



Suncoast Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program

"Learn from this and help each other." —PS in Timothy McClelland's suicide note

News Update

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Reminder to Mark Your Calendar

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, March 15, 2006, 7 pm
Seminole Community Library
St. Petersburg College Campus
9200 113th St. N., Seminole, FL 99772

This is a planning meeting and we could use your help!

Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition Day at the Capitol

Tuesday, March 21, 2006
Tallahassee

Contact Bonnie if you need more information or wish to join her in Tallahassee.

Legislative Support Needed For The "Signs of Suicide" Program

Frank and Judy started the Michael Buonauro Foundation to promote suicide awareness and prevention through education. The past school year, the Michael Buonauro Foundation fully funded the Signs of Suicide (SOS) program for all the high schools in Orange County, Florida (Orlando area). Over 55,000 students have been through the program and over 100 children have come forward seeking help either for themselves or for a friend they were concerned about. SOS is making a difference.

Bills have been introduced in the Senate and House, requesting \$600,000 in matching funds to expand the SOS program into Osceola, Seminole and Brevard counties. And the Central Florida Legislative Delegation has come out in favor of these bills. SB 1876 is sponsored by Senator Daniel Webster and HB 999 is sponsored by Representative Sandy Adams.

The following Florida legislators chair committees that will review these bills:

Senate Bill 1876

Senator Evelyn Lynn	lynn.evelyn.web@flsenate.gov
Senator Walter Campbell	campbell.walter.web@flsenate.gov
Senator J.D. Alexander	alexander.jd.web@flsenate.gov

House Bill 999

Representative Rafael Arza	ralph.arza@myfloridahouse.gov
Representative Bill Galvano	bill.galvano@myfloridahouse.gov
Representative Joe Pickens	joe.pickens@myfloridahouse.gov
Representative Dennis Baxley	dennis.baxley@myfloridahouse.gov

Please take the time to send an email to each of these legislators, asking for their speedy and favorable support of these bills. Frank and Judy Buonauro know how hard it is to get motivated sometimes, so they thank you so much for whatever help you are able to give them.

Go to <http://www.mentalhealthscreening.org/highschool> to learn more about the SOS program.

SPAN USA Asking For Help To Advance Suicide Prevention

Ask federal legislators to support suicide prevention in FY 2007!

As the second session of Congress begins, SPAN USA asks you to share their FY 2007 public policy priorities with your legislators. In 2004, President Bush signed the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act (PL 108-355), the first federal authorization for youth suicide early intervention and prevention. Congress has supported appropriations in both FY 2005 and FY 2006 for this important initiative. In spite of this progress, much work remains to be done. It is important for your federal legislators to be aware of and support the next steps necessary to advance suicide prevention. SPAN USA has five public policy priorities for FY 2007 that require legislative attention. Please take a moment to ask your federal legislators to support:

- Full FY 2007 appropriation of \$40 million for the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act (PL 108-355);
- Passage of mental health parity legislation;
- Appropriation of \$1.5 million for CDC to expand the National Violent Death Reporting System to six more states;
- Development of legislation targeting senior suicide early intervention and prevention; and
- Establishment of the Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, a public/private partnership to advance the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention.

Take Action! Go to <http://capwiz.com/spanusa/home/> and click “Advance Suicide Prevention” under “Action Alert.”