

## **Garrett Lee Smith Early Prevention and Intervention of Youth Suicide SAMHSA Grant Abstract**

The Florida A.S.A.P. (Adolescent Suicide Awareness and Prevention) Project is a three-year project, which will enhance the State's capacity to reach its 2010 goal of reducing the rate of suicide in youths between the ages of 10 and 24. The A.S.A.P Project will target Duval County, a large county with a youth suicide rate higher than the national average. Agencies in this community will build upon existing state and community evidence-based and culturally competent youth suicide prevention efforts and partnerships. The A.S.A.P Project will enhance a community infrastructure where Suicide Prevention is a targeted activity of the community's Children's Mental Health Task Force, a working collaboration of over 35 state, public and private organizations. The targeted result will be a more comprehensive delivery of suicide prevention services.

The A.S.A.P Project will expand capacity with the following activities:

- Training at least 1,000 gatekeepers (train the trainers model) in an evidence-based gatekeeper training model (QPR, Question, Persuade, Refer);
- Screening approximately 1,000 adolescents using a proven suicide prevention program (Signs of Suicide);
- Launching a social marketing campaign that directly targets the gatekeeper, parent/caregiver and adolescent populations of Duval County;
- Expanding current parent involvement activities (such as implementing a Parent Suicide Prevention Advisory and Outreach Council); and
- Utilizing existing crisis support services (e.g. United Way 211).
- In addition, Duval County's Children's Mental Health Task Force has created strong community partnerships to ensure that identified youths are not "lost in the system". Youth identified within the participating referral network will immediately receive a suicide assessment (over 1,000 youth) and be referred for treatment. There are seven distinct service sectors within the participating referral network: education, law enforcement/juvenile justice, child welfare, substance abuse, public health, mental health providers, and the faith-based community.

These components of the A.S.A.P Project proposed are consistent with Florida's suicide prevention plan and build upon existing state and community youth suicide prevention efforts and collaborations. The Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council will provide guidance to the project on a continual basis to ensure integration with the broader statewide initiatives. Mental Health America of Northeast Florida will coordinate the local suicide prevention activities while the University of South Florida will provide independent quality assurance, and conduct an independent evaluation of the various suicide prevention activities. Information collected will be used to ensure proper implementation of program activities and to provide feedback in order to guide future suicide prevention initiatives which are planned throughout Florida.