

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to suicide prevention; creating s.
3 397.3335, F.S.; creating the Statewide Office for Suicide
4 Prevention in the Office of Drug Control; providing the
5 goals and objectives of the office; creating the position
6 of statewide coordinator for the statewide office,
7 contingent upon a specific appropriation; specifying the
8 education and experience requirements for the position of
9 coordinator; detailing the duties and responsibilities of
10 the coordinator; authorizing the Statewide Office for
11 Suicide Prevention to seek and accept grants or funds from
12 any source to support its operation; creating s. 397.3336,
13 F.S.; creating the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council
14 within the Office of Drug Control; providing the scope of
15 activities for the coordinating council; creating an
16 interagency workgroup for state agencies within the
17 coordinating council in order to coordinate state agency
18 plans for suicide prevention; authorizing the coordinating
19 council to assemble an ad hoc committee to advise the
20 coordinating council; requiring a report to the Governor
21 and Legislature; providing for membership on and meetings
22 of the coordinating council; providing per diem and travel
23 expenses for coordinating council members; providing an
24 appropriation and authorizing a position; providing an
25 effective date.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) Build a network of community-based programs to integrate suicide prevention initiatives into program activities.

55 (c) Increase public awareness concerning topics relating
56 to suicide prevention.

57 (d) Coordinate education and training curricula in suicide
58 prevention efforts for law enforcement personnel, first
59 responders to emergency calls, health care providers, school
60 employees, and other persons who may have contact with persons
61 at risk of suicide.

62 (e) Direct an interagency workgroup within the Suicide
63 Prevention Coordinating Council to prepare a suicide prevention
64 communication plan among state agencies. The communication plan
65 must be incorporated into the council's statewide plan.

66 (3) Contingent upon a specific appropriation, the director
67 of the Office of Drug Control shall employ a coordinator for the
68 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention. In selecting the
69 coordinator, the director of the Office of Drug Control should
70 consider whether a candidate has:

71 (a) The following education and employment experience:

72 1. A bachelor's degree in social work, psychology,
73 sociology, counseling, public health, or a closely related field
74 and 5 or more years of work experience in behavioral health care
75 or a closely related field.

76 2. A master's or a doctoral degree in social work,
77 psychology, sociology, counseling, public health, or a closely
78 related field and 2 or more years of work experience in
79 behavioral health or a closely related field.

80 (b) The following skills:

81 1. Significant professional experience in social services,
82 mental health, or a closely related field.

83 2. Knowledge of group behavior and dynamics, methods of
84 facilitation, community development, behavioral health treatment
85 and prevention programs, and community-based behavioral health
86 problems.

87 3. Experience in working with community groups and
88 constituents that are diverse and representative of the gender,
89 ethnic, and racial populations in this state.

90 4. Experience in writing grant proposals and technical
91 reports.

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

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

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

100 If innovative models are discovered, the coordinator shall
101 prepare a report to describe the feasibility of implementing
102 some or all of the innovative models in this state. The report
103 must be filed with the President of the Senate, the Speaker of
104 the House of Representatives, and the Suicide Prevention
105 Coordinating Council after review and approval of the report by
106 the director of the Office of Drug Control. The innovative
107 models, and the feasibility of their implementation in this

108 state, shall be evaluated by the Suicide Prevention Coordinating
109 Council, which shall file a report with the President of the
110 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
111 Governor if the council determines that legislation is necessary
112 to implement an innovative model.

113 (c) Develop and maintain an Internet website with links to
114 appropriate suicide prevention resource documents, suicide
115 hotlines, state and community mental health agencies, and
116 appropriate national suicide prevention organizations.

117 (d) Identify and disseminate information regarding crisis
118 services for suicide prevention.

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

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

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

129 (h) Join with stakeholders in suicide prevention to
130 develop education and training programs for suicide prevention.
131 The education and training programs must be directed first to
132 persons who have face-to-face contact with individuals who may
133 be at risk of suicide. The training must assist persons to
134 recognize when an individual is at risk of suicide and how to

135 properly refer those individuals to treatment or support
136 services.

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

142 (j) Develop and submit proposals to agencies of the state,
143 the Federal Government, and nongovernmental organizations for
144 funding suicide prevention activities.

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

149 Section 2. Section 397.3336, Florida Statutes, is created
150 to read:

151 397.3336 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council;
152 creation; membership; duties.--There is created within the
153 Office of Drug Control a Suicide Prevention Coordinating
154 Council. The council shall develop strategies for preventing
155 suicide.

