

NWCG Mental Health Subcommittee

Agenda: 09/10/2025 1300-1400 (Mountain Standard Time)

Invitees

Present: Alyssa Givens, Candace Shepherd, Patricia O'Brien, Dana Lee, Carmen Thomason, Craig Bondra

Guests: N/A

Absent: Narisa Tappitake, Catherine Kaminski, Scott Bovey, Brad Tausan, Eric Coulter, Mike Proud, Richard Smith, Darryl Jones

Agenda Items

1300 Welcome, Introductions & Updates (5 Minutes) – Chair, Alyssa Givens

Updates:

- 2025 Suicide prevention information was posted on the NWCG website and distributed out on mail chimp.
- We are still waiting to hear information about the NWCG reorganization.
- Start discussing and thinking about products that the group can produce that are fire-oriented to create a forever document to load onto the NWCG website.
- Carmen (BLM) mentioned that she is receiving good feedback from the NWCH MH suicide prevention letter that was sent out. FMOs have mentioned that the letter was thoughtfully written and well put together.

Future Taskings for MHSC:

- Develop an SOP to show purpose, business rules, etc. of the group.
- Suicide prevention theme planning products and information the team would like to distribute for 2026 Suicide Prevention Awareness Week; initial planning meeting will start in October/November.
- Create new forever toolkit for the suicide prevention information. Create documents and information to help with PIOs.

1310 Round Robin (20 Minutes)

Member Updates

- Dana Lee, DOI: The WLFF BH program is working to include interagency partners, working on development of the gatekeeper training. Focusing efforts on simple and straight forward things to accomplish. Comms has been busy, and it is harder to get website updates, but they are in the queue to develop and create a central repository of mental health information.
- Patricia O'Brien, DOI MHSC Advisor: No updates.
- Craig Bondra, US Fire Administration: USFA is conducting a symposium this coming October. The conference is being held in person with a virtual option. In the AM session there is going to be discussions about Health and Wellness that could be interesting for the group to listen in. Here is the registration link for the October 7, 2025 Fire Administrators Summit:
<https://web.cvent.com/event/08487065-5c2d-4d01-b7a5-71b96d893b0f/summary>
- Candace Shepard, FWS: Working on Suicide prevention presentations and a social media campaign on Facebook, more trainings are to be had.

- Carmen Thomason, BLM: Distribute info and materials, sending out messages, and trainings regarding mental health. Suggestion for future projects:
 - Possibly partnering with Leadership Committee to find a book for self-study to tie into the MHSC
 - Mentioned the Preparedness guide link on the site is broken.

1340 Closeout September Meeting (2 minutes) – Alyssa Givens

Review of Action Items:

- No action items. Take a break until the next meeting.

Topics for Next Meeting & Upcoming Meetings/Calls

Topics for Next Meeting

- Development of the MHSC SOP.
- Brainstorm ideas for 2026 Suicide Prevention Month.

Upcoming Meetings

- Date: October 8, 2025
Time: 1500-1400 Eastern Time
1400-1500 Central Time
1300-1400 Mountain Time
1200-1300 Pacific Time
1100-1200 Alaska