



Pathways to Resiliency, Strength and Recovery

Date: Friday, May 6, 2016

Location: Regis University Lowell Campus, Denver, CO

Time: 1:15 - 2:15 p.m.

Track: Research

Breakout Session Title:

Gun Shop Project: Prevention through Partnership

Presenter: Sarah E. Brummett, MA, JD, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Office of Suicide Prevention

Abstract:

The presentation will inform the research track as it will expand participants' views of emerging strategies in suicide prevention within the realm of firearm safety. In Colorado, 78 percent of firearm deaths are suicides. Nearly half of all suicide deaths in Colorado involve the use of a firearm, which is the most common method of suicide death in the state. The Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP) engages stakeholders in partnerships and meaningful conversations to reduce firearm suicides, an issue all Coloradans support regardless of which side of the gun control debate they endorse.

The OSP has piloted the Colorado Gun Shop Project (adapted from the New Hampshire Gun Shop Project) in five Colorado counties with high percentages of firearm-related suicide deaths (Montrose, Delta, Mesa, Moffatt and Routt). In 2016, the Project is expanding to 2 additional counties within Northeastern Colorado. The project is an education and awareness partnership with firearm advocates, gun shops, firing ranges, and firearm safety course instructors to adopt and promote a common firearm safety and suicide prevention message. The core message is that restricting a suicidal individual's access to firearms is a critical aspect of firearm safety.

Audience members will have a chance to review the materials, as well as hear community level feedback from the project. Additionally, initial evaluation data will be presented to understand how the project has been received and how that information is helping to further tailor the project to meet the unique needs of Colorado.