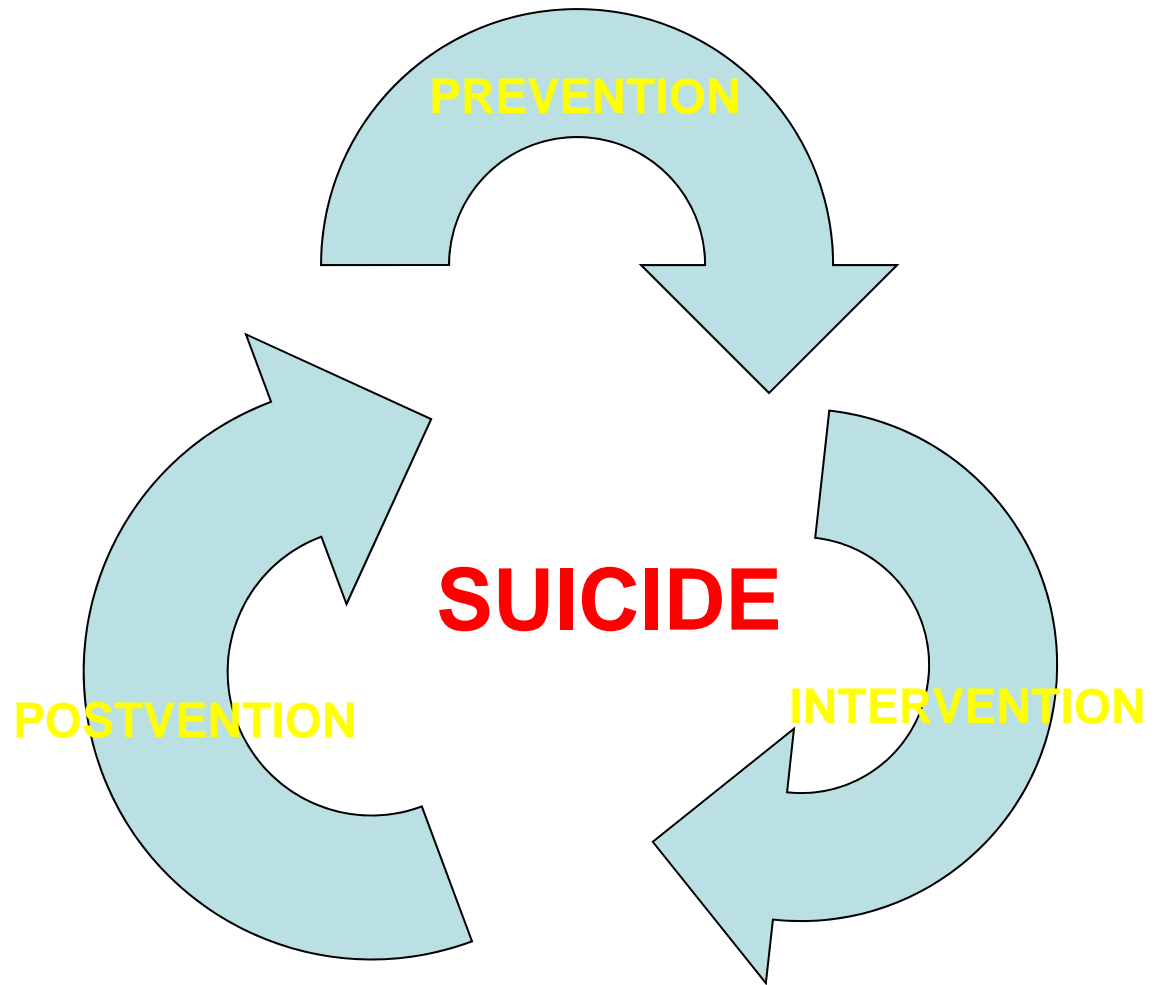


Local Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS)

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Mission

- To provide support to those bereaved by suicide
- To provide compassion
- To encourage survivors to move on





TRAUMA

LOSS TEAM

- In 1997, a group in Baton Rouge, Louisiana was formed to help survivors of suicide find the resources they need.
- The group was named the LOSS (Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors) Team.
- The team is made up of trained suicide survivors and Baton Rouge Crisis Intervention Center (BRCIC) staff.

LOSS TEAM

- They go to the scenes of suicide to spread information about resources and to be the breath of hope for the grieving survivors.
- The goal of the LOSS Team is to let suicide survivors know that resources exist as soon as possible following the death.
- Survivors have proven to be important resources at the scenes of suicide.

LOSS

- Research has shown that suicide survivors can be at 9 times greater risk to complete suicide.
- However, with the intervention of a team of individuals composed of mental health clinicians/social workers and suicide survivors (the Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors team), these individuals can be predicted to seek emotional assistance within months of a completed suicide as compared to years, if at all.

LOSS TEAM

- LOSS is an effort to bring immediate support to survivors of suicide.
- The purpose of a LOSS Team is to reduce trauma, normalize grief, and to role model healthy adjustment to suicide loss.
- LOSS acts as a first response team when a suicide occurs and works together with law enforcement officers, chaplains, and other first responders.

LOSS TEAM

- Members of the LOSS team, which consists of survivor volunteers (persons who have experienced the suicide of a loved one) and mental health professionals, are activated by police chaplains or law enforcement to the scene of the suicide and are present to offer resources, support, and sources of hope to the newly bereaved.
- Team members additionally provide follow-up contact with survivors and help coordinate the utilization of services and support groups within the community.

POSSIBLE LOSS TEAM OUTCOMES

- Decrease the stigma associated with being a suicide survivor by offering and providing educational materials, resources, etc.
- Increase collaboration with law enforcement, and the faith communities that will allow for identification of possible consumers of the LOSS service
- Viewing a decrease in survivor adjustment issues within the community

POSSIBLE LOSS TEAM OUTCOMES

- Monitor the elapsed time between death of a loved one and the survivor seeking help by establishing collaboration with mental health providers in the community in comparing those who receive LOSS services, and those who do not

LOSS TEAM STATUS

- July 1, 2009, the LOSS team became active
- 9 call outs to date
- 2 full teams
- Others are in training
- 6 month feedback being collected from partners, survivors, team members
- Overwhelming support being verbalized

LOSS DEVELOPMENT GROUP

- The Loss Development Group assists the Nebraska Suicide Prevention Coalition in providing direct supervision and support of the LOSS team.
- It works in a collaborative manner with various community partners such as the Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska, Community Mental Health Center of Lancaster County, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office, the Lincoln Police Department Chaplaincy Corps, etc.

LOSS DEVELOPMENT GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Diverse representation from areas such as:

- Co-chairpersons of the Nebraska Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Nebraska Division of Behavioral Health
- Law enforcement (Lincoln Police Department/ Lancaster County Sheriff office)
- Lancaster County Attorney
- Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska
- Community Mental Health Center of Lancaster County
- Lincoln Police Department Chaplaincy Corps
- Suicide Survivors
- Suicide Survivor advocates

LOSS DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Monthly meetings

- 1) Developing the infrastructure necessary to maintain the LOSS team
- 2) Screening of prospective LOSS team members
- 3) Being a liaison with state/community agencies such as Nebraska Suicide Prevention Coalition, Nebraska Division of Behavioral Health, Lincoln Police Department, Lincoln Chaplains Corps, Lancaster County Attorney, Lancaster County Sheriff

LOSS DEVELOPMENT GROUP

- 4) Providing ongoing training for the LOSS team
- 5) Maintaining a debriefing process for team members
- 6) Developing a data collection and evaluation process
- 7) Assisting other communities who wish to develop LOSS team interventions models