

NSPIRE

Nova Students for Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Response to Emergencies

Nova Southeastern University

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ARTICLE 1. INTRODUCTION

SECTION I. Statement of Need

Students, psychologists in training, and mental health professionals of the future, should have

1. Suicide education and awareness (i.e., populations most at risk, identifying risk and protective factors, etc.)
2. Suicide prevention tactics and how to spread awareness about suicide
3. Educating others in the community regarding suicide and other emergencies
4. The importance of community advocacy for helping and creating the future of this population

SECTION II. Purpose

To provide education to students and community members to end the stigma of suicide and to empower and support families affected by suicide. To provide opportunities for students to become involved in community and campus wide activities that promote research, intervention and prevention of suicide.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES

SECTION I. Internal (Understanding Advocacy)

- A. Increase student understanding of suicide advocacy issues pertinent to psychologists and the populations they serve.
 - a. Educate students on current issues and collaborate to develop effective plans of actions.
 - b. Educate students to use correct terminology and to remain proficient in suicide assessments.
- B. Increase student involvement in advocacy for suicide prevention measures in an array of different populations and settings.
 - a. Provide opportunities for students to become involved in advocacy.
 - b. Equip students with the resources necessary to be well informed in different populations and settings.
 - c. Establish a network of motivated students that will work collaboratively toward the common goal of suicide prevention in multiple populations and settings.

SECTION II. External (Community Outreach)

- A. Educate psychology students on suicide prevention tactics.
 - a. Equip students with adequate knowledge of suicide prevention in different populations.
 - b. Inform students of the importance of knowing suicide assessment procedures.
- B. Increase awareness of suicide and suicide prevention in the public domain.
 - a. Organize community events to increase the public's understanding of suicide prevention needs.
 - b. Target a variety of populations.

ARTICLE III. IMPLEMENTATION OF OBJECTIVES**SECTION I. Internal**

- A. Increase student understanding of suicide advocacy issues pertinent to psychologists and the populations they serve.
 - a. Hold monthly meetings with graduate students to provide information on pertinent issues and generate discussions surrounding these issues.
 - b. Display current issues and topics regarding suicide prevention on the bulletin board at the Center for Psychological Studies.
 - c. Provide instant access to information pertaining to current and ongoing issues through time-sensitive email distributions sent to the group member list server.
 - d. Inform students of the progress made through student advocacy and future events through the list server.
 - e. Allow students or guest speakers to share their experiences with suicide prevention and advocacy.
- B. Increase student involvement in advocacy for suicide prevention measures in an array of different populations and settings.
 - a. Establish fundraising events.
 - b. Organize trips to various sites in need and encourage members to become more involved in suicide prevention and advocacy.

SECTION II. External

- A. Educate psychology students on suicide prevention tactics.
 - a. Hold monthly meetings to determine ways in which to increase student awareness of issues that are relevant and their knowledge on suicide assessment and prevention.
 - b. Host meetings where professionals and others involved in suicide assessment, prevention and advocacy are invited to speak to students.
 - c. Post information on volunteering with suicide prevention organizations on the bulletin board.
- B. Increase awareness of suicide and suicide prevention in the public domain.
 - a. Organize or participate in community events such as walks, runs, speeches, etc., for suicide awareness and prevention.

ARTICLE IV. EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION I. Selection of Board Members

Executive Board Members are chosen based on leadership ability, motivation to participate in advocacy issues, and commitment to the mission. At the end of the academic term, current Executive Board Members will meet to discuss possible additions to the board based on member participation over the past year. An academic term is defined as a full school year from August 1st to July 31st.

Individuals selected for board positions will be contacted by Executive Board Members to discuss their interest in a position. They will also be oriented to the current bylaws, specific role responsibilities, and time commitments. An exception to the selection of Executive Board Members only at the end of the term involves situations in which members have demonstrated exemplary commitment to the group's mission during the current term such that they may be offered between-term positions, or during situations in which board members that have resigned and must be replaced.

