Survivors of Suicide Needed to Serve on Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention Project Teams

The Nebraska State Youth Suicide Prevention Project Team is seeking people willing to bring the voice of Suicide Survivors to all aspects of the project. A Suicide Survivor for this project is anyone who has been personally impacted by the suicide of a young person or someone who attempted suicide as a young person and survived. The Team is currently seeking Suicide Survivors willing to serve on two critically important leadership groups for this grant funded project. These two positions are listed below, followed by information about how to apply and additional information about the project.

**Project Management Team Representative(s):** Survivors are needed to serve on the group that oversees all grant activities at a system level. This opportunity requires attendance at meetings held the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 2:30 -4:30 PM (CST). An understanding of systems and an ability to comfortably interact with professionals is desirable for survivors working at this level. A small stipend will be made available to survivors participating on this group due to the high level of involvement expected.

**Project Evaluation Team Representative(s):** Survivors interested in and knowledgeable about measuring outcomes are invited to be part of the Evaluation Team. This group meets monthly on a weekday. This group will oversee the local and cross site evaluation activities for this project. A small stipend will be made available to survivors serving on this group due to the high level of involvement expected.

The commitment expected from Survivors serving in these positions includes attendance at meetings through September 30, 2010. The grant period may extend for an additional two years (through September 30, 2012) and the Survivors serving on these groups may be offered an opportunity to extend their service.

To apply for these positions please send a letter briefly explaining why you are interested in serving and the skills/experience you have that will allow you to contribute to the group you are applying to. Please include a sentence in the letter with information about why you are considered a Survivor of Suicide. Letters of application need to be received (by post or email) by February 3 at 10:00 AM (CST) because they will be reviewed the afternoon of February 3, 2010.

For more information or to submit a letter of application please contact:

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More about Nebraska’s Youth Suicide Prevention Project:
Nebraska's suicide rate for youth ages 10 - 24 exceeds the national rate and is the second leading cause of death for Nebraskans ages 15-19. The Nebraska Suicide Prevention Project will reduce youth suicide by promoting culturally appropriate, evidence based prevention practices statewide, focusing on youth at high risk for suicide: youth involved in multiple systems, minority youth and youth in transition to adulthood, including young returning veterans. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health will provide oversight for the grant. The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center and Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska and the Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition are collaborating partners charged with carrying out grant activities and evaluating the project's progress. The project aims to increase general awareness of suicide as a preventable public health issue and to produce measurable decreases in Nebraska's youth suicide rates through the provision of seed grants for local suicide prevention activities; training gatekeepers and clinicians to screen, recognize and act on signs of suicide; implementing screening for suicide with high risk youth; work with communities to support young returning veterans and military families in Nebraska; assisting the state's trauma centers to implement means restriction protocols and strengthening Nebraska's public/private state suicide prevention coalition. Project activities are designed to support local, regional and state suicide prevention efforts to ensure suicide prevention is sustained in urban, rural and frontier areas of the state. The public/private State Suicide Prevention Coalition will serve as an advisory body for the grant’s project management team as it monitors progress toward reaching grant goals.