I. Call to Order
Bev Anderson welcomed group and introduced Cheryl Lennon-Arms.

II. Presentations:

A. Cheryl Lennon-Arms, LMFT (Clinical Director of Tulare Youth Services Bureau)

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Dr. Cheryl Duerksen discussed the development of Suicidality Screening Pilot Project for older adult population (55+) for use in the primary care provider setting is progressing and should be ready for presentation at the next meeting. The Beck tool had been the desired tool but is too expensive so decision was made to use the Patient Health Questionnaire 9 (PHQ9) as it screens for depression. Dr. Haught has been engaged in discussion about using the county for pilot sites.

Request was made to know if any screening is done at welfare services and if anyone from that area is on the Suicide Prevention Task Force (SPTF) panel. Dr. Duerksen indicated recruiting someone from that area would be a good idea and it will be looked into. Inquiry was also made about what is being done by this panel to get education out to the public to help in recognizing of signs and symptoms of suicide.

Sarah reported that Ray had requested her to pull literature pertaining to the relation of unemployment to suicide. Many of the studies she reviewed were outside of the United States but it was found that while generally male suicide is higher than females, unemployment seems to increase the rate among women. There is a higher rate among the unemployed in the seriousness of attempts and thinking about self-inflicting attempts.

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B. Update From Subcommittee (Carla Sawyer)

| Discussion |

The group has been trying to focus on training. The need to do some preventative training was agreed and suggestion was made that Sue from the Veteran’s Association be contacted to start initiating training with about 30 that may be able to be trained and then they could train/share with others.

The desire to compile a resource mapping was raised and the group was informed that February 17th at the Holiday Inn there will be a release of a resource mapping that has been compiled and will be helpful to this group.

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C. Update From Subcommittee (Noah Whitaker)

| Discussion |

Noah informed the group of a calendar in the works that will be accessible to the public of relevant events. Other Social Marketing resources such as MySpace and Facebook were discussed as well. The goal is to help educate people so they won’t say, “If only I had known the signs”. They are looking into the pricing of billboards and other means to get the word out about the taskforce. Question was raised about design of a website for the taskforce. Links have been discussed in the past and the need to update the United Way directory. Dr. Duerksen will present an update at the next meeting on what is being done.

There is a vast need for Spanish speaking participants as well as other language groups.
**Committee Name:** SUICIDE PREVENTION TASKFORCE

## D. Update From Subcommittee (Sarah Ramirez)

**Discussion**

Changes agreed to at the last meeting have been made to the Investigation Form designed with the objective to increase data collection by documenting self-inflicted injury. Now the goal is to move toward identifying a data collection team, develop and provide the training for the team. An outline of Goal 2: Improve and expand surveillance systems were passed out.

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## E. Informational Materials

**Discussion**

The following materials were distributed:
- Preventing Youth Suicide in Rural America: Recommendations to States (Booklet)
- The Trevor Project (Saving Young Lives) Youth Crisis and Suicide Prevention Services (Brochure)
- The Trevor Helpline (You Are Not Alone) 866.4.U.TREVOR (866/488-7386) (Business Card)
- Patient Health Questionnaire
- Suicide Prevention Task Force 2009 Schedule of Meetings
- Suicide Prevention Task Force Minutes for November 20, 2008

Request was made to submit names of any who could use or need this information so they can be added to the contact list.

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## F. Open Discussion

**Discussion**

Dr. Karen Haught expressed appreciation for what the Family Support Group has been doing. Bev encouraged anyone who is not part of a sub-committee to please join one. She commended all that what has been done is good but that there is much more to be done.

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## IV. Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- March 19, 2009 8:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M. at PDC (WID)
- Contacting Sue from the VA to arrange training
- Implementation of the Investigation Form
- Calendar of Events accessible to the public
- Recruitment of someone from Welfare Services to join the taskforce

## V. Adjournment:

Bev thanked all for coming.

**Minutes Written by:** Melody Lott