Executive Board Chair (President) and Co-Chair (Vice President) members are chosen based on the current Chair and Co-Chair decisions of exemplary board member commitment, performance

in his or her role, and leadership qualities. The current Chair is required to mentor the Chair Elect to ensure that the mission is continued, and that organization continues to thrive.

SECTION II. Selection of Faculty Supervisor

The faculty advisor of the executive board will be selected by the Chair at the time of the creation of the board. The advisor must be a faculty member of the psychology department with a specific focus on suicide prevention, intervention and response to emergencies. The selection will be based upon the faculty member's expertise in advocacy, commitment to community endeavors and history of engagement in advocacy for the profession. The advisor will be informed of all ongoing projects during meetings.

SECTION III. Executive Board Meetings

Executive board meetings will be conducted at a mutually agreed upon time that is decided at the start of the term. Meetings will be scheduled one time per month with board members, and one time per month with board members and faculty advisor. All board members are required to attend both meetings each month unless extenuating circumstances exist. In the event that a board member is unable to attend a meeting, it is his or her responsibility to inform the board of any recent developments in chaired projects underway.

SECTION IV. Development of Additional Divisions

Defined: A division is defined as a model of Nova Southeastern University Center for Psychological Studies' organization, developed at a graduate psychology department other than Nova Southeastern University Center for Psychological Studies. The Primary group is defined as the organization at Nova Southeastern University Center for Psychological Studies. The group division at respective graduate programs will be titled with the name of the group, <University Affiliation>Division. The division may be manipulated and modified as the division Chair deems necessary to accommodate the needs of the community, graduate students, and professional initiatives representative of location in which the division is developed.

Recruitment Procedures: The division Chair will be selected by the current Chair of the Primary group. The Primary chair may recruit students throughout the nation to serve as a division Chair

in the following ways: through publications of articles in student-oriented journals or newsletters describing the position and its importance, through presentation of posters and papers at national and state psychological association conferences, and through professional networking as examples. The Chair is free to utilize creativity in determining the most efficient and effective recruitment processes.

Selection Process: The interested graduate students will be selected based on merit, commitment to advocacy for the profession, and leadership qualities. It is necessary that the division Chair be a doctoral student in good standing with his or her academic department, and the he or she be at least two years from graduation at the start of term as Chair. The qualities of interested students will be ascertained through submission of an essay describing these qualities, by the Primary Chair's previous involvement with the individual and acknowledgement of his or her meritorious accomplishments, or by telephone interview.

Communication with Primary Chair: The elected Chair of respective divisions will maintain contact with the Chair of the Primary organization in order to ensure that the goals, mission, and objectives and conceptualization of the organization are maintained. The Primary Chair will engage in ongoing mentoring of the division Chairs in order to respond to department or location concerns, and to provide resources for opportunities to be provided to students.

Development of Division-Specific Executive Boards: The executive boards at respective divisions will be selected by the current division Chair. The Chair may request a 500-word document from interested candidates, which highlights his or her previous community and legislative advocacy involvement, leadership skills, commitment and motivation to the group's initiatives and interest in advocacy endeavors.

Procedures: The divisions will abide by the guidelines set forth by the Primary division. These may be found within the objectives and implementation sections described earlier. The additional chapters may utilize the Primary group's past activities page as an example of the types of endeavors to become involved with.

SECTION V. Executive Board Rules

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Cash and Dr. Poland

Chair (President):

- Organize meetings with faculty advisors
- Organize meetings among executive board members
- Communicate with those involved in suicide prevention and advocacy to bring relevant speakers to present to NSU students and/or nationally
- Organize quarterly series meetings
- Collaborate with NAMI and Out of Darkness to forward their goals and increase student involvement
- Inform members of conferences, workshops and volunteer opportunities relevant to the group's mission

Co-Chair (Vice President):

- Will take on the duties of the president in his/her absence and will become president in the event of such vacancy
- Shall coordinate one of the monthly events based on the Co-Chair's interests
- Advise and assist board members on projects
- Manage the duties of board members and allocate specific deadlines to tasks and duties
- Help run board and general meetings

Treasurer:

- Shall complete University required Treasurer and Logistics training
- Shall be responsible for collection, accounting and distribution of NSPIRE funds
- Shall endorse all approved expenditures of NSPIRE
- Shall maintain records of all expenditures and collect receipts
- Shall attend and be a voting member of all Executive Board meetings
- Shall order and pick-up food for each event
- Is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the NSPIRE yearly and monthly budgets to the Executive Board
- Shall coordinate one of the monthly events based on the treasurer's interests

- Shall perform other duties as may be prescribed by the Chair.

