

International Association for Suicide Prevention - Taskforce Postvention

Open Meeting held at the 12th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour
Glasgow, Scotland-UK, 27-30 August 2008

Minutes of the meeting – 28 August 2008 – 18.05h-19.05h

Attendees (in alphabetical order)

Name	E-mail	Country
1. Karl Andriessen (Co-Chair)	iasp-tf-postvention@pandora.be	Belgium
2. Annette Beautrais	annette.beautrais@otago.ac.nz	New Zealand
3. Frank Campell	frankcampell@brcic.org	USA
4. Onja Grad	onja.grad@psih-klinika.si	Slovenia
5. Karolina Kryszynska	k.kryszynska@uq.edu.au	Australia
6. Michelle Linn-Gust (Co-Chair)	michelle@chellehead.com	USA
7. Pernilla Larsson	pernilla.e.larsson@sl.se	Sweden
8. Seán McCarthy (Co-Chair)	sean.mccarthy@console.ie	Ireland
9. Brian Mishara	mishara.brian@uqam.ca	Canada
10. John Peters	john@johnpeters.freemove.co.uk	UK
11. Jerry Reed	jreed@spanusa.org	USA
12. Vicky Van Dooren	vicky_v_d@hotmail.com	Belgium
13. Paul Wong	paulw@hku.hk	Hong Kong
14. Anka Zavasnik	anka.zavasnik@psih-klinika.si	Slovenia

Apologies

1. D-Angela Castelli-Dransart	Angela.Castelli@hef-ts.ch	Switzerland
2. Kari Dyregrov	kari@krisepsyk.no	Norway

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Minutes of meeting in Killarney 2007
3. Review of activities 2007-2008
 - Update booklet: "Preventing Suicide: How to Start a Survivors' Group"
 - Communications: Newsletter
 - Postvention activities at IASP sponsored conferences
4. Website redesign, postvention content
5. Defining what constitutes a member of the Taskforce
6. Any other business

1. Introductions: The Co-Chairs opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

2. Minutes of meeting in Killarney 2007

The minutes of the previous meeting, held at the IASP Congress in Killarney, August 2007, will be posted on the website.

3. Review of activities 2007-2008

3.1. Update booklet: "Preventing Suicide: How to Start a Survivors' Group"

The well-known blue booklet, originally a part of the WHO SUPRE program: "*Preventing suicide: How to start a survivors' group*" was revised and updated by a Working Party of the IASP Postvention Taskforce (K. Andriessen, N.L. Farberow, O.T. Grad, J. Weyrauch, and A. Zavasnik). The booklet was now re-issued as a joint WHO-IASP publication, and will be available in the websites of both organizations.

Brian Mishara, IASP President, invites the Taskforce members to translate this booklet in their respective languages, for domestic purposes, and to send these translations (via Karl Andriessen?) to him in order to have them included in the IASP en WHO websites.

Printed copies are available. The following attendees immediately ordered printed copies:

- Jerry Reed: 100 copies
- Annette Beautrais: 100 copies
- Sean McCarthy: 20 copies
- Karl Andriessen: 20 copies

More copies can be ordered by sending the requested number of copies, and the full delivery address to Karl Andriessen (iasp-tf-postvention@pandora.be) who will forward to Brian Mishara.

The publication of the updated booklet, the possibility of translating the document, and the offer to order printed copies, will be announced in the IASP Postvention Newsletter.

3.2. Communications: Newsletter

Last year, the IASP Postvention Newsletter was successfully launched, with four issues a year. This year, still two issues are planned to be published. The Newsletter is disseminated to the whole IASP membership.

Michelle Linn-Gust encourages the Taskforce members to submit articles on suicide bereavement, postvention services, survivor stories, etc.

In addition, there is a vacancy for a volunteer / editor for the newsletter. A call will be made in a next issue of the Newsletter.

