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**BYLAWS**

**Missouri Suicide Prevention Network (MSPN)**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE I. NAME……………………………………………………………………………………………… 2

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW……………………………………………………………. 2

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS ……………………………………………………… 3

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS ………………………………………………………………………….…………… 3

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES/WORKSGROUPS/TASKFORCES…………………………………. 4

ARTICLE VI. CORPORATE ACTIONS ………………………..…………………………………………. 5

Bylaws

MISSOURI SUICIDE PREVENTION NETWORK

**ARTICLE I – NAME**  
The name of the organization shall be Missouri Suicide Prevention Network (hereinafter referred to as “MSPN”). MSPN shall be an independent, non-partisan, voluntary group of individuals, organizations, and agencies (public and private) who lead statewide suicide prevention efforts.

**ARTICLE II – ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW**

**Mission Statement**  
Missouri Suicide Prevention Network shall lead statewide suicide prevention efforts.

**Purpose**

MSPN’s goal is to coordinate development and implementation of the Missouri Suicide Prevention Plan (MSPP), based on the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. The MSPP is reviewed and updated regularly.

MSPN will work to support the following elements:

* Recognize that suicide is a complex issue with many underlying factors, and it is largely preventable.
* Reduce the prejudice and discrimination associated with mental health, substance use, and suicide.
* Encourage development of suicide prevention coalitions and community-led suicide prevention efforts.
* Endorse evidence-based means safety.
* Champion evidence-based suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.
* Encourage effective clinical and professional practices.
* Linkage with community mental health and substance use disorder services.
* Use of media reporting guidelines and positive portrayals of persons living with mental illness, substance use, and thoughts of suicide.
* Incorporate lived experience and diverse perspectives.
* Utilize a data-driven and scientific approach to suicide prevention.

MSPN’s efforts shall align with and support the goals and priorities identified in the Missouri Suicide Prevention Plan. MSPN committees and subgroups are directly tied to these priorities.

**Fiscal Year**

MSPN follows the same fiscal year as the Missouri Behavioral Health Council (MBHC), which runs from July 1 to June 30. An outline of anticipated annual MSPN activities and estimated expenditures will be provided to MBHC, along a with proposed timeline, as defined in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

**ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS**

**Membership Overview:**

MSPN membership includes individuals, organizations, and agencies (public and private) committed to suicide prevention in Missouri. Membership shall consist of, but not limited to, state and community care providers, members of community-based organizations and coalitions, suicide loss survivors, suicide attempt survivors, and engaged community members.

The SOP will define the onboarding process, membership eligibility, attendance expectations, and member responsibilities in detail.

**Nomination and Approval of Members**

Individuals can be nominated or apply to become a member of MSPN, as outlined in the SOP. The Executive Committee or designated subgroup will review all new member applications. If application eligibility requirements are met, MSPN will vote to approve or reject the application. MSPN strives to promote cultural and geographic diversity within its membership.

**Membership Status**

A member may resign at any time by written notice. Membership may be revoked due to nonparticipation or conduct that does not align with the MSPN mission, as outlined in the SOP.

**Voting Rights**

All MSPN members in good standing are eligible to vote. Detailed voting procedures and quorum rules are outlined in the SOP.

**Meetings**

MSPN shall meet at leave five (5) times per calendar year. Meetings may be held virtually or in person. Special meetings of MSPN may be called, as outlined in the SOP.

**ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS**

**Officers**  
The officers of MSPN shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer of the executive committee. Officers will be appointment by the nominating committee, as outlined in the SOP.

**Duties of the Chair**

* Facilitate all MSPN meetings or designate a representative to do so.
* Provide leadership and oversight for MSPN activities.
* Oversee committees and ensure alignment with the State Plan.
* Hold full voting rights, including tie-breaking authority.

**Duties of the Vice-Chair**

* Assist the Chair.
* Facilitate meetings in the absence of the Chair.

**Duties of the Secretary/Treasurer**

* Assist MBHC staff with meeting minutes, attendance, and voting records.
* Lead the preparation of annual MSPN activity and expenditure recommendations, in partnership with MBHC.
* Coordinate with MBHC staff to share regular budget and membership updates with MSPN membership.

**Term**  
The term of office shall be two (2) years, beginning November 1st.

**Resignation and Vacancy**

Officers may resign at any time with written notice. Nominations to fill the vacancy will be made by the Executive Committee and approved by MSPN.

**ARTICLE V – COMMITTEES/WORKGROUPS/TASKFORCES**

**Committees**

Committees conduct the necessary business of MSPN between membership meetings to advance the goals outlined in the Missouri Suicide Prevention Plan. Committees may be recommended by the Executive Committee but must be approved by MSPN. Committees should align with the Missouri Suicide Prevention Plan priorities, with each Committee having a Chair and Vice Chair.

**Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee is comprised of the officers of MSPN, Immediate MSPN Past Chair, Chairs of each standing committee, the Department of Mental Health appointee, the MBHC appointee as staff support, and any other members deemed necessary.

The Executive Committee may establish additional ad hoc groups as needed.

**Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee shall nominate Officers of the Executive Committee. The committee shall consist of at least three MSPN members appointed by the Chair, a DMH designee, and a MBHC designee. The committee shall submit its nominations prior to the annual meeting, with the notice of that meeting.

**Workgroups**

A Workgroup is a subgroup of a Committee with a focused purpose that may be established for a specific length of time or as an ongoing group. Workgroups report to their respective committee.

**Taskforce**

A Taskforce is a time-limited, action-focused subgroup of a committee formed to respond to urgent needs. A Taskforce reports to its respective Committee.

**ARTICLE VI – CORPORATE ACTIONS**

**Amendments**

Members in good standing may propose amendments to the bylaws, which can be submitted to [admin@mospn.org](mailto:admin@mospn.org) or discussed during scheduled MSPN meetings. The Executive Committee will review and present the recommended changes at the next MSPN meeting for a vote.

DRAFT: September 27, 2018  
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