156 (1) SCOPE OF ACTIVITY.--The Suicide Prevention
157 Coordinating Council is a coordinating council as defined in s.
158 20.03(9) and shall:

159 (a) Advise the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention
160 regarding the development of a statewide plan for suicide

161 prevention, with the guiding principle being that suicide is a
162 preventable problem. The statewide plan must:

163 1. Align and provide direction for statewide suicide
164 prevention initiatives.

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

167 3. Address specific populations in this state who are at
168 risk for suicide.

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

170 5. Identify resources to support the implementation of the
171 statewide plan.

172 (b) Create an interagency workgroup within the council in
173 order to incorporate state agency plans for suicide prevention
174 into the statewide plan. The interagency workgroup must include,
175 but need not be limited to:

176 1. The Secretary of Elderly Affairs, or his or her
177 designee.

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

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

180 4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration, or his or
181 her designee.

182 5. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice, or his or her
183 designee.

184 6. The executive director of the Department of Law
185 Enforcement, or his or her designee.

186 7. The Secretary of Children and Family Services, or his
187 or her designee.

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

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

191 10. The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation,
 192 or his or her designee.

193 (c) Assemble an ad hoc advisory committee with membership
 194 from outside the council when necessary in order for the council
 195 to receive advice and assistance in carrying out its
 196 responsibilities.

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

198 (e) Make findings and recommendations regarding suicide
 199 prevention programs and activities. The council shall prepare an
 200 annual report and present it to the Governor, the President of
 201 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by
 202 January 1, 2007, and each year thereafter. The annual report
 203 must describe the status of existing and planned initiatives
 204 identified in the statewide plan for suicide prevention and any
 205 recommendations arising therefrom.

206 (2) MEMBERSHIP.--The Suicide Prevention Coordinating
 207 Council shall consist of 28 members.

208 (a) Fourteen members shall be appointed by the director of
 209 the Office of Drug Control and shall represent the following
 210 organizations:

211 1. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation,
 212 Inc., described in s. 394.655.

213 2. The Florida Association of School Psychologists.

214 3. The Florida Sheriffs Association.

- 215 | 4. The Suicide Prevention Action Network USA.
- 216 | 5. The Florida Initiative for Suicide Prevention.
- 217 | 6. The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition.
- 218 | 7. The Alzheimer's Association.
- 219 | 8. The Florida School Board Association.
- 220 | 9. Volunteer Florida, Inc.
- 221 | 10. Florida AARP.
- 222 | 11. The Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association.
- 223 | 12. The Florida Counseling Association.
- 224 | 13. The Florida Council for Community Mental Health.
- 225 | 14. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
- 226 | Florida, Inc.

227 | (b) The following state officials shall be appointed to
 228 | the coordinating council:

- 229 | 1. The Secretary of Elderly Affairs, or his or her
 230 | designee.
- 231 | 2. The Secretary of Health, or his or her designee.
- 232 | 3. The Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee.
- 233 | 4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration, or his or
 234 | her designee.
- 235 | 5. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice, or his or her
 236 | designee.
- 237 | 6. The Secretary of Corrections, or his or her designee.
- 238 | 7. The executive director of the Department of Law
 239 | Enforcement, or his or her designee.
- 240 | 8. The executive director of the Department of Veterans'
 241 | Affairs, or his or her designee.

242 9. The Secretary of Children and Family Services, or his
243 or her designee.

244 10. The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation,
245 or his or her designee.

246 (c) The Governor shall appoint four additional members to
247 the coordinating council. The appointees must have expertise
248 critical to the prevention of suicide or represent an
249 organization that is not already represented on the coordinating
250 council.

251 (d) Council members shall be appointed to staggered terms
252 of 4 years each, in accordance with s. 20.052. Any vacancy on
253 the coordinating council shall be filled in the same manner as
254 the original appointment, and any member appointed to fill a
255 vacancy occurring because of death, resignation, or
256 ineligibility for membership shall serve only for the unexpired
257 term of the member's predecessor. A member is eligible for
258 reappointment.

259 (e) Members of the coordinating council shall serve
260 without compensation. Any member of the coordinating council who
261 is a public employee is entitled to reimbursement for per diem
262 and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

263 (3) MEETINGS.--

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

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

270 (c) Public organizations shall participate and cooperate
271 with the coordinating council.

272 Section 3. One full-time equivalent position is authorized
273 and the sum of \$100,000 is appropriated from the General Revenue
274 Fund to the Office of Drug Control for the purpose of
275 implementing this act during the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

276 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.