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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to suicide prevention; creating s.
 397.3335, F.S.; creating the Statewide Office for Suicide
 Prevention in the Office of Drug Control; providing the
 goals and objectives of the office; creating the position
 of statewide coordinator for the statewide office,
 contingent upon a specific appropriation; specifying the
 education and experience requirements for the position of
 coordinator; detailing the duties and responsibilities of
 the coordinator; authorizing the Statewide Office for
 Suicide Prevention to seek and accept grants or funds from
 any source to support its operation; creating s. 397.3336,
 F.S.; creating the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council
 within the Office of Drug Control; providing the scope of
 activities for the coordinating council; creating an
 interagency workgroup for state agencies within the
 coordinating council in order to coordinate state agency
 plans for suicide prevention; authorizing the coordinating
 council to assemble an ad hoc committee to advise the
 coordinating council; providing for membership on the
 coordinating council; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 397.3335, Florida Statutes, is created
 to read:

397.3335 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.--
(1)(a) The Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention is

29 created in the Office of Drug Control within the Executive
30 Office of the Governor.

31 (b) The statewide office shall develop a network of
32 community-based programs to improve suicide prevention
33 initiatives. The network shall identify and work to eliminate
34 barriers that impede providing suicide prevention services to
35 individuals who are at risk of suicide.

36 (c) The network of community-based programs shall consist
37 of stakeholders advocating suicide prevention, including, but
38 not limited to, not-for-profit suicide prevention organizations,
39 faith-based suicide prevention organizations, law enforcement
40 agencies, first responders to emergency calls, suicide
41 prevention community coalitions, schools and universities,
42 mental health agencies, substance abuse agencies, health care
43 providers, and school personnel.

44 (2) The statewide office shall, within available
45 resources:

46 (a) Implement the statewide plan prepared by the Suicide
47 Prevention Coordinating Council.

48 (b) Build a network of community-based programs to
49 integrate suicide prevention initiatives into the programs'
50 activities.

51 (c) Increase public awareness concerning topics relating
52 to suicide prevention.

53 (d) Coordinate education and training curricula in suicide
54 prevention efforts for law enforcement personnel, first
55 responders to emergency calls, health care providers, school
56 employees, and other persons who may have contact with persons

57 | at risk of suicide.

58 | (e) Direct an interagency workgroup within the Suicide
59 | Prevention Coordinating Council to prepare a suicide prevention
60 | communication plan among state agencies. The communication plan
61 | must be incorporated into the council's statewide plan.

62 | (3) Contingent upon a specific appropriation, the director
63 | of the Office of Drug Control shall employ a coordinator for the
64 | Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention. In selecting the
65 | coordinator, the director of the Office of Drug Control should
66 | consider whether a candidate has:

67 | (a) The following education and employment experience:

68 | 1. A bachelor's degree in social work, psychology,
69 | sociology, counseling, public health, or a closely related field
70 | and 5 or more years of work experience in behavioral health care
71 | or a closely related field.

72 | 2. A master's or a doctoral degree in social work,
73 | psychology, sociology, counseling, public health, or a closely
74 | related field and 2 or more years of work experience in
75 | behavioral health or a closely related field.

76 | (b) The following skills:

77 | 1. Significant professional experience in social services,
78 | mental health, or a closely related field.

79 | 2. Knowledge of group behavior and dynamics, methods of
80 | facilitation, community development, behavioral health treatment
81 | and prevention programs, and community-based behavioral health
82 | problems.

83 | 3. Experience in working with community groups and
84 | constituents that are diverse and representative of the gender,

85 ethnic, and racial populations in this state.

86 4. Experience in writing grant proposals and technical
87 reports.

88 (4) The coordinator shall work under the direction of the
89 director of the Office of Drug Control to achieve the goals and
90 objectives set forth in this section. The coordinator shall:

91 (a) Facilitate an interagency workgroup within the Suicide
92 Prevention Coordinating Council to integrate state agency
93 programs for suicide prevention into a unified statewide plan.

94 (b) Review local, state, and national suicide prevention
95 programs for examples of innovative suicide prevention models.

96 If innovative models are discovered, the coordinator shall
97 prepare a report to describe the feasibility of implementing
98 some or all of the innovative models in this state. The report
99 must be filed with the President of the Senate, the Speaker of
100 the House of Representatives, and the Suicide Prevention
101 Coordinating Council after review and approval of the report by
102 the director of the Office of Drug Control. The innovative
103 models, and the feasibility of their implementation in this
104 state, shall be evaluated by the Suicide Prevention Coordinating
105 Council, which shall file a report with the President of the
106 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
107 Governor if the council determines that legislation is necessary
108 to implement an innovative model.

109 (c) Develop and maintain an Internet website with links to
110 appropriate suicide prevention resource documents, suicide
111 hotlines, state and community mental health agencies, and
112 appropriate national suicide prevention organizations.

113 (d) Identify and disseminate information regarding crisis
114 services for suicide prevention.

115 (e) Join with stakeholders in suicide prevention to
116 develop public awareness and media campaigns in each county
117 directed towards persons who are at risk of suicide.

118 (f) Provide technical assistance to educational activities
119 for residents of this state relating to suicide prevention.

120 (g) Cooperate with school districts to develop training
121 and counseling programs for school-based suicide prevention
122 activities. The coordinator and school districts must also
123 develop a method by which to evaluate each prevention training
124 and counseling program.

125 (h) Join with stakeholders in suicide prevention to
126 develop education and training programs for suicide prevention.
127 The education and training programs must be directed first to
128 persons who have face-to-face contact with individuals who may
129 be at risk of suicide. The training must assist persons to
130 recognize when an individual is at risk of suicide and how to
131 properly refer those individuals to treatment or support
132 services.

