To those who have lost their lives by suicide,
To those who struggle with thoughts of suicide,
To those who have made an attempt on their lives,
To those caring for someone who struggles,
To those left behind after a death by suicide,
To those in recovery, and
To all those who work tirelessly to prevent suicide and suicide attempts in our nation.

We believe that we can and we will make a difference.
Johnson County Suicide Prevention Coalition saves and supports life, with our community partners, through awareness, education and outreach.
Strategic Goals
From the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention

• Implement research-informed communication efforts designed to prevent suicide by changing knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors.

• Provide training to community and clinical service providers on the prevention of suicide and related behaviors.

• Promote suicide prevention as a core component of health care services.
Medical Examiner Update
January 30, 2020

Presented by

Diane C. Peterson, MD
Chief Medical Examiner/Coroner
Our Vision

We choose to be a leader in medicolegal death investigations, one that operates by best practices of national standards but also exceeds the public’s expectations of quality, caring, and timely services.
Our Mission

- To provide exemplary, timely service in a compassionate way to the families of our community while operating at a high level of professional standards beyond the requirements to achieve and maintain accreditation by the National Association of Medical Examiners. The Medical Examiner’s Office (MEO) will collaborate closely with our key stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, funeral homes, hospitals, and hospice agencies in an impartial manner.

- To provide a pleasant, safe work environment with continuous education to strive for high retention rates of quality staff.
Mission Continued

• To conduct quality, thorough independent investigations of individuals who pass away in our jurisdiction with follow-up communication with families. Using advanced forensic pathology and toxicology services as well as credible and unbiased medical opinions will ensure accuracy of our reports.

• To be a resource of information, as a leader in our field, for the public and our stakeholders on best practices. As an integral part of the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment, the MEO will assist in the collection of data on reportable disease trends and work to reduce preventable deaths while working with multiple partners throughout the region and state.
Our Team

Dr. Diane Peterson
Chief Medical Examiner

Ayla McClain
Chief Medical Investigator

Jason Horner
Medicolegal Death Investigator II

Abigail McNamee
Medicolegal Death Investigator I

Michael Gibson
Medicolegal Death Investigator I
Dr. Diane Peterson starts as the Chief ME/Coroner
Meetings with LE begin

January

Chief Medical Investigator starts
Discussions with the District Attorney

April

Attended the KS Coroner’s Conference

June

First full-time investigator hired
Coroner’s only needed for weekend coverage
Obtained Vehicles

September

Coroner’s only needed on Sundays
Finalizing CT Scanner Bid

November

February

Working with KDHE on Grant Funding

March

The CMI starts responding to scenes.
Requisition/ Hiring of On-Call Employees
Meeting with EMS/FD

May

Attended NAME Conference
 Started meeting with Hospitals and Hospices

August

Reclassification of 6 on-call to two Part-time Partial Plus Positions Approved
RFP for Software Completed and evaluated

October

Began 24/7 coverage without need of coroners
Purchased the Software

November

December
Branding and Outreach

Medical Examiner’s Office

Building Improvements

New Fleet

Community Outreach
Just Keep Building
Just Keep Building

Coolers

Toxicology Lab
Education and Emergency Management

• KU Residents with DHE
• KDHE/ DHE
  – Possible OD Fatality Review Board
• Stakeholders
  – Funeral Homes
  – LE
  – Hospitals
  – Hospices
  – EMS/FD

• Dr. Peterson was appointed to the State Child Fatality Review Board
• Heavily involved with MARC CCTA and JoCo EOC
• Working with JoCo Mental Health
  – Possible Suicide Fatality Review Board
  – Mental Health of MEO Employees
• Cooperation with JoCo Sheriff’s CSIs
  – Mock Crime Scenes
  – Photography Course
15

Everyone Loves Charts!