Secretary

- Regularly check and answer NSPIRE email
- Send community of NSU updates through NSPIRE email
- Record minutes during Board Member meetings and email minutes to members within the next 48 hours
- Record minutes during General meetings and email minutes to members within the next 48 hours
- Record minutes during Events and email minutes to members within the next 48 hours
- Provide and collect sign up sheets for each event
- Contact personnel to reserve rooms and/or tables
- Assist in any other way as requested by the Chair

Public Relations Director:

- Will advertise around campus for NSPIRE events
- Will organize events for suicide prevention week
- Will write and distribute to local media, press releases regarding NSPIRE events
- Will work along side Social Chair in organizing other events
- Will take pictures at all NSPIRE events
- Will coordinate one of the monthly events based on public relation's interest

Research Chair

- Shall provide assistance and consultation for projects from conception to presentations/publication
- Shall assist in ongoing data analysis of current projects and oversee and consult on data analysis for all future student research projects
- Shall assist in assigning and supporting project team leaders to maximize productivity
- Shall coordinate one of the monthly events based on research chair's interest

General Board Member Duties:

- Shall attend general board meetings
- Shall attend functions and fundraisers that NSPIRE promotes

SECTION VI. Subcommittee Procedures for Chairs

A subcommittee refers to any project under the operation of the group; these include legislative advocacy projects, community outreach projects, educational workshops and colloquia.

Subcommittee chairs assume such positions on a voluntary basis and as projects arise.

Subcommittees may be created by executive board members and only board members may chair subcommittees. As chairs of subcommittees, board members are responsible for ensuring that the undertaken project is successfully completed by reliable students. Students should be initially screened for dedication and reliability.

Board members should strive to engage students in fulfilling a large portion of the project, since this is a student-oriented organization which intends to provide members with meaningful advocacy-related opportunities. Subcommittee chairs will communicate effectively with the executive board during appointed board meetings. Board members may be asked to follow deadlines proposed by the executive board. Subcommittee chairs will take such factors into account when planning projects with the subcommittee members and the executive board members. Board members may decide to complete a subcommittee independently (i.e., without the assistance of members) when the project is small scale, or when the board members discerns that the project is better suited to the involvement of one individual.

Board members adhere to the following guidelines upon assuming a subcommittee chair position:

1. Member information is obtained from the Membership Coordinator who will provide updated member listings to all board members when appropriate.
2. Subcommittee members will contact members whose interest patterns (as delineated on membership applications) match the goals of the current project and is approved by the Executive board. Members may be contacted via email or telephone.
3. All members may be contacted in the event that few members' interests match the proposed initiatives or if the project is a large-scale undertaking requiring several students.

4. Following the initial member recruitment, subcommittee chairs will arrange to hold an informational meeting for the interested members. The informational meetings are designed to orient members to the project, assign and delegate roles, and brainstorm the various ways in which the project may be accomplished.
5. Subsequent meetings with subcommittee members are scheduled on an as-needed basis.
6. In the event that a member involved with a project fails to fulfill the requirements assigned to him or her, the subcommittee chair will be responsible for fulfilling the roles of that member.
7. Upon completion of the project, the subcommittee will no longer exist, and the board member may or may not choose to chair a new subcommittee.

NOTE: All board members are subject to review on a biyearly (every 6 months) basis.

Additional review may be conducted if warranted. Board members who are not fulfilling duties will be provided with an initial warning and one week to rectify the problem situations/areas.

Removal of board members is at the full discretion of the President and Faculty Advisor but must be justified and should be agreed upon by the majority of the board.