

NWCG Mental Health Subcommittee

Agenda: 08/13/2025 1300-1400 (Mountain Standard Time)

Invitees

Present: Alyssa Givens, Candace Shepherd, Patricia O'Brien, Catherine Kaminski, Carmen Thomason, Mike Proud, Scott Bovey

Guests: N/A

Absent: Craig Bondra, Don Jones

Agenda Items

1300 Welcome, Introductions & Updates (10 Minutes) – Chair, Alyssa Givens

Updates:

- Met with NWCG group on August 8 (Sarah Lee & Chelsea McKinney). Letter and "Stronger Together" submitted.
- Suicide Prevention Awareness Week Timeline (SPAW), September 8-12:
 - August 8: Letter completed and sent to Chelsea for review/edit of content (completed)
 - August 25-September 5: Eric will be creating Social Media posts to promote SPAW (pending)
 - September 1-8: Omaira will be updating the SPAW documents on the website (pending)
 - Friday September 5: Mail chimp with the letter will go out to the distribution list to build hype (pending)
- Website review conducted and information sent to the group for review:
 - Review of the Roster to update for the website.
 - If possible, update CISM Desk Reference.

Future Taskings for MHSC:

- Develop an SOP to show purpose, business rules, etc. of the group.
- Initiate meetings minutes that can be posted on the MHSC page monthly.
- Start planning the theme, products and information the team would like to distribute for 2026 Suicide Prevention Awareness Week, initial planning meeting will start in October.

1310 Round Robin (20 Minutes)

Member Updates

- Dana Lee, DOI: Out of office.
- Patricia O'Brien, DOI MHSC Advisor: No updates.
- Catherine Kaminski & Narisa Tappitake, BIA:
 - Planning training and travel and end of year tasks.
- Craig Bondra, US Fire Administration: no updates.
- Candace Shepard, FWS: No updates.
- Darryl Jones, NASF:
 - TX A&M is helping with the response in TX.
 - There are approximately 120 people providing aid, currently no unmet needs to report.
- Carmen Thomason, BLM:
 - Recent successful CISM responses, thanks to Scott from FS for assistance.

- Scott Bovey, FS:
 - CAP/CISM is undergoing re-organization, will wait on updating members until that is completed.
 - Multiple CAP/ CISM responses recently, able to send CISM response teams despite vacancies.
 - Considering pre-staging CISM response teams to provide stress education, Crisis Management Briefings (CMB) and having Red Carded clinicians to reach more personnel.
 - Behavioral Health Officers (BHO) visited fire camp, helpful to have them meet personnel, and see fire camp. Hoping to have as many BHO as possible visit fire camp.
 - Two known CISL are signed up as ADs and have current Red Cards.
 - CAP/CISM training calendar for 2026, hoping to be released before January 2026.
- Mike Proud, NWS
 - Recent aviation incident-mechanical failure but pilot was able to land aircraft. All the personnel were ok. Preparation and planning for incidents was helpful and made the response successful.
 - High rates of burnout in the field, anticipating need for support as fire season wraps up.
 - Personnel impacted by Texas flooding and casualties have assistance in place and may be requesting additional assistance. That location is also preparing for hurricane season.

1330 CISM Desk Reference

- Shared via email. Please send updates by August 18, 2025, to Narisa.
- Hoping to update for SPAW.

1340 Closeout Aug Meeting (5 minutes) – Alyssa Givens

Review of Action Items:

- Subcommittee members to provide edits for CISM Desk Reference by August 18, 2025.

Topics for Next Meeting & Upcoming Meetings/Calls

Topics for Next Meeting

- Website – on going.
- Development of the MHSC SOP/Charter/Mission Statement/ Objectives.
- Updates for the Suicide Prevention Awareness Week (Sept 8-12) resources.

Upcoming Meetings

- Date: Sept 10, 2025
 Time: 1500-1400 Eastern Time
 1400-1500 Central Time
 1300-1400 Mountain Time
 1200-1300 Pacific Time
 1100-1200 Alaska