

# MUS SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE WORK PLAN

## WORK PLAN – 2023-24 (UPDATED AUGUST 29, 2023)

The work plan below includes each area of work outlined by the Task Force. Tasks are included for each work group including a responsible person or group, start/end date for the tasks, status, and relevant notes.

### Suicide Prevention Workgroup (Brian Kassar, Chair; Erinn Guzik, Morgan Bialas, Darla Tyler-McSherry)

*This group will educate campuses on a comprehensive plan for suicide prevention with a focus on determining best practices for encouraging suicide prevention training for MUS faculty, staff, and students.*

1. Continue funding for Kognito for MUS and seek funding for campuses to use for incentives.  
UPDATED: Kognito contract ends in January 2024 and the vendor is sunsetting the product. The Task Force is discussing recommendations on next steps to maintain mental health literacy training for all students and employees across the MUS.
2. Pursue funding for each campus to get a staff member certified in QPR or other evidence-based suicide prevention training
3. Encourage campus goals for 25% of students and 25% of fac/staff to be gatekeeper trained
4. Encourage campuses to have a postvention plan
5. Encourage campuses to utilize SPRC and JED for suicide prevention planning and implement a full range of suicide prevention strategies
6. Host an informational training webinar for MUS counselors/health educators to provide resources, guidance, and collaboration on suicide prevention strategies

### Clinical Provider Recruitment and Retention (Betsy Asserson, Chair; Corey Kopp, Erinn Guzik, Darla Tyler-McSherry)

*Gather institution and system data on clinical provider recruitment and retention challenges and explore strategies to enhance the clinical provider workforce for the MUS.*

1. Provide recommendation to Task Force about classification of MH positions on campuses
2. Recommend to campus hiring authorities to utilize market rate salary comparisons when considering salaries for MH professionals
3. Consider broader, innovative recruitment and retention strategies for clinical staff
4. Implement survey to campuses to assess provider retention and CLI to inform staffing discussion

**Rural and Small Institutions Community of Practice** (Amber Spring, Chair; Nicole Hazelbaker, Charla Merja)

*Develop a community of practice that serves to identify challenges and opportunities common across small and rural institutions, share resources and best practices, and highlight possible system-level strategies, policies, or action steps for task force consideration.*

1. Engage representatives from small and rural institutions across the state to participate in a community practice
2. Identify challenges and opportunities that are common across small and rural institutions
3. Identify possible system-level strategies, policies, or action steps for task force consideration.

**Suicide Surveillance Data** (Betsy Asserson, Chair)

*Collect data from pilot of system suicide surveillance data and make recommendation to task force and OCHE about continued system surveillance data collection.*

1. Collect annual data from campuses on common suicide surveillance tracking form

**Expanding clinical and sub-clinical supervised practica/internships** (Crystine Miller, Chair; Charla Merja, Kayli Julius)

*Propose plan to expand access to clinical and sub-clinical services by creating robust, intentional pathways for undergraduate and graduate students to complete practicum or internship credits at MUS institutions.*

1. Create and field survey on existing opportunities for clinical and non-clinical internship/practicum campus placement and identify barriers to expansion.
2. Formal recommendation to campuses to develop models for referral to appropriate resource and education for campus community on resources and referral pathways.
3. Develop and share evidence-based examples for leveraging peer educator opportunities (through HCM) to align with campus wellbeing priorities.
4. Develop proposal for UM's Community Health Worker program to partner with MUS to provide training and place community health workers on campuses.