

Date: April 27, 2018	MEMO TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS BOARD ACTION REQUESTED	 Health District OF NORTHERN LARIMER COUNTY
Staff: Alyson Williams		

HB18-1416: STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM

Policy Issue Summary

The bill creates the student suicide prevention grant program for schools within the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The purpose of the grant program is to provide financial assistance to school districts, schools of a school district, including charter schools, and institute charter schools to develop and implement student suicide prevention policies and training programs. The bill specifies the minimum requirements for the policies and training programs. At a minimum, the suicide prevention training for staff must include: identifying at-risk students and adults and practices for referring identified individuals to assistance. The grantee must also have a training for students to learn effective practices to increase protective factors (i.e. problem-solving, social support, resiliency, self-awareness, and positive mental/emotional health). The final required aspect for grantees is education for parents about suicide prevention.

CDPHE is required to work with the Office of Suicide Prevention and the School Safety Resource Center in the Department of Public Safety in implementing the grant program. The State Board of Health is directed to adopt rules to implement the grant program, including criteria that the department must take into consideration in awarding grants. Grants must range from \$5,000 to \$10,000, and no more than 10 percent of the funding (total of \$400,000 for fiscal year 2018-2019) may be used for administrative expenses.

Each grant recipient is required to submit information concerning the use of the grant money to CDPHE, and CDPHE is required to submit an annual report concerning implementation of the grant program to the State Board of Health and to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and the House Committee on Public Health Care and Human Services. CDPHE is required to post on its website available evidence-based best practices and other resources for persons involved in student suicide prevention.

Reason for Involvement by the Health District of Northern Larimer County

The Health District has a strong interest in the prevention of suicides among Larimer County youth. In 2015, Colorado ranked ninth for the highest suicide rate in the United States and is consistently among the top ten states with the highest suicide rates nationally.¹ Among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24, suicide remained the leading cause of death in Colorado¹. The 2015 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey found that nearly 17.5 percent of high school aged youth reported considering suicide and 7.8 percent reported making one or more suicide attempts in the previous year.¹ In 2016, 83 people completed suicide in Larimer County.³ Of these 83 cases, 4 were under the age of 18, with the youngest being 15 years of age.²

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board of Directors support the House Bill 18-1416.

¹ Brummett, S., Fine, E., Hindman, J., & Myers, L. (2017). *Office of Suicide Prevention Annual Report 2016-2017*. Department of Public Health and Environment. Retrieved from https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/PW_ISVP_OSP-2016-2017-Legislative-Report.pdf

² Wilkerson, J. (2017). *2016 Annual Report*. Loveland: Office of the Larimer County Coroner. Retrieved from <https://www.larimer.org/sites/default/files/uploads/2017/2016-annual-report.pdf>