



## **The NH Youth Suicide Prevention Assembly**

### **YSPA Purpose**

The Youth Suicide Prevention Assembly (YSPA) is dedicated to reducing the occurrence of suicide and suicidal behaviors among New Hampshire's youth and young adults through the age of 24 years. We will accomplish this by coordinating and communicating with communities regarding current information and best practices in prevention, intervention, and postvention strategies and by promoting hope, recovery and safety in our communities and organizations.

### **YSPA Goals**

*To help implement the State Suicide Prevention Plan to include:*

- 1) Promoting public awareness of youth and young adult suicide, including warning signs, risk and protective factors.
- 2) Advocating for and fostering interagency collaboration and communication to promote streamlined and integrated access to services.
- 3) Educate, promote, and support effective emergency and ongoing mental health and substance use services.
- 4) Assisting community organizations to plan for suicide prevention, intervention, postvention, hope, recovery and safety for youth, young adults, and Survivors of Suicide Loss
- 5) Support the NH Suicide Prevention Council (SPC) and other initiatives via liaisons, attendance, including mutual reporting of YSPA and SPC activities

### **Join Us If You Would Like To Get Involved!**

The Youth Suicide Prevention Assembly (YSPA) normally meets on the second Thursday of every month in Concord. Anyone is welcome to join us. You are encouraged to contact one of the co-chairs before coming to the meeting to learn more about the agenda and what the meeting entails. If you want to be added to the YSPA email list to receive updates on issues of interest, as well as meeting minutes, agendas, and committee meeting schedules, please contact one of the co-chairs below:

### **YSPA CHAIRS:**

*Traci Belanger*, Southern NH University: [t.belanger@snhu.edu](mailto:t.belanger@snhu.edu) or 603-645-9679

*Elaine de Mello*, National Alliance On Mental Illness (NAMI-NH): [edemello@naminh.org](mailto:edemello@naminh.org), or 603-225-5359 x 315

*Elizabeth Fenner-Lukaitis*, Division of Behavioral Health, NH DHHS: [Elizabeth.Fenner-Lukaitis@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Fenner-Lukaitis@dhhs.nh.gov) or 603-271-5028.

*Margaret Lougee*, Bow Police Department: [mlougee@bownh.gov](mailto:mlougee@bownh.gov) or 603-223-3950.