Using an Active Postvention Model to Build LOSS Teams in Rural Minnesota Communities

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INTRODUCTIONS

LOSS TEAM

POSTVENTION IS PREVENTION



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SAFETY MESSAGE

988

SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

In this breakout we will be talking about suicide.

Please be sure to take care of yourself and reach out to 988 if you need additional support.

LOSS TEAM

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the core elements of a LOSS Team
2. Identify (2) ways this model can be used for community-based postvention support
3. Identity resources and barriers within rural communities to support suicide loss survivors

LOSS Teams

Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS)

What is the LOSS Team Model?

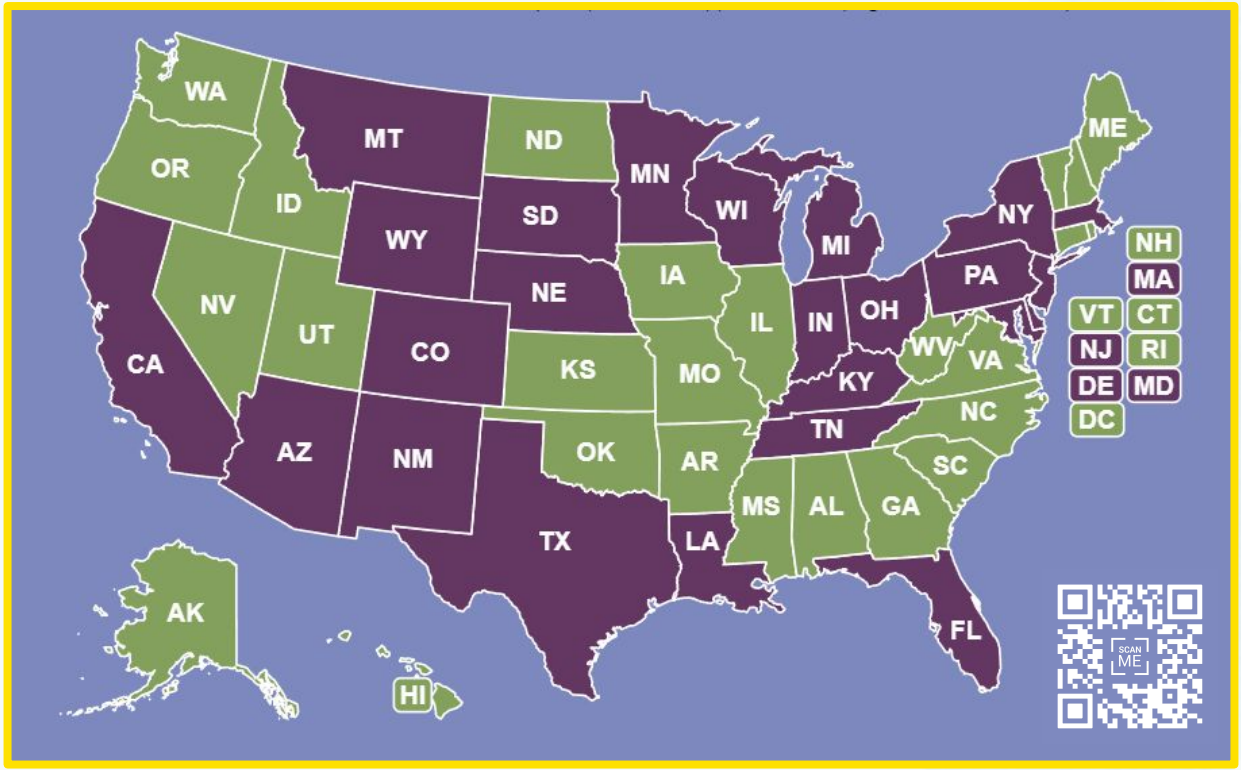
- Developed in 1979 by Dr. Frank Campbell
- Noted it takes survivors an average of **4.5 years** to seek help post-loss
- LOSS provides immediate, compassionate support
- **As of 2026…**
  - Over 100 teams across the USA & 6 international teams have active LOSS Teams
  - We have 1 team in the state of Minnesota

“Postvention is Prevention”

