

# NWCG Mental Health Subcommittee

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## Agenda: 10/08/2025 1300-1400 (Mountain Standard Time)

### Invitees

Present: Alyssa Givens, Candace Shepherd, Patricia O'Brien, Dana Lee, Carmen Thomason, Narisa Tappitake, Mike Proud

Guests: Mack McFarland

Absent: Craig Bondra, Scott Bovey, Steven Gaskill, Richard Smith, Darryl Jones

### Agenda Items

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

Updates:

- October 2025 is here and we need to start looking into the 2026 NWCG Suicide Prevention Awareness materials.
- Discussed the current responses from the field and several of the group mentioned that the field loved and commented on the authenticity of the Subcommittee letter. Due to this, we would like to keep up that authenticity into the coming years.
- Look at creating some forever materials with the help of Craig's team. He was unavailable for this meeting but will follow up with him.
- Discussed some of the reorganization and forwarded to those that have not yet seen it on the MHSC group.

Future Taskings for MHSC:

- Develop a Charter/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 Public Information Officers (PIOs).

#### **1305 Risk Management Chair Updates (5 Minutes)- Mack McFarland**

Updates:

- NWCG reorganization documents came out and they are working on implementing the plan to get the teams realigned.
- There is a new NWCG Branch Coordinator, Steven Gaskill, that is helping with Risk Management Committee.
- There will be a phased roll out of new subcommittees and Mack shared support for Health and Wellness Subcommittee from leadership.

#### **1310 Round Robin (20 Minutes)**

Member Updates

- Dana Lee, DOI: No updates
- Patricia O'Brien, DOI MHSC Advisor: No updates
- Catherine Kaminski, BIA: No updates
- Candace Shepard, FWS: No updates
- Carmen Thomason, BLM: FS CARES catalogue of training is out if anyone is looking for upcoming trainings.
- Mike Proud, NWS: There were a couple of injuries among the NWS group. They used the information that was provided to help those needing support. They appreciate what was provided and feel that the information is useful. Also an increased collaboration with safety as a result of incidents.
- Narisa Tappitake, BIA: No updates
- Mack McFarland, NPS, Risk Management Chair: No further updates

## **1340 Closeout September Meeting (2 Minutes) – Alyssa Givens**

Review of Action Items:

- Brainstorm ideas on how the 2026 Suicide Prevention Awareness products/toolkits should look.

## **Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Desk Reference: Review**

- Final decision point: BIA contact information (task assigned to Catherine and Narisa), due for next meeting.

## **Topics for Next Meeting & Upcoming Meetings/Calls**

### **Topics for Next Meeting**

- Development of the MHSC SOP/Charter
- Brainstorm ideas for 2026 Suicide Prevention Month & forever documents

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- Date: November 12, 2025  
Time: 1500-1400 Eastern Time  
1400-1500 Central Time  
1300-1400 Mountain Time  
1200-1300 Pacific Time  
1100-1200 Alaska