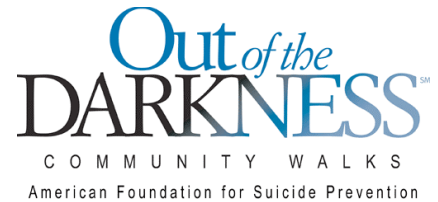


## **SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRESS: U.S., S.D. & BLACK HILLS CONNECTIONS**

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### **1990: Black Hills Area Survivors of Suicide**

Lyle and Marvelyn Peters hold the first meeting of BHASOS at their home in Rapid City following their daughter Lynn's death by suicide the previous fall.

### **1994–1995: World Health Organization National Strategy Document**

Lloyd Potter of the CDC shares a draft of the WHO "Prevention of Suicide: Guidelines for the Formulation and Implementation of National Strategies" with Jerry and Elsie Weyrauch.

### **1996: Suicide Prevention Advocacy Network (SPAN USA)**

Jerry and Elsie Weyrauch, survivors of their daughter Terri's suicide, form SPAN, a grass-roots organization backing the development of a U.S. suicide prevention strategy.

### **1998: The Reno Conference**

The first national conference on suicide prevention is held, involving hundreds of researchers, clinicians, public health experts, and suicide survivors. Attendees include Bev Sears and Joni Sorenson, survivors of their husband and father Rich's suicide and members of BHASOS.

### **1999: "Surgeon General's Call to Action"**

The Reno Conference recommendations are published, outlining how "individuals, communities, organizations, and policymakers" can take a public health approach to the problem.

### **2001: National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (NSSP)**

The NSSP begins a national movement to prevent suicide. Franklin Cook, a survivor of his father Joseph's suicide and a member of BHASOS, is in attendance at the strategy's launch at the American Association of Suicidology Conference in Atlanta.

### **2001: Front Porch Coalition (FPC)**

In August, with funding from the John T. Vucurevich Foundation, a group of Rapid City stakeholders forms the Front Porch Coalition, a suicide prevention task force.

### **2002: Unified Community Solutions (UCS)**

In January, Franklin Cook forms a private consultancy in Rapid City to work on suicide grief education and support as well as on prevention training and advocacy, locally and nationally.

### **2002: Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC)**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funds the Suicide Prevention Resource Center to provide technical assistance to implement the NSSP.

### **2002: SDSSP Workgroup**

Janet Kittams-Lalley of the HELP!Line Center, Denise White of the S.D. Department of Health, and Franklin Cook of UCS and FPC recruit and begin working with a group of 35 stakeholders to develop a South Dakota Strategy for Suicide Prevention.

### **2004: Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act (GLSMA)**

GLSMA becomes law, in memory of Sen. Gordon and Sharon Smith's son, who died by suicide a year earlier. The legislation funds youth suicide prevention projects across the U.S.

### **2005: S.D. Strategy for Suicide Prevention (SDSSP)**

In January, the SDSSP is presented to the South Dakota Legislature.

### **2006: Suicide Awareness Partnership (SAP)**

South Dakota receives GLSMA funding and launches the SAP to implement youth suicide prevention programs in 21 S.D. high schools and their surrounding communities. Janet Kittams-Lalley and Franklin Cook are the project supervisors.

### **2009: Merger of AFSP & SPAN USA**

SPAN, now called the Suicide Prevention *Action* Network, merges with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, which is forming community-based chapters nationwide.

### **2009: AFSP-Black Hills Out of the Darkness Walk**

BHASOS and West River SAP staff volunteer along with a host of other suicide prevention workers and advocates to bring Black Hills communities together to combat suicide.

### **2010: Formation of an AFSP-Black Hills Chapter ...**