3.3. Postvention activities at IASP sponsored conferences

The scientific program of the current 12th ESSSB included 2 symposia (sessions 5.3 and 9.2), workshops and presentations (sessions 7.6 and 10.1), and posters on suicide postvention, a total of 18 presentations (Taskforce meeting included). However, no plenary presentation was scheduled in the current conference.

Though the interest in the topic is increasing, the Taskforce wishes a higher visibility of suicide bereavement and postvention in IASP sponsored conferences.

In this perspective, the Taskforce welcomes the confirmation that the next IASP Congress in Montevideo, 27-29 October 2009, includes a plenary postvention presentation by Kari Dyregrov.

The conference program will offer the possibility to facilitate workshops up to 90 minutes. In addition a one-day or half-a-day pre-congress workshop could be scheduled (extra registration fee of 30 to 50 \$ for participants).

Michelle Linn-Gust considers to organize a healing ceremony. She'll contact the congress secretariat to find local facilitators.

Next Newsletter will call the membership to submit abstracts to the Montevideo congress.

4. Website redesign, postvention content

Regarding the design of the website, one suggested to replace the technical word 'Taskforce Postvention' by 'suicide bereavement' in order to be more clear regarding the content.

One day per week, there is a person available to work on the whole website.

The directory of suicide survivor services needs to be updated and expanded to the rest of the world. A discussion emerged whether the database should a) include the details of all services in all countries, or b) should list links to (national) websites who provide the details of the available survivor groups.

- Pro option a): the information would be presented in a uniform way, and would include information of countries without national organisations.
- Contra a): it's a very time consuming task to collect the information, and even more, to keep the information up to date.
- Pro option b): it's easier to do than option a). Information can be found via IASP Nationals and Taskforce Postvention members.
- Contra b): the information might be available in national/local languages only.

Taskforce member Karolina Krysinska considers to volunteer to work on this. She will look at it with the Co-Chairs to clarify what could be done.

The website will include:

- all issues of the Postvention Newsletter
- brief information for the bereaved and their social networks, such as the leaflets of Console, Spanusa, etc.
- links to international websites
- papers, brochures, ...

The Co-Chairs of the Taskforce will take the editorial decision regarding the inclusion of a specific item in the website. They will forward the items to Annette Beautrais.

The next issues of the Postvention Newsletter will call the Taskforce members, to provide materials for the postvention webpage. In addition, support will be sought from the National Representatives. The Co-Chairs will write a letter to Murad Khan, which Annette Beautrais will deliver to him.

The whole IASP website will be available in English, French, Spanish, and Chinese. IASP Board welcomes translations in other languages as well.

5. Defining what constitutes a member of the Taskforce

As for any IASP Taskforce, to be a Taskforce member, one has to be an IASP member.

However, the open meetings of the Postvention Taskforce welcome all conference delegates who are interested in suicide bereavement and postvention work.

Non-IASP members can be listed as 'associate members'.

The Co-Chairs will forward a provisional Taskforce members list to Cees Van Heeringen, who will check the IASP membership, in order to post the list in the postvention webpage.

6. Any other business

- The report of the 1st International Suicide Postvention Seminar, "Current understandings of suicide survivor issues: research, practice, and plans" (11th ESSSB, Slovenia, September 2006) was published in *Crisis*, 2007, 28(4), pp. 211-213.

- Reports of the 2nd International Suicide Postvention Seminar “Suicide postvention: realities and aspirations” (XXIVth IASP World Congress, Ireland, August 2007) were published in the official Conference Report (p. 25), and in the Taskforce Postvention Newsletter, 2007, 1(1), p. 2. Copies are available from the Co-Chairs.

Next Taskforce meeting will be scheduled at the XXVth IASP Congress in Montevideo, 27-29 October 2009.

