

Lane County School Information Session: Suicide Alert

Lane County Public Health
Oregon Health Authority
3/17/2022

Welcome! We will get started at 12:05.



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Purpose of this information session

- To inform and equip schools in Lane County as important partners in the collective suicide prevention efforts happening in response to the recent youth suicide increase.
- To gather information from schools about what is needed
- This informational meeting is for schools in Lane County. If any media are present, please contact Jason Davis: jason.davis@lanecountyor.gov



Introductions

- **Elisabeth Maxwell** (she/her), Prevention Supervisor at Lane County Public Health
- **Jill Baker** (she/her), Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinator with Oregon Health Authority
- **Marissa Lovell** (she/her), School-Based Health Promotion Coordinator with Lane County Public Health



Housekeeping

- **Please remain on mute for the duration of the presentation.**
- **There will be time at the end of the presentation for a moderated Q&A.**
- **Questions can go in the chat, and we will ask you to unmute if clarification is needed on your question.**
- **This meeting is being recorded and will be posted publicly.**



We are humans. Hard topics bring feelings.

- **The topic of this meeting is youth suicide.**
- **Feeling activated is a normal response to hearing not-normal information.**
- **Take care of yourself. If you need support, reach out.**

Lane County Crisis Hotline at (541) 687-4000
Lifeline support available 24/7 at (800) 273-8255



Why is there a public health concern?

- Increase in youth (0-24 yrs) suicide deaths in recent months
- Over the past 5 months, 11 people in this age group from Lane County have died by suicide. These events meet the CDC definition of a suicide cluster – meaning that there have been an unexpected number of deaths in our region in this timeframe
- There is no evidence to suggest that these deaths are linked (i.e., the result of suicide contagion)
- On average 10-12 youth die by suicide in Lane County each year



Purpose of Incident Command System (ICS)

- Provides an organized response to a public health emergency
- ICS is an expanded version of the normal response provided by the Suicide Prevention Program in Public Health when youth and adolescents die by suicide in Lane County
- We have:
 - Identified staff for the response
 - Established objectives
 - Reviewed past ICS



ICS Objectives

- Create safety and mental well-being of affected people and public health responders
- Control the spread
- Conduct epidemiology/surveillance work
- Identify exposed populations
- Provide appropriate information



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ICS Contact Information

Roger Brubaker – Lane County Postvention Lead

roger.brubaker@lanecountyor.gov (541) 682-8731

Jill Baker – OHA Postvention Lead

Jill.Baker@dhsosha.state.or.us

Elisabeth Maxwell – Incident Commander

elisabeth.maxwell@lanecountyor.gov

Marissa Lovell – School Liaison

marissa.lovell@lanecountyor.gov

Jacqueline Moreno – Community Liaison

jacqueline.moreno@lanecountyor.gov

Jason Davis – Public Information Officer

jason.davis@lanecountyor.gov



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Role of OHA in Supporting Lane County Public Health

- Suicide Rapid Response Program
- Member of Incident Command Team
- Helps to coordinate resources and support infrastructure



What are we doing for schools identified as directly impacted?

- Suicide Rapid Response program in place
 - On-site support for youth and staff at directly impacted schools
 - Connections to community resources
 - Telehealth opportunities for youth and staff
- Lane County ESD supports have been mobilized



What are we hoping schools will do?

- First center on calm. **Promote hope, help, and strength.**
- Push out resources and information about wellness to your parents and school community. **Encourage parents and caring adults to ask the question about suicide.**
- Review your suicide prevention policies. **Know your Adi's Act plan, ensure your staff know their roles, and implement the plan.** All Lane County schools are in compliance with Adi's Act.



What are we hoping schools will do?

- Look for ways to **increase protective factors** for your students, and to mitigate risk factors when possible.
- Support your [Sources of Strength](#) teams (if not currently active, many will be coming in Fall 2023).
- **Tell us what you need and how we can support you!** (Reach out to Marissa)



Options for Additional Support

Toolkit for how to communicate to parents

- Safe messaging about suicide
- Scripts for emails/newsletters
- Resources for over spring break (and beyond)

Resource Option: Host a community listening session

- Facilitation support
- Outline provided
- Subject Matter Experts as speakers
- Messages of hope, help, strength



Options for Additional Support

Tangible items available:

- Grief Journals
- Safe Storage for medication and firearms

Financial support available:

- Adi's Act mini-grants through Lines for Life
- Sources of Strength mini-grants for campaigns through Matchstick.

Consultation: Roger Brubaker, Jill Baker, Marissa Lovell



Let's pause.



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Questions?



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Next Steps

Questions that were not able to be answered live will be answered in writing and sent to the list of registrants.

A recording of this information session will be posted on the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Lane County website by 3/18/2022.

Please direct any media inquiries to the Public Information Officer, Jason Davis,
jason.davis@lanecountyor.gov



Resources:

- Lane Co Suicide Prevention Coalition [website](#).
- OHA's Big River programming [map](#).
- Survey Monkey to [request](#) supports.



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