To promote public and professional awareness, education, training, and engagement regarding suicide and suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention in Los Angeles County.

In collaboration with attempt survivors and survivors of suicide loss, the Los Angeles County Suicide Prevention Network will build the capacity of providers, systems, and communities to implement effective, culturally and linguistically appropriate suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention strategies for all age groups and high-risk populations.

This includes supporting the California Office of Suicide Prevention in:

- Building a coordinated system of suicide prevention among state, regional, and local organizations
- Developing and supporting suicide prevention training
- Building a network of suicide prevention experts to address the needs of high-risk populations
- Developing new knowledge and best practices for suicide prevention that are appropriate for diverse populations

This is the inaugural issue of our Los Angeles County Suicide Prevention Network Newsletter.

This first issue highlights some of the work being done by Rich Lieberman and Lyn Morris, and includes materials that Sam Bloom wanted to share from national organizations.

It is our intention that all members of the Network will share important information regarding the work that they are doing in suicide prevention.

See back page for submission deadlines for subsequent issues.

The overall goal of the CCSES project is: “To build capacity for prevention and early intervention of student mental health issues of elementary (K-8) students, build relationships among local agencies to develop effective use of resources and improve communications and information sharing, and build capacity in the county offices of education and school districts for education and training of school staff, and for technical assistance to schools for program development and implementation focused on prevention of student mental health issues.”

CCSES has identified four major goals for the initiative:

Goal 1: Cross-System Collaboration Facilitate policy and protocol changes across systems that support the effective use of resources, communication and information sharing, cross collaboration and coordination of support and services for the prevention and early identification of mental health issues among K-12 students.

Goal 2: School-Based Demonstration Programs at K-8 Level Identify and share elements of a continuum of school-based prevention services that link systems and provide age-appropriate and culturally relevant strategies to support student mental health.

Goal 3: Education & Training Build the infrastructure, capacity and resources in each region to conduct education and
Didi Hirsch to Lead Expansion of Suicide Prevention by Lyn Morris

Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services’ Suicide Prevention Center (SPC) will lead the expansion of key suicide prevention efforts in California, thanks to the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) (http://www.calmhsa.org). The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) is an organization of county governments working to improve mental health outcomes for individuals, families and communities. CalMHSA operates services and education programs on a statewide, regional and local basis. In May 2011, CalMHSA awarded Didi Hirsch grants totaling more than $6.5 million. We will build suicide prevention-informed communities and save lives through:

1. Statewide Suicide Prevention Network. A consortium of ten California crisis centers will identify the state’s gaps in services and populations that have been overlooked and underserved. It will organize regional suicide prevention task forces that will collectively form the California Suicide Prevention Network (CSPN). With representatives from colleges, school districts, law enforcement, survivors, community and faith-based groups, federal and municipal agencies, and medical centers, each regional task force will come up with concrete steps to reduce the risk of suicide locally by developing a best practice to be submitted to the Best Practices Registry for suicide prevention for national use. The Network will also develop a common set of metrics for reporting on suicide in the state of California.

2. Stronger County Prevention Activities. The Didi Hirsch Suicide Prevention Center will work one-on-one with Imperial, San Diego, San Bernardino, Ventura, Orange, Los Angeles, and Riverside Counties to heighten awareness, provide support and develop effective programs around suicide prevention. Didi Hirsch staff will generate County-specific resources and reports and the SPC Crisis Line will become these counties’ official hotline where one does not already exist.

3. Focus on Diverse Communities. Southern California’s Vietnamese and Korean Americans are considered to be at high risk of suicide, yet the community lacks adequate resources to help them. We will reach out to them by adding Vietnamese- and Korean-speaking counselors to the Crisis Line and conduct a public awareness campaign.

4. More Effective Warm Lines. Warm lines provide live help by phone for people with non-emergency problems. In collaboration with the L.A. County Department of Mental Health and its ACCESS line, SPC will help establish overnight service (10 p.m. to 6 a.m.) for three different warm lines, making it possible for people to reach a live voice when they most need one. Didi Hirsch will also extend the hours of the NAMI-OC Warm Line so they can provide more coverage to their callers during late evening hours.

5. Training for Trainers. With funding from CalMHSA, LivingWorks (http://www.livingworks.net) will partner with SPC to train specialists in its innovative curricula (a well-established best practice) in twelve counties throughout Southern California to increase the capacity of trainers in the best practice of ASIST and safe-TALK.

The following is an approximate timeline to submit information or articles for the upcoming issue.

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<th>June 2012</th>
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<td>September 2012</td>
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What would you like to see in future issues of SPN News? Help us tailor SPN News to fit your needs. Email your suggestions or requests to roruiz@dmh.lacounty.gov and we’ll see what we can do!

The SPN News is sent to all members of the Suicide Prevention Network. It is also posted in PDF on a Partner in Suicide Prevention web page. Members have the option to access in electronic form. Members who select this option will receive an email alert and link when each new issue of SPN News is posted.

(cont’d. from front page) K-12 Student Mental Health Initiative

Goal 4: Technical assistance
Build the infrastructure, capacity and resources in each region to provide technical assistance for elementary (K-8) school-based student mental health program development and implementation that is culturally relevant, age-appropriate, and data-driven. CCSESA will develop an online clearinghouse of prevention resources for schools.

National, State and Local News & Events
Submitted by Sam Bloom
SPRC  See RFI for suicide prevention research

Announcement from LAC SP Network
Los Angeles County Suicide Prevention Network Meeting
Friday, April 27, 2012
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
The California Endowment
1000 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012