

Meeting Minutes

Task Force on Community Safety and Firearm Suicide Prevention

Date: July 7, 2025

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Location: Virtual via ZoomGov

Call to Order, Roll Call

Attendees

Members in attendance: Dean Sidelinger, Donna-Marie Drucker, Paul Kemp, Kathleen Carlson, Vanessa Timmons, Emmy Ritter, Matthew Crabtree, Andrew White, Jerome Sloan II, Chris Burley, James Dixon

Staff in attendance: Toni Kemple, Daisy Mitchell

Members not in attendance: Valerie Colas, Andy Leonard, Senator Floyd Prozanski, Senator David Brock Smith, Rep Jason Kropf, Rep. Rick Lewis

SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS:

The meeting was recorded in full and is available online at the Task Force on Community Safety and Firearm Suicide Prevention website: [Task Force on Community Safety and Firearm Suicide Prevention - Oregon Department of Justice](#)

Co-chair Andrew White shared information about upcoming presenters for August and then turned the time over to Steve Schneider.

1. Presentation – How Primary Care Providers Can Help Reduce Firearm Death and Injury in Oregon *Video time stamp 0:03:07*

PowerPoint presentation, “How Primary Care Providers Can Help Reduce Firearm Death and Injury in Oregon”, by Steve Schneider, MA, Firearm Suicide Program Director with the Alliance for a Safe Oregon.

- **How Primary Care Providers Can Help Reduce Firearm Death and Injury in Oregon** (*see video time stamp 0:03:25*)
- **Self-Care is Courageous** (*see video time stamp 0:04:25*)
- **Who We Are** (*see video time stamp 0:05:01*)
 - Major programs include
 - Metro Area Violence Prevention
 - Firearm Suicide Prevention
- **Key Beliefs** (*see video time stamp 0:07:56*)
 - Firearm Suicide can be Preventable
 - Those most impacted must help drive the solutions – especially survivors & firearm owners
- **The Big Picture** (*see video time stamp 0:08:30*)
- **Our Approach to Key Strategies** (*see video time stamp 0:09:20*)

- **Firearm Suicide Prevention Program** *(see video time stamp 0:09:25)*
 - All Secure Oregon
 - Oregon Veteran Alliance
- **Focus Groups** *(see video time stamp 0:12:38)*
 - Rural Oregonians, Veterans, Tribal Community Members, Older Men, and Youth are Disproportionately Affected Populations (DAPs)
- **High Impact Efforts** *(see video time stamp 0:14:46)*
 - Training Primary Care Providers (PCPs) in the “Hard Talk”
 - Increasing Rates of Secure Firearm Storage and Proactive Firearm Ownership
- **Primary Care Providers Play an Important Role in Reducing Oregon’s High Firearm Suicide Rates** *(see video time stamp 0:16:59)*
- **Our Training Curriculum** *(see video time stamp 0:19:01)*
 - Firearm Cultural Competency
 - Oregon Laws
 - Secure Storage Concepts
 - Clinical Skills taught by and MD (based on the Bulletpoints Project) in assessing, counseling, and safety planning
 - Role Playing and Hands-on with Secure Storage Devices
- **We Begin by Acknowledging the Big Picture** *(see video time stamp 0:21:25)*
- **Examples slides from our training:** *(see video time stamp 0:23:32)*
- **Situating Firearms in the U.S.** *(see video time stamp 0:23:37)*
- **Major Reasons for Owning a Firearm (2023)** *(see video time stamp 0:25:47)*
 - For many people, there is more than one reason
- **Universal Golden Rules of Gun Safety** *(see video time stamp 0:27:03)*
- **3 Types of Firearm Discharges** *(see video time stamp 0:28:18)*
 - Intentional
 - Negligent
 - Unintentional
- **What is Secure Firearm Storage?** *(see video time stamp 0:29:44)*
- **Secure Firearm Storage Keeps the Home Safe** *(see video time stamp 0:30:11)*
- **Intercultural Communication Skills** *(see video time stamp 0:31:39)*
- **While Safety Planning, Emphasize Positive & Active Values** *(see video time stamp 0:32:55)*
 - How have you been planning to keep your household/family safe?
 - How are you preparing to keep yourself safe?
- **Using Credible Stories to Inspire Action** *(see video time stamp 0:33:47)*
- **Key Takeaways** *(see video time stamp 0:35:53)*

Discussion and Questions

James Dixon asked if the training was primarily for PCPs. Steve Schneider agreed that the training was developed for PCPs, but it is general enough that anyone can take it. They also

train mental health professionals, therapists and counselors and there is a version developed for the community.

Paul Kemp asked if the training was widely distributed across the state or if there were certain areas that were more receptive to the training. Steve Schneider indicated that at this time, most were in southern and central Oregon. There have been some online virtual trainings.

Kathleen Carlson asked what Steve Schneider might recommend for state level policy that would help in the work he described today. Steve described his experience with legislation, and he encourages creative ways to get the information out there.

Andrew White brought up the gap between screening and treatment and discussion followed. Do the myth busting and empower people with that sense of hope; there are good evidence-based treatments that are options.

Discussion about the 5th golden rule of secure storage as well as the statistics surrounding suicide.

Donna-Marie Drucker asked about how to get training in schools. Discussion followed, including the harm reduction approach. Discussion regarding training/education that includes suicide treatment as well as firearm safety.

Discussion about user experience, how do we make it as easy as possible for someone who is in a compromised mental state to access and utilize the things that will be helpful.

Next Meeting

Task Force member Andy Leonard will be presenting. University of Oregon will be presenting an update on their research.

DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO:

The following documents were discussed at the meeting and are available on request by emailing community.safety@doj.oregon.gov or visiting the website at:

<https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/office-of-the-attorney-general/task-force-on-community-safety-and-firearm-suicide/>

- PowerPoint Presentation by Steve Schneider, MA, Firearm Suicide Program Director

Next Meeting:

Date: August 4, 2025

Time: 10: 00 am to Noon

Via: ZoomGov