

The following actions were generated during the symposium Suicide Prevention Through Mental Health held in the Boca Raton Middle School on October 20, 2007. Approximately 75 mental health professionals, consumers, and representatives from service organizations in Palm Beach and Broward counties brainstormed these ideas for preventing suicide through improved mental health.

Needs Funding	School Based	Needs Legislation		Law Enforcement	Local initiative	Recommendation
✓	✓	✓				Mandate one semester of basic psychology for students in grades 9 or 10
✓	✓					Design and fund regional alternative program sites to divert youth with mental health issues from detention center settings
✓	✓	✓				Require that every school develop an evidence based suicide prevention plan cooperatively with their PTA/PTOs
✓	✓					Support more gay/straight alliances within schools
✓	✓					Address homophobia by implementing more sensitivity training, including a focus on stigma reduction, for all school personnel – education, administrative and support staff
	✓					Promote awareness and social support systems for gay & lesbian youth
✓		✓	✓			Require hospitals to hold any overdose admission for Baker Act evaluation before authorizing clearance for discharge
✓	✓		✓			Require communication & relationship training for all educators
✓	✓		✓			Mandate suicide prevention education for school personnel
					✓	Reduce stigma through a grass roots "Media mentoring" project (as is being done in Broward)
			✓			Enhance service access for persons with co-occurring behavioral disorders (mental health, substance abuse and developmental disabilities) by eliminating silo funding.
			✓	✓	✓	Establish alternative service options that allow first responders including law enforcement to divert behavioral health consumers who are not Baker Act appropriate from jails
✓		✓	✓	✓		Make CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) mandatory for at least some personnel of every Florida law enforcement agency
✓			✓			Increase funding for peer support services
✓	✓		✓		✓	Increase personnel and access hours so that schools can be responsive to student behavioral health needs before they become critical (more resources, not more hours per existing staff)
			✓		✓	Support culturally competent behavioral health care
					✓	Encourage behavioral health professionals to engage in pro bono service (may need to address liability issues in order to advance this theme)
✓	✓		✓		✓	Pursue improved risk assessment and intervention training for all education and behavioral health provider personnel
			✓		✓	Marshall community support for low cost/no cost assessment and access to long term therapy
✓					✓	Guide that has all of the programs available for services for adults
✓		✓	✓			Promote equity funding using a per capita formula to assure services to all in need
✓		✓	✓		✓	Promote broad based education on risks/signs of suicide to promote awareness in non-behavioral health business settings
✓		✓	✓			Fund suicide prevention programs

			✓			Impose a business model for behavioral healthcare
			✓		✓	Utilize schools and corporate sites for after-school and evening services
			✓			Review all federal funding to assure that behavioral health dollars are not diverted to other agendas
		✓	✓			Promote parity in funding for people with mental illness
✓			✓		✓	Prioritize support of services to veterans at risk for PTSD and other behavioral disorders
✓			✓		✓	Support services to families of deployed and returning veterans
✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	Promote CIT training for School resource offices, resource deputies & dispatchers and other first responders
✓	✓					Require all ESE teachers to pass certification
✓	✓					Include families in therapeutic interventions in the schools and in community based care
✓	✓					Support evidence based prevention programs in schools
✓			✓			Support innovative research as is being done at the University of Miami, UCF and other academic sites
✓	✓		✓		✓	Support access to vocational training for behavioral health consumers
✓			✓			Institute a Media department within the Office of Suicide Prevention
✓					✓	Support a campaign theme: No matter how bad things get, problems go away but death is permanent.
✓	✓	✓	✓			Guarantee access to free behavioral health care for all full time students in Florida's public colleges and universities.
			✓		✓	Institute more inclusive policies that give power in care planning and development to consumers rather than to lobbyists and corporations.
					✓	Promote awareness of disability benefits, their access and limitations
					✓	Engage the Faith Community in this effort and on the Council
					✓	Expand outreach to engage survivors from various backgrounds and galvanize their support in breaking the silence.
					✓	Target programs to identify and support isolated elders who may be at risk (home visitor programs, warm lines, etc.)
						Counselor Education Curriculum should include information on suicide prevention and stigma reduction
						Teens need access to drop-in center or club houses for social and vocational development
						More high functioning consumers could be trained and employed in peer support services
						We need a system so parents can find over-18 children in jails, hospitals, and morgues.
						Counselor Education Curriculum should be revised to include information and skill development relative to suicide prevention and stigma reduction of mental illness.
						Teen need access to a drop-in center or club house for social and vocational development.
						High-functioning consumers might be trained and employed in peer support services.
						There is a need for a system to provide parents of bipolar children with information on the whereabouts and wellbeing of children after they reach the age of 18. (They disappear ending up in jails, hospitals, and morgues)