To do list

Nr.	Action	Responsibility
1.	To post the minutes of the 2007 and 2008 meeting in the website.	Karl Andriessen to forward to Annette Beautrais.
2.	Dissemination of the updated booklet: “How to start a survivors’ group”. The publication of the booklet, the possibility of translating the document, and the offer to order printed copies, will be announced in the IASP Postvention Newsletter. Requests for printed copies should be send to Karl Andriessen.	Co-Chairs will include this in the Newsletter. Karl will forward the requests to Brian Mishara.
3.	Newsletter: to call for articles, stories, etc., and for an Editor.	Co-Chairs will include this in the Newsletter.
4.	Postvention streams, presentations, workshops, etc., for the upcoming IASP Congress in Montevideo, October 2009.	Co-Chairs: the Postvention Newsletter will make a call to the members.
5.	To organize a healing ceremony at the IASP Congress in Montevideo.	Michelle Linn-Gust to contact the congress secretariat.
6.	Website: update of the Directory of Survivor Services.	Co-Chairs to clarify with volunteer.
7.	Website: to include links and materials.	Co-Chairs: the postvention Newsletter will make a call to the members. Co-Chairs will write a letter to Murad Khan, via Annette Beautrais. Co-Chairs make editorial decisions re inclusion of materials.
8.	Taskforce membership	Co-Chairs will send a provisional list to Cees Van Heeringen for check-up, and for publication in the website.

Minutes,
Karl Andriessen
9 september 2008

International Association for Suicide Prevention - Taskforce Postvention

Workshop/Meeting held at the 12th European Symposium on Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour
Glasgow, Scotland-UK, 27-30 August 2008

Minutes of the meeting – 29 August 2008 – 11.15h-12.00h

1. Introduction

The current meeting, scheduled as a workshop in a parallel session of the regular conference program, aimed to offer the opportunity to further discuss topics that were raised during the Taskforce meeting, yesterday evening (28 August), and to raise new topics with a broader group.

As such, Karl Andriessen opened and chaired the meeting with Michelle Lin-Gust. He reported the topics that were discussed yesterday, and invited comments and suggestions from the attendees. Approximate 35 people attended the meeting. Names were not recorded. Here below, the discussions of the current meeting are summarised.

2. Visibility of postvention in the conferences

Several attendees found that postvention still is undertreated in the scientific programs of IASP and ESSSB conferences (e.g., no plenary presentations), especially when compared with AAS. However, a few other attendees with long standing experience, reported that the awareness for postvention has increased, and continues to increase during the recent years. In addition, one has to distinguish between ESSSB and IASP Congress. The ESSSB conferences (like the present one) focuses on clinicians and researchers, and until today, there have been 3 plenary postvention presentations in ESSSB conferences. The IASP Congresses have a broader perspective, which should make it easier to include a postvention plenary presentation. It's up to the Taskforce to identify potential speakers and to bring them to the attention of congress organizers.

The visibility of postvention should not be evaluated by the number of plenaries only. Throughout the conference program there should be a dialogue between science and practice (do they speak the same language?), in which the input of survivors should be felt.

3. Remembrance / Healing

The Canadian congresses provide a 'survivor' sticker for the delegates who wish to share, to disclose their survivor status with other participants.

Michelle Linn-Gust intends to organize a healing ceremony at the next IASP Congress in October 2009 in Montevideo. She will contact local facilitators.

4. National strategies and programs

Canada still doesn't have a coordinated national strategy, contrary to, e.g., Scotland, and others, where postvention was included in the national prevention strategy.

Representatives of the US, and Wales, ... reported to have experience in working with communities (e.g., funeral directors, police, nurses, ...) to increase capacity. This could be a topic for the Taskforce and/or for a pre-conference workshop.

5. Ethical dilemmas

Recently, a Swedish postvention research program was hindered because the ethical committee refused to give approval, for debatable reasons.

This topic, of ethical dilemmas and how to deal with awkward decisions that interfere with research or practice, is very germane for everyone in this field and it would be a valuable topic for a plenary presentation.

6. Newsletter

The meeting recommended that the Postvention Newsletter should include abstracts or short descriptions of new or ongoing postvention research and practices, if possible with inclusion of ethical and practical issues.

In addition, the meeting would like to see a summary of the two current Taskforce Postvention meetings published in the Newsletter.

Minutes,

Karl Anriessen

9 September 2008