



**By-laws**  
**Missouri Suicide Prevention Network (MSPN)**

Table of Contents

Article I.	Name.....	2
Article II.	Organization overview.....	2
Article III.	Membership and meetings .....	2
Article IV.	Officers .....	4
Article V.	Committees .....	4
Article VI.	Corporate actions .....	5

# By-laws

## 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**

MSPN shall lead statewide suicide prevention efforts.

#### **Purpose**

MSPN’s goal is to coordinate development and implementation of the Missouri Suicide Prevention Plan, based on the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention.

MSPN will work to support the following elements:

- Suicide is preventable.
- Reduce the prejudice and discrimination associated with mental health, substance use, and suicide.
- Suicide prevention coalitions.
- Evidence-based means safety in accordance with clinical care standards.
- Evidence-based suicide prevention.
- 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 suicide.
- Utilize a data driven and scientific approach to suicide prevention.

### **Article III – Membership and Meetings**

#### **Members**

The members of MSPN shall act in accordance with their prescribed roles and in a manner that

is consistent with ethical and professional standards (e.g.: representing MSPN's mission and goals as defined).

### **Member Role**

The responsibility of MSPN members is to provide to the executive committee recommendations and advisement to support MSPN's overall mission, and work to eliminate the prejudice and discrimination of suicide, educate the community about suicide, and ultimately reduce the rate of suicide in Missouri.

Members will serve as a collective voice representing a broad spectrum of key stakeholders in the area of suicide prevention, ensuring that MSPN's operations and activities are informed by experienced viewpoints that are invested in its mission. Members will provide a forum for review and discussion of reports to and from the executive committee, the committees and workgroups, as well as any promotional materials, research, training, legislation or other external factors that may affect the vital operations of MSPN. Members' recommendations to the executive committee will support the continued advancement and development of MSPN towards more effectively accomplishing its mission.

### **Nomination of Membership**

Members are appointed by the executive committee. Membership shall consist of state and community health care professionals, suicide loss survivors, suicide attempt survivors, and members of the community dedicated to suicide prevention. MSPN shall strive to promote cultural and geographic diversity within the membership.

### **MSPN Meeting Schedule**

MSPN shall meet a minimum of five (5) times per calendar year.

### **Special Meetings of the Network**

Special meetings of MSPN may be called by the Chair or Vice-Chair.

### **Voting**

Eligible voting members are Vice-Chair the executive committee and those appointed to MSPN by the executive committee. Passing votes will be that of the majority present. The executive committee may vote independently of MSPN members in emergent situations.

### **Membership Status**

If a member is unable to fulfill membership responsibilities including regular attendance, active involvement, and professional conduct to support the mission of MSPN they shall be removed by the executive committee. A member may resign at any time by delivering written notice to MSPN and the Chair. A resignation is effective when the notice is delivered unless the notice specifies a later effective date. Absence of three regularly scheduled member (3) meetings in a row constitutes resignation from MSPN membership.

### **Member Replacement and the Appointment Process**

MSPN membership may become available when a member leaves on their own volition; a member is asked to leave due to insufficient attendance, and/or behavior that significantly disrupts MSPN business, and/or is not in the best interests of the project's mission, goals and objectives as determined by the executive committee; or the executive committee determines additional representation is needed.

### **Stakeholders**

Any Missouri resident or anyone involved in Missouri Suicide Prevention efforts is invited to be a stakeholder of MSPN.

### **Stakeholder Role**

Stakeholders shall provide feedback to MSPN regarding our efforts for suicide prevention. The stakeholders of MSPN shall meet quarterly. MSPN will publish annually the quarterly meeting schedule.

## **Article IV – Officers**

### **Officers**

The officers of MSPN shall be the Chair and Vice-Chair of the executive committee.

### **Resignation**

An officer may resign at any time by delivering official notice to MSPN and the executive committee. Such resignation is effective when such notice is delivered unless notice specifies a later effective date.

### **Vacancy**

Any vacancy for any cause shall be filled by the executive committee.

### **Duties of the Chair**

The Chair or designated representative shall facilitate all MSPN meetings. The Chair may attend any committee meeting. The Chair will, in turn, provide leadership and oversight of MSPN. Chair responsibilities include providing oversight of MSPN activities, overseeing committees and subsequent workgroups (as needed) and assuring compliance with MSPN by-laws.

### **Duties of the Vice-Chair**

The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair by facilitating meetings in the absence of the Chair. The Vice-Chair may attend any committee meeting at the request of the Chair.

### **Term**

The term of office for officers shall be two (2) years beginning October 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **Article V – Committees**

### **Executive Committee**

The executive committee shall be appointed by the Department of Mental Health and Missouri Behavioral Healthcare Council, which will include the Chair, Vice-Chair, immediate past Chair, the DMH designee, the Council's designee, and any other members deemed necessary.

The executive committee shall conduct necessary business of MSPN between meetings.

### **Appointment of Committees**

The executive committee may, in turn, designate committees when the scope of issues is so broad and/or extensive that they require additional input and work process from experts, members of MSPN, and others in the suicidology community. Additionally, on an as-needed basis, MSPN members may recommend consultation from outside sources who exhibit expertise or knowledge of importance to the issues before MSPN.

## **Article VI – Corporate Actions**

### **Amendments**

Suggested amendments must be emailed to [admin@mospn.org](mailto:admin@mospn.org) and approved by the executive committee 14 days prior to the regularly scheduled meeting. Amendments then may be introduced to MSPN and may be approved with majority vote.

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