



ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS
October 2014

Overview

SPAN Idaho is a suicide prevention organization founded in 2002 as a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to provide leadership for suicide prevention in Idaho. At the state level, SPAN Idaho comprises a volunteer board of directors and two part-time staff, with established chapters in each of the seven Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) regions to carry out statewide suicide prevention awareness activities and to respond at a community level. From its beginning, Span Idaho as a grassroots organization has encouraged and recognized the importance of regional and local involvement to prevent suicide. With the help of our chapters and other organizations, SPAN Idaho works to have zero suicides in our state.

Most Recent

In partnership with Idaho State Department of Education (SDE), SPAN Idaho received the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act (GLSMA) grant administered by the substance Abuse and mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to target youth, ages 10-24 in suicide prevention in October of 2013. The Idaho Lives Project (ILP), which will reach more than 31,000 individuals over the three-years of the grant, with training for youth, school staff, community adults along with health and mental health providers in effective response to suicidal youth. All goals of the project align with the goals of the Idaho Suicide Prevention Plan (ISPP) and the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (NSPP). More about this project is included in this current report.

Training and Awareness

SPAN Idaho and its chapters consistently provide or co-host a variety of community activities to educate the public about suicide and suicide prevention. For instance, we

- Offer training for clinicians, survivors, police/sheriff departments, and anyone interested in suicide prevention. As of September 2014, SPAN Idaho's annual statewide conferences the last thirteen years have trained approximately 2,500 participants in suicide prevention skills. Our most recent conference, held in September 2014, Dr. Thomas Joiner one of the world's leading experts in suicide prevention shared his expertise to a group of mental health professionals, clergy, school personnel, survivors, law enforcement, and community leaders. His valuable and up to date, best practices training, educated more than 150 individuals in suicide prevention.
- Developed and conducted presentations and trainings on suicide and suicide prevention for the Idaho Department of Labor, Idaho Criminal Justice Commission, IDHW Children's Mental Health, Idaho Juvenile Justice, Idaho State Tax Commission, Hispanic Commission, Idaho National Guard, schools, parent groups, clergy, and other community groups.
- Hold regional annual Save-the-One Memorial Walks to raise awareness and support survivors.
- Provide materials at community events and gatherings to share suicide warning signs and other prevention measures.

In addition to the above statewide initiatives, our Chapters have conducted many projects on their own, including providing suicide prevention messages on radio, television, and billboards; joining other agencies to discuss and respond to area suicides; training area school staffs and law enforcement and others in suicide prevention; and meeting monthly to plan and promote suicide prevention activities.

New and Ongoing

- We maintain a highly informative and well-regarded website.
- We fulfill requests for information and resources on-line and on the phone to include highly sensitive calls.
- We act as a conduit for suicide prevention information locally, statewide, and nationally and engage and collaborate with other groups, including the Veteran's Administration, 211 Careline, the Commission on Aging, RADAR, SDE, IDHW and others. Nationally, SPAN Idaho engages with the major suicide prevention groups, participates in conferences and webinars, and writes articles, to exchange best practice information, data and ideas.
- We provide information packets to suicide survivors through the Idaho Funeral Directors Association and county coroners as well as to suicide survivors on request to support the grieving and healing process.
- We offer suicide survivor support groups regionally.
- We distribute materials to the general public at community events.
- We offer QPR training and specific suicide prevention training to groups upon request.
- We provide information and guidance to high school and college students for their projects.
- We are members of the Idaho Council on Suicide Prevention and collaborate to carry out activities.
- We continually review suicide prevention research and best practices to develop programs and distribute relevant information statewide on a regular basis.
- We continue to foster a relationship with the Idaho Hotline and have provided assistance with the development of a state-wide resource list for its callers. We distribute Hotline information packets with the help of SPAN regional chapters.
- We work to implement the Idaho State Suicide Prevention Plan with the ICSP and coordinate efforts in Idaho communities to introduce the National Suicide Prevention Plan and bring more attention to national and local suicide prevention efforts.
- To implement and evaluate the Idaho Lives Project aimed at identifying, intervening with and referring students at risk for suicide.
- Developing a SPAN chapter in Fort Hall and working with tribal members there.

Upcoming

- To publish and distribute a statewide newsletter, tailored to communities, to promote suicide prevention awareness and activities.
- To increase suicide awareness activities on college campuses.
- To continue training specific groups in suicide prevention and survivor support including target groups such as first responders, clergy, mental health and health care providers, school personnel, aging services staff, corrections personnel, parents and others.
- To encourage growth in regional chapters.