

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: Year 1 Impacts

AGENDA

September 7, 2023

- 1:00 p.m.** **Welcome**
Kari M. Bruffett, President and CEO, Kansas Health Institute
- 1:05 p.m.** **988 – A Look at the Data**
Valentina Blanchard, M.P.H., L.M.S.W., Analyst, Kansas Health Institute
- 1:20 p.m.** **Panel Discussion: 988 Suicide – Year 1 Impacts**
Moderator: *Valentina Blanchard, M.P.H., L.M.S.W.*, Analyst, Kansas Health Institute
Chelsea Booth, Ph.D., Public Health Advisor, 988 Behavioral Health Crisis
Coordinating Office of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
Laura Brake, M.H.S., Director of Crisis Services, Behavioral Health Services
Commission at the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services
Monica Kurz, Vice President of External Programming, Kansas Suicide Prevention HQ
Representative Brenda Landwehr, Kansas House of Representatives
Aaron Newton, L.C.S.W., Director of Clinical Operations, HealthSource Integrated
Solutions
- 2:25 p.m.** **Closing Remarks**
- 2:30 p.m.** **Adjourn**



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ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

PANEL DISCUSSION: 988 SUICIDE – YEAR 1 IMPACTS

Listed in alphabetical order by last name



Chelsea Booth, Ph.D., is a Public Health Advisor in the 988 Behavioral Health Crisis Coordinating Office (BHCCO) of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). She is an anthropologist with expertise in suicide prevention, public health, public policy and policy analysis, research, and project and program leadership. Dr. Booth is the 988 BHCCO's lead for the state/territory grant program and Government Project Officer (GPO) for the state/territory and Tribal 988 Response grant programs. Before returning to SAMHSA in 2022, she was the Associate Director of the Zero Suicide Institute at the Education Development Center (EDC). She also has been a GPO for the Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) State/Tribal Suicide Prevention and National Strategy for Suicide Prevention grant programs at SAMHSA and co-chair of the SAMHSA Refugee Behavioral Health Coordinating Committee. For the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, Dr. Booth was also staff on the Research Prioritization Task Force and was lead staff support and member of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (NSSP) Implementation Assessment Advisory Group. She also was a Presidential Management fellow and had rotations at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), SAMHSA, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Secretary.



Laura Brake, M.H.S., is the Director of Crisis Services for the Behavioral Health Services Commission at the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services. She has over 30 years of experience in the fields of mental health and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Prior to her current position, Brake served as a crisis intervention team (CIT) co-responder in Topeka, working with the Topeka Police Department and Shawnee County Sheriff's Office. Brake has experience in risk management, case management and teaching, as she is also an adjunct professor at Washburn University.

Brake serves as the liaison for the Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council, Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) sub-committee and is a member of Kansas Crisis Intervention Team Association (KCITA). Brake holds a master's degree from Washburn University in health care education, as well as a bachelor's in psychology and criminal justice from New Mexico State University.



Monica Kurz is the Vice President of External Programming of the Kansas Suicide Prevention HQ. Kurz began working in the field of suicide prevention in 2005 as a volunteer counselor for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at Kansas Suicide Prevention HQ. She has worked in a variety of mental health settings in Kansas including community mental health centers and emergency departments. In 2017, she joined the team at KSPHQ full-time to develop the Suicide Prevention Resource Center program as an education and advocacy resource in the state. She is a passionate advocate with lived experience of suicide loss who enjoys using her experience and talent to take a marco/systems level approach to suicide prevention. In addition to policy advocacy activities, Kurz also was instrumental in the development of the first statewide suicide prevention coalition to exist in the state of Kansas in many years, which launched in September 2021.



Representative Brenda Landwehr was elected as a State Representative in 1994. She has been married for 43 years to David Landwehr and has three sons as well as eight grandchildren. A business owner since 1977 with her husband David, Rep. Landwehr has been an active member of her community, including as a past little league coach, Cub Scout chair, an active member of Christ the King Church, past president of Christ the King School Board, past member of the Comcare Mental Health Advisory Board, Mental Health Association Board and Salvation Army Foster Care Advisory Board.

During her 25 years of service (with a four-year sabbatical from 2013–2016) in the Kansas House, Rep. Landwehr has fought for conservative principles across a myriad of issues, including health care reform, tax reform, immigration reform, foster care reform, education opportunities and limited government. She has chaired the Social Services Budget Committee, has been vice-chair of the Appropriations Committee and was a member of the State Hospital Closure Committee in the 1990s, which said the money would follow the person. Rep. Landwehr is currently a member of the Appropriations Committee, chairs the Health and Human Services Committee, is vice-chair of K-12 Budget Committee, chaired the Special Committees on Kansas Mental Health Modernization and Reform, has chaired the Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight, and is a member of the Vital Statistics Advisory Committee and a member of the Juvenile Offender/Child in Need of Care Kansas Judicial Advisory Committee. Rep. Landwehr led the creation of the Mental Health Intervention Team Program, which provides mental health services to children in schools, and was instrumental in legislation creating Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHC), the biggest change in mental health in Kansas in 30 years. She also worked on passage of the new 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.



Aaron Newton, L.C.S.W., is the Director of Clinical Operations of HealthSource Integrated Solutions. Newton is an asset to HealthSource Integrated Solutions with his breadth of crisis behavioral health experience, specifically focused on suicide prevention. Newton has vast experience serving communities through Community Mental Health Centers within the state of Kansas, having worked across the crisis continuum as a Crisis Case Manager, Crisis Clinician, and Crisis Program Manager. Newton's extensive experience at both the clinical and administrative levels makes him an asset to the team as the Clinical Director. He currently serves as a member of the Kansas CIT Board, the Kansas Suicide Coalition, and is an experienced implementer of the Zero Suicide model, a quality improvement model which aims to transform system-wide suicide prevention and care to save lives. Newton holds a master's of social work degree from Wichita State University and obtained his clinical licensure in 2022.



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