

Connecting with School Communities about Suicide: Hope and Resilience in Southeast Alberta



Timeline:

M. Sept. 14 –
Partner Division
enacted the
community VTRA
Protocol with
subject matter
expert Kevin
Cameron
(NACTATR)

M. Sept. 28 – Community VTRA Protocol Team Meeting Th. Oct. 1 – Community Protocol Team Planning Meeting (in person) at MHPSD office to organize the event

W. Oct. 7 – School Community Conversation Event at Medicine Hat College M. Oct. 19 – Community Protocol Meeting to review data and discuss next steps



















F. Sept. 18 –
Community
Collaborative
Response (all
community
partners meeting
with Kevin
Cameron – in
person)

W. Sept. 30 –
Community
Protocol Meeting
with Kevin
Cameron via V/C,
with Division
Board Chairs,
Superintendents,
RCMP and
MHPS in
attendance.
Decision made to
plan evening for
following
Wednesday.

M. Oct. 5 – Finalized planning for School Community Conversation F. Oct. 9 –
Debriefed School
Community
Conversation and
established
process for
collecting
community
feedback



Community Partners

CAPE School

Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education

Medicine Hat College

Medicine Hat Public School Division

Medicine Hat Police Service

Prairie Rose School Division

Redcliff RCMP

Southeast Alberta Child & Family Services







614 Responses

549 plan to attend60 might attend5 will not attend

of those, **289 responses were from our MHPSDfamily**

461 (76%) personally affected by suicide

32% didn't feel like they had the necessary tools and supports to assist with suicide, grief, loss and mental health conversations with family

85 individuals asked questions prior to the presentation

generating the following themes...



267 VIRTUAL LIVE ATTENDEES

Themes:

- 1. Concerns related to pandemic/school-closures and reopening.
- 2. When are my child's struggles serious enough to warrant the need for more help?
- 3. What are schools doing to address mental health and how do students access supports?
- 4. What community supports are available and how to access them?
- 5. How to have open conversations about suicide with your child/youth.
- 6. How do I help someone who isn't ready for help?
- 7. Understanding the grief process.
- 8. Impact of social media on children/youth.
- 9. Building resilience in our children/youth.

Respondents (110)

51% MHPSD

27% MHCBE

23% PRSD

0% Cape, Francophone, other

65% parents/caregivers
30% staff members
2% community members
2% support partners



70% found both presentations equally helpful

20% found Kevin Cameron most helpful 10% found Greg and Claire most helpful



95% reported that the information presented was applicable and useful for their family

86% felt they have a better understanding of the supports available to them following the meeting through their local school or in the community

38% **plan to seek**out supports after watching this presentation

15% seek school supports
23% seek community supports

62% **DO NOT** plan to seek out supports after watching this presentation

2% Financial constraints or cost

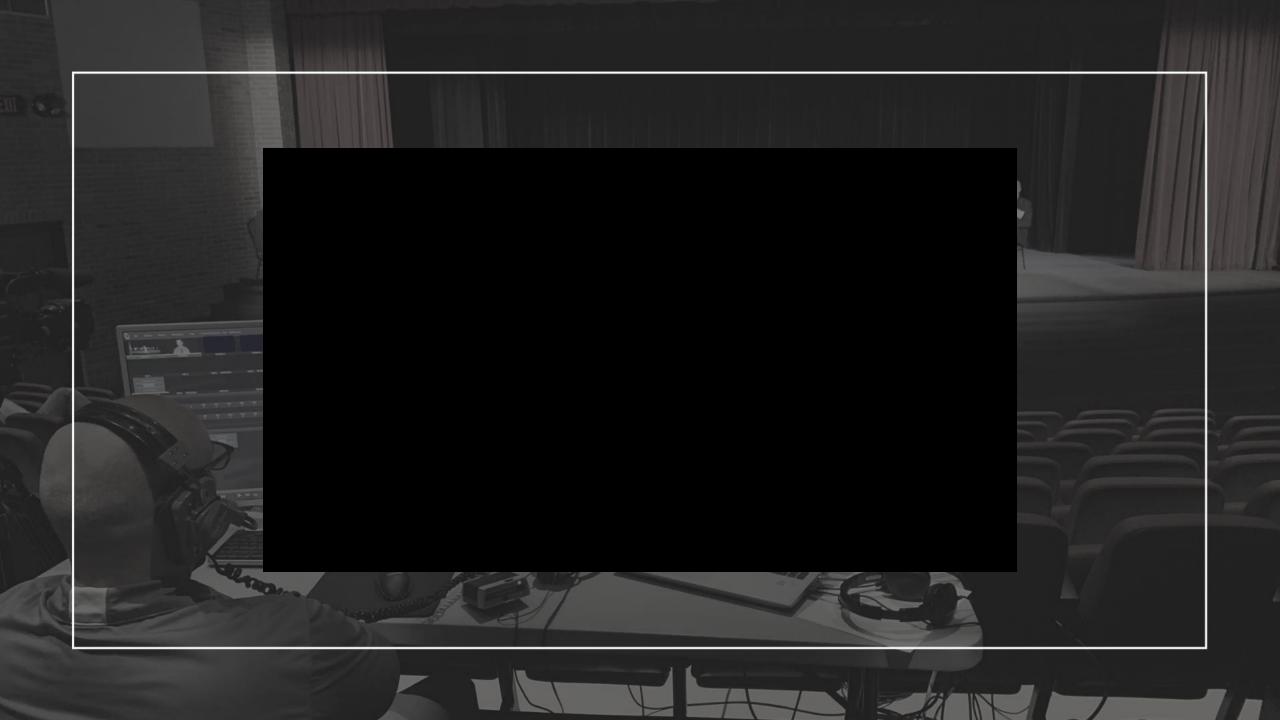
4% Availability/wait times

2% Don't know where to go or start

2% Tried in the past, was unsuccessful

84% Family isn't in need of supports at this time

6% Other





Next Steps

Suggestions from Kevin Cameron to consider:

 Bring our parents and caregivers together for a follow up meeting (step 2).

Further team planning will happen Thursday, October 22/20 at MHPSD office.

Think about creating an opportunity for in-person and/or virtual session involving live question and answers with each division's key resource people.

Have each division plan for the same type of event so that it demonstrates a cohesive approach across the region.

