



*"Project Safety Net mobilizes community support and resources in Palo Alto for youth suicide prevention and mental wellness. We are a coalition working on community education, outreach, and training; access to quality youth mental health services; and policy advocacy."*

## **PSN Partners Meeting: The New Chapter of Our Collective Impact**

June 25, 2020, 12:30 – 1:30 pm

As Project Safety Net transitions to independence on July 1st, the PSN Board 2020-21 introduced themselves at a Partners Meeting and responded to questions from the community.

Note: We apologize that the video does not have audio in the latter half of the meeting due to technical issues. Additional questions and unanswered questions can be sent to [psnpaloalto@gmail.com](mailto:psnpaloalto@gmail.com).

### **Questions and Answers**

#### **Q: Will community members be included in the collaborative as active members?**

"Absolutely!" – Reverend Dr. Eileen Altman

Community members have always been a crucial part of Project Safety Net's efforts as convenors, coordinators, and communicators. It is through the participation and collaboration of young people, parents, community members and organizations that we have been able and will continue to promote youth well-being and suicide prevention.

#### **Q: PSN is a very resourceful community partner and the work they have done thus far is valuable. But there are always challenges to communicate and reach out to the target group – the Youth. What plans are being formed to better and improve this aspect for the coming year?**

"That work is not a destination; it's a journey." – Dennis Burns

Youth outreach is important, and we're constantly improving and adapting. Every year, we know that young people experience school and life transitions – graduating and moving on are recent examples. PSN always strives to work in partnership with youth to carry out our mission. We look forward to reaching out to various young people in the community and at schools, and figure out how we can help. While there are challenges during this time, we're keeping engaged and currently developing meaningful metrics and opportunities.

#### **Q: How is PSN changed? Will they DO work throughout Santa Clara County?**

"One word – governance!" – Rob George

PSN's mission and programs will stay the same. Moving to become a 501(c)3 allows the coalition to respond and expand with more flexibility and efficiency. There is a need for resources and access to resources beyond Palo Alto boundaries. PSN's independence will enable us to help regionally with resource accessibility in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

We've had a lot of opportunity to do work in Santa Clara County. For instance, the partnership of HEARD Alliance, County of Santa Clara Suicide Prevention Program, and Kognito has brought youth suicide prevention training to 17 of 32 Santa Clara County's school districts. The hope is to extend Project Safety's network of partnership and collaboration to San Mateo County. As we build Project Safety Net's long-term sustainability, we will continue to be a resource and share learnings with neighbors and other communities.

**Q: How do we maintain our presence and sense of urgency in the work we do during time of COVID-19?**

A lot of our youth have been responding decently well during the COVID-19 pandemic environment – a time of asynchronous learning. They can choose when they want to do their work. For youth that we serve on the mental health provider side, they are at higher risk in time of COVID-19 and are the ones who needed the in-person connections and activities outside of school (e.g. sports and music).

Commitment and programming have not wavered. In addition to PSN hosting several meetings and a training since late April (<http://www.psnpalalto.com/community-meetings/>), PSN partners lead virtual events and pivot their services as it relates to COVID-19 pandemic. PSN also facilitated connections with partners, responded to technical assistance requests, and provided resources. PSN hosted a virtual convening with nearly 70 community members, including young people, and organizations to share resources, identify opportunities, and foster partnerships facing **“The New Reality of Youth Well-being Promotion and Suicide Prevention: Strengthening Collaborations in a COVID-19 Pandemic Environment”**. In partnership with Palo Alto University and County of Santa Clara Suicide Prevention Program, PSN hosted a **“Be Sensitive, Be Brave: Mental Health”** training. To close out the 2019-20 school year, PSN hosted a youth-organized and youth-led convening for youth, **“Youth Mental Wellness Through and Past COVID-19: Tackling Stress, Burn-out, and Communication Challenges.”**

**Q: Want to learn more about your fundraising plans?**

Project Safety Net secured seed funding and office space through the City of Palo Alto. The Board and its Executive Director are pursuing a two-tier strategy. As we await the IRS’s approval for 501(c)3 tax exemption, we are having conversations with institutional partners about investing in PSN and its partners to advance coalition initiatives. We are also prospecting foundation, state, and federal opportunities to pursue once PSN secures its 501(c)3 status. If you have ideas or prospects, please contact Mary Gloner at [psnexecutivedirector@gmail.com](mailto:psnexecutivedirector@gmail.com).

**Q: How to connect with Project Safety Net?**

Office

- Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Building T2 – Palo Alto, CA 94303  
Note: PSN staff will continue to telework and host virtual meetings until we can safely re-open office

E-mail and Phone

- General: [psnpalalto@gmail.com](mailto:psnpalalto@gmail.com) / 650-329-2432
- Mary Gloner, Executive Director: [psnexecutivedirector@gmail.com](mailto:psnexecutivedirector@gmail.com) / 650-329-2330

Digital Channels

- Twitter, Facebook, Instagram: @psnpalalto
- E-listserve: sign up at [www.psnpalalto.org](http://www.psnpalalto.org)

**Community’s Advice and Recommendations**

- Engaging with Palo Alto youth groups through online meetings and seeking their ideas
- COVID-19 Youth Forum including trusted adults
- <https://youthcommunityservice.org/> provides meaningful service projects and virtual events through summer and shelter-in-place
- <https://skyschools.org/breathewithme/> invites the Black community for free Sky Schools stress management