

COMMUNITY CRISIS CENTER: THE LIVING ROOM

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Purpose:

- Create a comfortable, non-clinical space where individuals experiencing mental health crises can go to resolve their crises or be linked to more intensive intervention services

Background:

- The state of Wyoming has the 4th highest suicide death rate
- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for individuals 15-44 years of age in Wyoming
- On average, one person dies by suicide every three days in Wyoming
- Park County is 100 miles from the nearest inpatient psychiatric care (Billings, MT) and 214 miles from the nearest in-state, inpatient psychiatric care (Casper, WY)



Methods:

- Literature review and community conversations identified a community crisis center modeled after “The Living Room” to be the most appropriate and effective approach for mental health crisis intervention
- The 2014 Park County Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment identified a need for district-wide procedures specifically addressing suicide intervention and crisis intervention
- A community crisis center would:
 - ✓ Utilize Peer Support Specialists: Volunteers trained in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) and/or Question, Persuade, Refer Gatekeeper Training (QPR)
 - ✓ Provide a walk-in location for individuals experiencing mental health crises where Peer Support Specialists help them resolve their crises or link them to physician and counseling services or the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)
 - ✓ Serve as a comfortable waiting area where the CIT can bring individuals who are not an immediate threat to themselves or others but would benefit from de-escalation and further mental health evaluation

Results:

- A literature review and project proposal was presented to the Prevention Management Organization (PMO), Crisis Intervention Services (CIS), Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and Suicide Prevention Alliance (SPA)
- A committee including all suicide prevention agencies will be assembled to address the logistics of project implementation
- Conversations with families in the community who recently lost loved ones to suicide indicated a community interest in the proposed project



Conclusion:

- A community crisis center would address the need for suicide intervention and mental health crisis intervention in Park County and is well supported by both the community and suicide prevention agencies
- Challenges to implementation include:
 - ✓ Funding and Sustainability
 - ✓ Identification of agencies’ role in project implementation and maintenance
 - ✓ Program expansion to include locations in all cities within Park County