



Association of **General Hospital Psychiatric Services**

**People at Risk of Suicide Project
Project Plan
February 2005 – March 31, 2007**

*Submitted to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
Submitted by The Association of General Hospital Psychiatric Services
(AGHPS)
June 2005*

June 30th 2005

Mr. Doug Dixon,
Senior Program Analyst, Mental Health and Addictions Branch
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Health Care Programs
5th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto ON M7A 1R3

Dear Mr. Dixon,

Thank you once again for the funding for the next phases of work in the People at Risk of Suicide Project.

The AGHPS appreciates the time, consideration and ongoing support of MOHLTC. The mission of the AGHPS is to promote the continuing development of optimal psychiatric services in Ontario by enhancing the role and effectiveness of general hospital psychiatric services. To do this the AGHPS is committed to increasing the knowledge and skill of member hospitals across the province. We are also committed to effective liaison with government, allied health care associates and other services and programs. These initiatives can address a gap in service, relationships and best practices for across the Province.

Details of the project are included here. We are forwarding this to you for your information and will continue to keep you up to date with the progress of the project.

Regards,

Dr. Brian Hoffman
President

Ms. June Hylands
Executive Director

Description of the People at Risk of Suicide Project

The AGHPS received one time funding from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to lead and coordinate the next phases of the People at Risk of Suicide Project.

People at Risk of Suicide Project. People not identified in the SMI population, but who are at risk of suicide, require supports that are not necessarily built into the current mental health system. The general hospitals are often the first contact for these people and strategies to address the need of this population require development. The Project reflects preliminary work to develop strategies to address the needs of this group including methods of supporting consumers through primary care givers such as family physicians, nurse practitioners and emergency department staff and physicians.

1. Study of Coroners Reports

Description: A study of Coroners Reports will be done with further consolidation of that information, along with the development of a report of their findings leading to a report on preventable occurrences. This will be a review of "past" incidences and evidence that could lead to the development of a package of lessons learned, and gives more clarity to precipitating factors.

Work Plan and Budget

Actions	Resp Persons	Completion Date
Initiate plan to coordinate and collaborate with Coroner	AGHPS Executive	Sept 2005
Review Ontario Coroner Reports and findings over 5 year period	Project Lead	Dec 2005
Draft report with recurring themes, and actions to prevent suicide as well as recommendations for professionals in Ontario General Hospital Mental Health Services	Project Lead	Feb 2006
Test results and recommendations with a sample of hospitals in Ontario	AGHPS Executive	April 2006
Prepare final document	Project Lead	June 2006
Distribute report to all Ontario General Hospital Mental Health Services and other stakeholders	AGHPS Executive and Project Lead	December 2006
Total		

2. The development of a “ Provincial Fast Track Model” for the Police Department’s personnel who accompany patients at risk to the General Hospital’s Emergency Department.

Description: Currently patients at risk or having made a suicidal gesture must be attended by a police officer until the care of the patient is passed off to the Hospital’s personnel. This leads to long periods of time that the police officer is unavailable for other calls when in fact they could be relieved of this duty once a decision is made regarding the patient’s status. (Mental Health Act)

Work Plan and Budget

Actions	Resp Persons	Completion Date
Initiate plan to coordinate and collaborate with Police and Emergency Departments	AGHPS Executive	Dec 2005
Review current practices to find best practices	Project Team	April 2006
Survey and discuss issues, challenges and suggestions with Police, EMS and Emergency Departments	Project Team	August 2006
Draft report with recommendations	Project Lead	Oct 2006
Consult legal and professional Colleges as required	AGHPS Executive and Project Team	Oct 2006
Test results and recommendations with a sample of hospitals in Ontario	Project Team	Dec 2006
Prepare final document	Project Lead	Feb 2007
Distribute report to all Ontario General Hospital Mental Health Services and other stakeholders	AGHPS Executive and Project Team	March 2007
Total		

3. The development of a framework for each Department of Psychiatry

Description: To develop guidelines and programs for persons who remain vulnerable to suicidal behaviour. This framework will have components of each Hospital's policy, follow up practice, and interventions. The AGHPS will also recommend the development guidelines for the interventions with family and staff following a patient's suicide.

Actions	Resp Persons	Complete by
Identify from Literature specific data re suicide "triggers" e.g. within 3 days of discharge from hospital	Project Leads (2)	Oct 2005
Work with Departments of Psychiatry throughout the province to identify early identification strategies "best practice" guidelines, protocols and safety standards	Project Team	April 2006
Draft a provincial framework specific to the needs of General Hospital Psychiatric Services	Project Leads (2)	Sept 2006
Test results and recommendations with a sample of hospitals in Ontario	Project Team	Nov 2006
Finalize framework	Project Leads (2)	Feb 2007
Distribute report to all Ontario General Hospital Mental Health Services and other	Project Team	March 2007
Total		

4. Educational programs

Description: Develop at both the Provincial level and the Regional level a strategy that could be the blueprint for each area to build on towards developing a demographic specific strategy. An example of this would be in the northern areas where there might be culturally accepted educational activities. These educational programs will need to be developed to meet the needs of a diverse group of professionals. (Mental Health Professionals, Primary Care Physicians and Community Health Care Workers)

Work Plan and Budget

Actions	Resp Persons	Completion Date
Identify specific project partners and stakeholders	Project Team	Dec 2005
Develop plan to coordinate and collaborate with project partners	Expanded project team (includes partners)	Jan 2006
Survey and data collection	Project Team	April 2006
Investigate technological enablers (e.g. web)	Subcommittee of Project Team	April 2006
Draft report with findings and recommendations (using educational package as format)	Subcommittee of Project Team	June 2006
Comments by reviewers	Reviewers	Aug 2006
Finalize report and provide educational forums	Project Team	Nov 2006
Evaluate education	Project Team	Jan 2007
Make revisions as necessary	Project Team	March 2007
Total		