NUMBER OF CASES
750 TOTAL

Types Of Death

- Accident, 244, 32%
- Homicide, 12, 1%
- Natural, 398, 53%
- Suicide, 81, 11%
- Undetermined, 5, 1%
- Pending, 15, 2%
Importance of the MEO

• Independent scene investigations
  – Extensive documentation of suicide scenes

• Expertise in cause and manner of death determinations

• For all possible suicides, investigators complete a suicide profile with NOK
  – 43 questions about medical and social history, criminal history, financial history, etc.
  – Provides evidence for determination of manner of death
    • Alternative - More “undetermined” manners of death
Questions?
Discussion

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Elizabeth Holzschuh, MS
Epidemiologist
Johnson County Department of Health & Environment
In both 2017 and 2018 there were 103 suicides in Johnson County.

One suicide every 4 days in Johnson County.

Source: KDHE-KIC 2018
For 2019, provisional data from the Medical Examiner’s Office shows there were 81 suicides in Johnson County.

This does not include Johnson County residents who died outside of Johnson County.
Suicide Rate

Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000 Population

Source: KDHE KIC

HP2020 Goal
Suicide Rate by Race/Ethnicity
2015-2017

- Black: 11.7 per 100,000 residents
- Hispanic: 8.7 per 100,000 residents
- White: 15.6 per 100,000 residents
- Other: 17.9 per 100,000 residents
Suicide Rate by Age Group

*2018, 2019 data are provisional

Number of Suicides by Method

- Firearm
- Asphyxiation
- Poisoning
- Other

*2018, 2019 data are provisional*

Suicide Method by Gender and Method 2018-2019

- **Poisoning**
  - Female: 30%
  - Male: 8%
- **Firearm**
  - Female: 16%
  - Male: 57%
- **Asphyxiation**
  - Female: 48%
  - Male: 30%
- **Other**
  - Female: 6%
  - Male: 5%

*Data are provisional
Source: Medical Examiner’s Office*
HealthHappensHereJoCo Dashboard

Provides key data and information about how residents live, learn, work and play, and how we can work together to build a healthier, more equitable Johnson County.

https://www.HealthHappensHereJoCo.com
Events & Materials

James Cochran, Church of the Resurrection

• Prepped & Ready event - Shayla Sullivant
• School training - Mindfulness
• NAP! The play
• Suicide prevention week
Events & Materials

• Coasters
• Bookmarks - library
• Pop sockets
• Window clings
• Gun locks - as of January 2020 - 7,200 locks have been distributed
Partnerships

Megan Clark, Johnson County Mental Health Center
Sources of Strength Collaboration

Sondra Wallace, Jewish Family Services

- 19 schools are implementing SOS
- Goals for next school year
Upcoming Events

DewBrew: Partnership with Dewey’s Pizza & Limitless Brewing
Finance

Shana Burgess, Johnson County Mental Health Center

• 2018 Expenses: $18,531.93
• 2019 Income: $34,432.00
• 2019 Expenses: $39,507.08
• January 2020 Balance: $25,160.10

When you get, give.
When you learn, teach.

- Maya Angelou
Gratitude to our generous donors
Membership/Coalition Development

Rennie Shuler-McKinney, AdventHealth

• New members of Leadership Team:
  – Sondra Wallace, Jewish Family Services
  – Julie Paradeis, Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault
  – Emily Snow, University of Kansas Medical Center, Marillac Campus

• Membership has grown to over 490 people

• Youth & adult sub committee
Appreciation & Recognition

Bonnie Swade
*Suicide Awareness Survivor Support*

Johnny Roland
*Olathe Police Department*

Ann Karty, MD
*Family Physician*

Kevin McGuire, JoCo Mental Health Center is moving into ex-officio role.
Johnson County Suicide Prevention Coalition

• Meets monthly on the fourth Thursday
  – February 27th from 3 - 4:30pm
  – Youth & Family Services Building - 920 W. Spruce St. Olathe

• Please contact Prevention Services at 913-715-7880 or megan.clark@jocogov.org for more information
Thank you for your participation!

Please fill out feedback form provided on table.

If you are interested in being on the coalition distribution list, please fill out your information on the notecards provided.

For more information please contact Megan Clark at megan.clark@jocogov.org or 913-715-7880
Suicide is preventable, help is available.

We believe that we can and we will make a difference.

spc@jocogov.org
www.jocogov.org/suicideprevention
www.facebook.com/Jocomnh