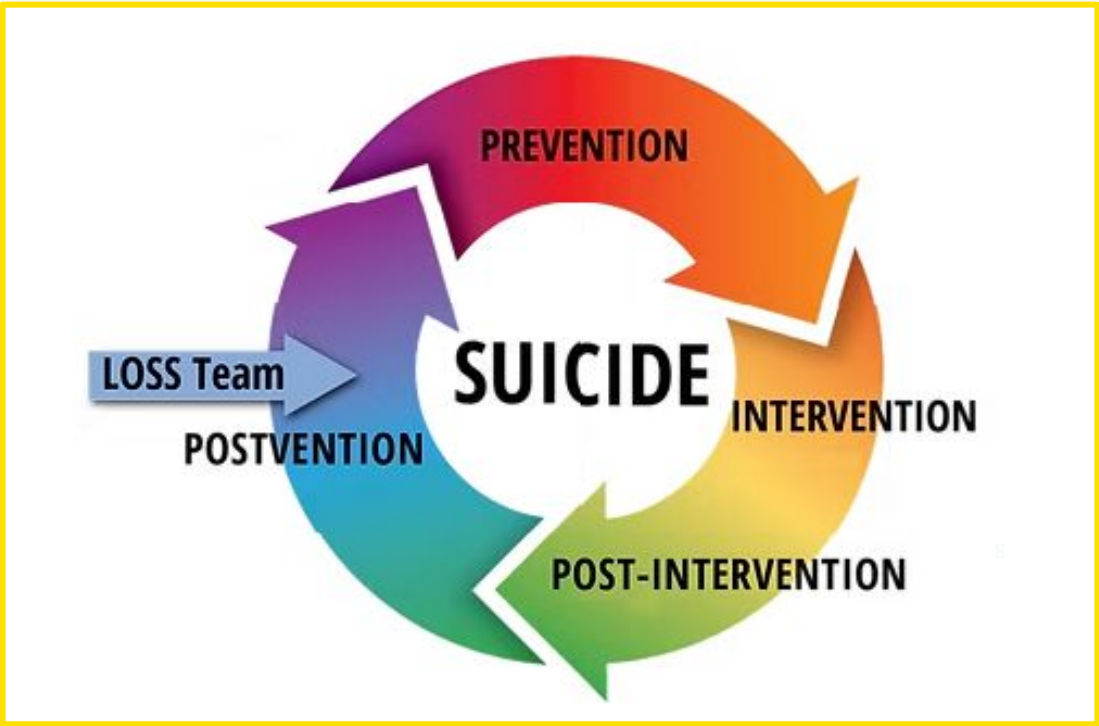


Dr. Frank Campbell

Map of LOSS teams



Postvention is Prevention



Minnesota's First LOSS Team

Bloomington, Minnesota

Bloomington, MN

- First LOSS Team in Minnesota
- Estimate around 15 suicides a year
- SAVE partnered with the Bloomington Police Department
- 12 currently active volunteers
- 18 responses since July 2025
- 36 survivors supported



Bloomington Partnership

- Background check process
- Partnership with officers
  - Tours
  - Community event tabling
  - Roll call meetings
  - Ride-a-longs
- Multicultural Advisory Committee
- Bloomington Brain Health Services



What is a LOSS team?



- A group of volunteers with lived experience of suicide loss or a mental health professional
- Responds on scene in collaboration with police departments , Coroner/Medical Examiners
- Provides comfort, resources, & emotional support

LOSS TEAM

Why LOSS Teams?



- Suicide is a major public health issue
- Suicide loss survivors are at a higher risk of suicidal experience
- LOSS Teams can start to close the gap between a suicide loss and finding support/resources

Impact of LOSS Team



Bloomington LOSS Team Startup & Procedures

How Bloomington Built a LOSS Team

- Built an advisory committee
- Drafted protocols
- Solidified systems and technologies
- Recruited volunteers
- Trained volunteers
- Launched coordinated responses
- Foster volunteer relationships
- Evaluate and reevaluate

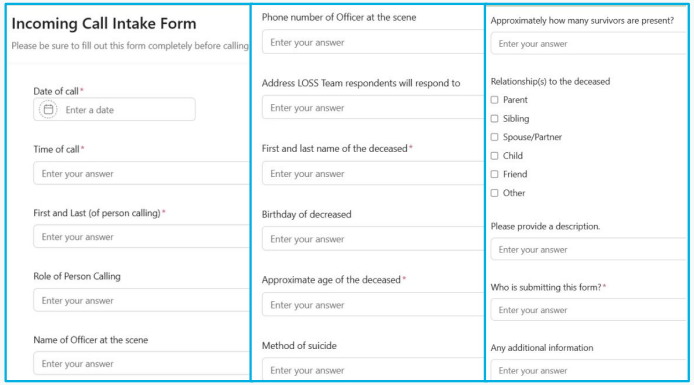


Bloomington Response Protocol

Suicide occurs in community

Investigator on-scene calls the LOSS Team Lead line

Investigator and lead volunteer complete an intake form



Incoming Call Intake Form

Please be sure to fill out this form completely before calling

Date of call *
Enter a date

Time of call *
Enter your answer

First and Last (of person calling) *
Enter your answer

Role of Person Calling
Enter your answer

Name of Officer at the scene
Enter your answer

Phone number of Officer at the scene
Enter your answer

Address LOSS Team respondents will respond to
Enter your answer

First and last name of the deceased *
Enter your answer

Birthday of decreased
Enter your answer

Approximate age of the deceased *
Enter your answer

Method of suicide
Enter your answer

Approximately how many survivors are present?
Enter your answer

Relationship(s) to the deceased
- [ ] Parent
- [ ] Sibling
- [ ] Spouse/Partner
- [ ] Child
- [ ] Friend
- [ ] Other

