

# Parent Seminar on Youth Protection

H.B. 298

Report of FY 2013



Prepared by the

Utah State Office of Education

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Brenda Hales, Deputy Superintendent  
[brenda.hales@schools.utah.gov](mailto:brenda.hales@schools.utah.gov)

Debra Lewis, Suicide Prevention Specialist  
[debra.lewis@schools.utah.gov](mailto:debra.lewis@schools.utah.gov)



During the 2013 legislative H.B. 298 *Parent Seminar on Youth Protection* was passed which requires the State Board of Education and school districts to implement a parent seminar on issues related to youth protection. Specifically, the bill:

- Requires school districts to offer an annual seminar to parents with information on substance abuse, bullying, mental health, and Internet safety;
- Requires the State board of Education to:
  - Develop a curriculum and provide it to requesting school districts; and
  - Report on the program to the Education Interim Committee
  - Requires a school district to notify charter schools located within the schools district's boundaries of the parent seminar; and
  - Allows a school district to opt out of providing the parent seminar if the local school board determines the seminar is not needed in its district.

The State Board of Education is to report to the Legislature's Education interim Committee, by the November 2013 meeting, on the progress of implementation of the parent seminar, including if a local school board has opted out of providing the parent seminar and the reasons why a local school board opt out. This report is in fulfillment of this statute.

In July 2013, the Utah State Office of Education (USOE) hired a suicide prevention specialist. Curriculum and training were developed in July and August. In August, a state-wide training was held for representatives from each district and charter school on the Parent Seminar on Youth Protection. To date, over 100 school district and charter prevention representatives have been trained and provided a training CD and resources.

The suicide prevention specialist has collaborated with several districts and individual schools and has attended the parent seminars this fall. To date there have been no school districts opting out of the provision to provide the seminars.

## Suicide Prevention Activities

### Leadership and Administration

- July 2013 – The USOE hired a Suicide Prevention Specialist, Debra Lewis, as per H.B. 154.
- The USOE joined the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) in distributing the Needs Assessment-Workforce Survey to Counselors and Educators throughout Utah.
- The USOE Suicide Prevention Specialist is a member of the DSAMH Suicide Prevention Coalition Advisory Committee, DSAMH Suicide Prevention Initiative, Child Fatality meeting, Utah School Counselors Association, and participates with Verne Larsen on Prevention Dimension, Utah Prevention Advisory Committee, and Utah Sexual Violence Committee.
- The USOE Suicide Prevention Specialist took QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) training.

### Education and Training

- The USOE partnered with DSAMH and developed a joint building block to fund a statewide suicide prevention plan utilizing local community coalitions.
- The USOE developed, implemented, and trained curriculum that supports H.B. 298 *Parent Seminar on Youth Protection* to over 100 school district and charter prevention representatives. The USOE Suicide Prevention Specialist trained educators in how to educate parents on suicide prevention. The USOE invited DSAMH to present statistics at parent seminar training.

### 2013-14 School Year Plan

#### Fall

- District and charter school prevention representatives will attend suicide prevention trainings.
- First training: Parent Seminar training for Suicide Awareness on August 27, 2013.
- Second training: Parent Seminar training for substance abuse, cyber-bullying, internet safety, and mental health.
- Student training in suicide prevention.
- Teacher training in suicide prevention.
- Research started on evidence-school based programs for a crisis response.
- Participate in ongoing collaboration with Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health at Suicide Coalition meetings.
- Meetings with Educational Suicide Prevention Advisory committee to develop evidence based school programs for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention; first meeting September 12, 2013 – ongoing.

- Quarterly meeting between USOE and DSAMH - on going.
- Attend Child Fatality review at Medical Examiner office on monthly basis.
- Interviews with Deseret News and KSL.

#### Winter

- Researching and developing a universal evidence-school based program to incorporate in all school districts and charter schools to create a unified state program.
- Website: Current events, newsletter, access to tools, instant messenger – ongoing.
- Meetings with Suicide Prevention Advisory committee to develop evidence based school programs for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention – ongoing.
- Offer USOE Suicide Prevention conference to Counselors and Educators – proposed time frame February 2014.
- Continued collaboration with Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health at Suicide Coalition meetings.
- Statewide Crisis Response program created.

#### Spring

- Ongoing collaboration with Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health at Suicide Coalition meetings.
- Maintain suicide prevention training with students and teachers.
- Statewide Crisis Response program organized and ready to be taught in professional development and implemented by districts and charter schools.

#### Future

- Train all district and charter school prevention representatives on the evidence school-based suicide prevention plan.
- Crisis response plan created and professional development offered. Plan distributed out to districts, charter schools, counselors, school psychologists.
- Offer continued student and teacher training in suicide prevention.
- Implement the statewide Crisis Response program.
- Continue to partner with DSAMH on preventing suicide in Utah.