter Cicchino Youth Project; NYC Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project; Hetrick-Martin Institute.*

OMH NYC Suicide Prevention Consortium ongoing strategic planning and development of an effective NYC coalition designed to encourage linkages and collaborations amongst those organizations involved in suicide prevention services, treatment and research including *NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, NYC Health & Hospitals Corporation, NYC Department of Education, Columbia University, Pace University, Mental Health Association of NYC, Hamilton Madison House, CommuniLife and others.*

Samaritans Suicide Prevention Sensitivity Program

As Samaritans has noted in over 50 years of operating crisis hotlines and suicide prevention centers around the world, in talking to tens of millions of people who are depressed and suicidal and training tens of thousands of caregivers and providers from countless different cultures, there is one universal truth when it comes to suicide prevention education--Most people, no matter what their experience, education or training, are uncomfortable responding to suicidal situations.

Whether it is tied to a lack of comfort confronting what could be considered *the darker side of life*, a fear of saying the wrong thing, issues around privacy, legal liability and confidentiality, religious, spiritual or other moral beliefs that are challenged or our own awareness that *there but for the grace of God go I*, suicide scares people. This state of mind is common knowledge amongst most trainers and evaluation specialists in the field and one that Samaritans most recently documented in the *NYC SUMMIT Participant Survey Report*.

With so much of the emphasis in suicide prevention public education today on identification, assessment and referrals, the emphasis of training becomes problem-solving and outcomes instead of what most crisis intervention specialists would say are the keys to prevention--creating a personal connection, a supportive and caring environment, a sense of comfort and trust--which are the protective factors that help someone in distress get through the moment of crisis without it escalating into a potentially suicidal act.

Samaritans' *sensitivity training*--derived from our 34-hour intensive hotline volunteer training program--addresses the fears, beliefs, assumptions, presumptions, biases, judgments and personal values that impact and, often, impede how lay and professional caregivers approach and respond to those at risk--whether it is for depression, alcohol and substance abuse, eating disorders, violence, sexual identity issues, etc.

Isolating the "sensitivity component" has been an ongoing priority and a project Samaritans has been working on for over five years and, with support from the NYS OMH in FY 2008, we were able to develop the sensitivity training module to the point that it can be replicated and made accessible through an interactive Internet tool (which is the next stage in this project's development).

Once that is created, it will provide support, guidance, information and feedback on an individual basis to those who feel ill-prepared, scared, unprepared or uncomfortable communicating (literally don't know what to say or how to say it) with someone who is in distress, suffering from depression or feeling suicidal. It will increase their comfort level, knowledge base and challenge their personal understanding, preconceptions and misconceptions about what it means to be depressed and suicidal as well as what, on a reality-based level, that person can and cannot do to help the individual in crisis.