Please provide a description.
Enter your answer

Who is submitting this form? *
Enter your answer

Any additional information
Enter your answer

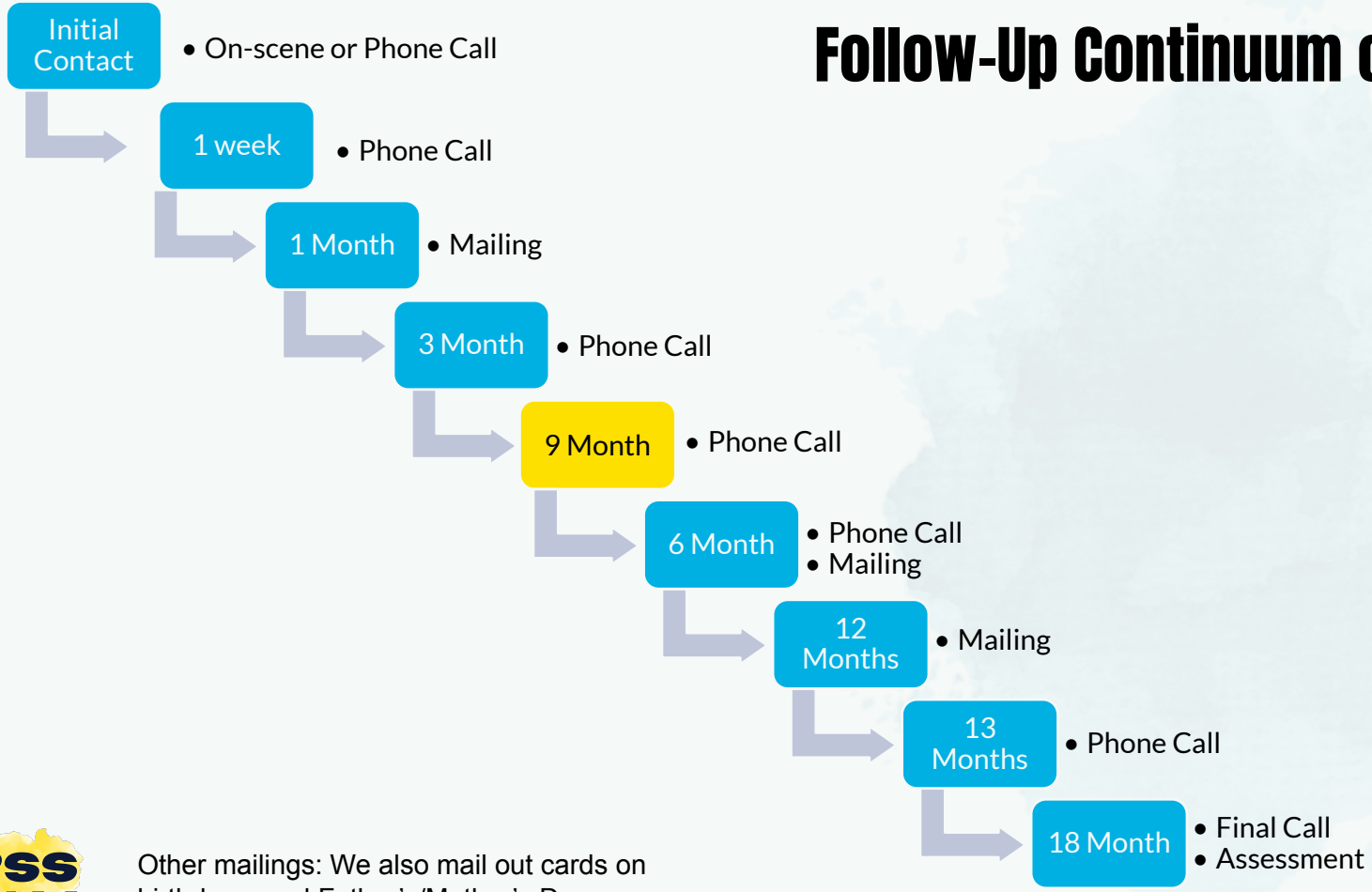
Bloomington Response Protocol

Suicide occurs in community → Investigator on-scene calls the LOSS Team Lead line → Investigator and lead volunteer complete an intake form

Meet up at nearby scene → Arrive at the scene together → Connect with officers for a soft hand off to a newly bereaved suicide loss survivor
- OR -
Coordinate drop off of the LOSS Response Kit



Follow-Up Continuum of Care



Other mailings: We also mail out cards on birthdays, and Father's/Mother's Day

Lessons Learned

- Updating Volunteer handbook and protocols
- Bringing in a National Trainer
- Updating Resources and vetting local organizations
- Being intentional about what sectors or voices needed to be on the Bloomington LOSS Team Advisory Committee
- Needing Additional Phone Coverage
- Changing/updating the intake form from experience
- The importance of strong partnerships
- Monthly Meetings vs Quarterly
- Opportunities to get together of fun things outside of responsibilities

Building Out a LOSS Team