133 (i) Review current research data and findings to identify
134 at-risk populations, factors relating to suicide, and suicide
135 prevention activities and disseminate this research to the
136 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council to develop strategies
137 for preventing suicide.

138 (j) Develop and submit proposals to agencies of the state
139 and Federal Government and to nongovernmental organizations for
140 funding suicide prevention activities.

141 (5) The Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention may seek
 142 and accept grants or funds from any federal, state, or local
 143 source to support its operation and defray the expenses incurred
 144 in its operation and implementation.

145 Section 2. Section 397.3336, Florida Statutes, is created
 146 to read:

147 397.3336 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council;
 148 creation; membership; duties.--There is created within the
 149 Office of Drug Control a Suicide Prevention Coordinating
 150 Council. The council shall develop strategies for preventing
 151 suicide.

152 (1) SCOPE OF ACTIVITY.--The Suicide Prevention
 153 Coordinating Council is a council as defined in s. 20.03(9) and
 154 shall:

155 (a) Advise the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention
 156 regarding the development of a statewide plan for suicide
 157 prevention, with the guiding principle being that suicide is a
 158 preventable problem. The statewide plan must:

159 1. Align and provide direction for statewide suicide
 160 prevention initiatives.

161 2. Establish partnerships with state and private agencies
 162 to promote public awareness of suicide prevention.

163 3. Address specific populations in this state who are at
 164 risk for suicide.

165 4. Improve access to help individuals in acute situations.

166 5. Identify resources to support the implementation of the
 167 statewide plan.

168 (b) Create an interagency workgroup within the council in

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169 order to incorporate state agency plans for suicide prevention
170 into the statewide plan. The interagency workgroup must include,
171 but need not be limited to:

172 1. The Secretary of Elderly Affairs, or his or her
173 designee.

174 2. The Secretary of Health, or his or her designee.

175 3. The Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee.

176 4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration, or his or
177 her designee.

178 5. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice, or his or her
179 designee.

180 6. The executive director of the Department of Law
181 Enforcement, or his or her designee.

182 7. The Secretary of Children and Family Services, or his
183 or her designee.

184 8. The Secretary of Corrections, or his or her designee.

185 9. The executive director of the Department of Veterans'
186 Affairs, or his or her designee.

187 10. The director of Workforce Innovation, or his or her
188 designee.

189 (c) Assemble an ad hoc advisory committee with membership
190 from outside the council when necessary in order for the council
191 to receive advice and assistance in carrying out its
192 responsibilities.

193 (d) Advise the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.

194 (e) Make findings and recommendations regarding suicide
195 prevention programs and activities. The council shall prepare an
196 annual report and present it to the Governor, the President of

197 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by
 198 January 1, 2006, and each year thereafter. The annual report
 199 must describe the status of existing and planned initiatives
 200 identified in the statewide plan for suicide prevention and any
 201 recommendations arising therefrom.

202 (2) MEMBERSHIP.--The Suicide Prevention Coordinating
 203 Council shall consist of 25 members.

204 (a) Eleven members shall be appointed by the director of
 205 the Office of Drug Control and shall represent the following
 206 organizations:

207 1. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation,
 208 Inc., described in s. 394.655.

209 2. The Florida Association of School Psychologists.

210 3. The Florida Sheriffs Association.

211 4. The Suicide Prevention Action Network USA.

212 5. The Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention.

213 6. The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition.

214 7. The Alzheimer's Association.

215 8. The Florida School Board Association.

216 9. A representative from Volunteer Florida.

217 10. The state chapter of AARP.

218 11. The Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association.

219 (b) The following state officials shall be appointed to
 220 the coordinating council:

221 1. The Secretary of Elderly Affairs, or his or her
 222 designee.

223 2. The Secretary of Health, or his or her designee.

224 3. The Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee.

225 4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration, or his or
 226 her designee.

227 5. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice, or his or her
 228 designee.

229 6. The Secretary of Corrections, or his or her designee.

230 7. The executive director of the Department of Law
 231 Enforcement, or his or her designee.

232 8. The executive director of the Department of Veterans'
 233 Affairs, or his or her designee.

234 9. The Secretary of Children and Family Services, or his
 235 or her designee.

236 10. The director of Workforce Innovation, or his or her
 237 designee.

238 (c) The Governor shall appoint four additional members to
 239 the coordinating council. The appointees must have expertise
 240 critical to the prevention of suicide or represent an
 241 organization that is not already represented on the coordinating
 242 council.

243 (d) Council members shall be appointed to terms of 4 years
 244 each. Any vacancy on the coordinating council shall be filled in
 245 the same manner as the original appointment, and any member
 246 appointed to fill a vacancy occurring because of death,
 247 resignation, or ineligibility for membership shall serve only
 248 for the unexpired term of the member's predecessor. A member is
 249 eligible for reappointment.

250 (e) Members of the coordinating council shall serve
 251 without compensation. Any member of the coordinating council who
 252 is a public employee is entitled to reimbursement for per diem

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253 and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

254 (3) MEETINGS.--

255 (a) The director of the Office of Drug Control shall be a
 256 nonvoting, ex officio member of the coordinating council and
 257 shall act as chair.

258 (b) The coordinating council shall meet at least quarterly
 259 or upon the call of the chair. The council meetings may be held
 260 via teleconference or other electronic means.

261 (c) Public organizations shall participate and cooperate
 262 with the coordinating council.

263 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.