

SAMHSA's Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Grant Program Grantee Meeting

Rooted in Resilience

#GLS2026

Hyatt Regency Bethesda, Maryland
August 5–7, 2026

AGENDA

DAY 1: August 5, 2026

8:30 am – 9:00 am **Smudging Ceremony** *Plaza Lawn (Lobby Level, Outside Hotel)*
The meeting will open with a smudging ceremony, a traditional Indigenous practice in which sacred plants are burned to cleanse the space and set positive intentions.

9:00 am – 10:30 am **State/Tribal Morning Plenary** *Regency Ballroom*
Connecting States and Tribal Communities

Welcome to the SAMHSA Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Grant Program Grantee Meeting 2026! Our opening plenary will begin with a Tribal Grand Entry, followed by a prayer and welcome song, honoring Indigenous traditions and setting the tone for our time together.

We will then move into the State and Tribal Welcome and meeting theme introduction, highlighting this year's theme, Rooted in Resilience. The session continues with a University of North Dakota GLS presentation, offering key insights and lessons learned from ND Thrives.

Finally, this plenary will include an overview of key agenda items as well as essential logistical and housekeeping details to ensure participants feel informed, supported, and ready for a meaningful and engaging convening.

This conference was funded, in whole or in part, through contract HHSS283201700075L_75S20321F42002 with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The views expressed in written conference materials and by speakers and moderators at this conference, do not necessarily reflect the official policies of HHS, nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration



Moderators:
Seprieono Locario
Facilitator
Tribal Tech LLC

Barbara Aragon, MSW
Technical Assistance Coordinator
SAMHSA Tribal Training and Technical Assistance Center
Tribal Tech LLC

Speakers:
Rachel Navarro, PhD
Principal Investigator and Training Implementation Specialist
University of North Dakota

LaVonne Fox, PhD
Project Director
University of North Dakota
Grand Forks, ND

Shelby Rowe, MBA
President
Lhakoffi, LLC

10:45 am – 11:15 am	Welcome/Introductions and Opening Remarks <i>Tison Thomas, PhD, MSW</i> <i>Acting Director of the Center for Mental Health Services</i> <i>SAMHSA</i>	<i>Regency Ballroom</i>
---------------------	---	-------------------------

11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Opening Plenary: Engaging Youth With Lived Experience Lived experience/expertise is critical to understanding how systems can better serve youth experiencing suicidal ideation. During this plenary, a panel of young adults will share information on what measures supported them in their journey to recovery and healing. This session will be moderated by SAMHSA staff and a young adult with lived experience.	<i>Regency Ballroom</i>
---------------------	--	-------------------------

Moderator:
Charity Fisher, MSW
Student
Howard University

Speakers:
Shani'a Stevenson
Founder and Executive Director
Navigation (Nav)

Deven Garcia
Alumni
Morehouse College

Hamilton Onyeukwu, Jr.
Student

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

LUNCH

2:00 pm – 3:15 pm

Concurrent Sessions

A Pequot, a Hawk, and a Mission: A Story About Connection

Susquehanna/Severna Suite

This session will provide insight on how the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation built a positive and collaborative relationship with the state of Connecticut to support suicide prevention and postvention efforts for Native youth throughout the state.

*Scott Barton
Director of Tribal Initiatives
Suicide Prevention Resource Center*

Utilizing the Zero Suicide Framework to Improve Continuity of Care Across Youth-Serving Systems

Cabinet

Over a five-year period, a public-private partnership—made up of state behavioral health leaders, state educators, family advocates, and public health researchers—directed Pennsylvania's previous SAMHSA-funded GLS Youth Suicide Prevention Grant team, working closely with county leadership in about 10 counties across the Commonwealth. The purpose of this presentation is to describe statewide and local efforts to improve suicide prevention across systems, using the Zero Suicide framework, with the goal of improving continuity of care for youth at risk of suicide as they transition between various youth-serving systems. The team will also discuss resources created to support the county efforts, including a toolkit to assist others in similar work.

*Rose Milani, MPH – Pennsylvania GLS
Project Director
Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services*

*Michael Hogan, PhD
Consultant and Advisor
Four Pines Fund*

Creating Crisis Protocols – Developing a Model Suicide Policy for Schools

Old Georgetown

This presentation will include key information about mental health in schools and youth suicide in South Carolina to highlight the importance of implementing strategies within youth-serving communities to address youth suicide risk and mortality. Presenters will introduce and discuss key components of a statewide model suicide prevention policy, how it relates to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention strategies, and plans for sharing the model with a wider audience. Finally, presenters will offer suggested best practices and policies for participants to consider within their own school districts, providing opportunities for post-presentation reflection.

*Jonah-Mae (Jo) Neri
Program Coordinator
South Carolina Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental
Disabilities Office of Mental Health*

*Lee Fletcher, MDiv, MSW – South Carolina GLS
School Mental Health Program Director
South Carolina Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental
Disabilities Office of Mental Health*

Someone to Talk to: Design and Evaluation of a Peer-to-Peer 988 Lifeline Education Tool Pilot

Diplomat/Ambassador

This session highlights an initiative that meaningfully integrated youth and young adults into the design, implementation, and evaluation of a peer-to-peer 988 Lifeline conversation tool. Young adult contractors were trained in suicide prevention, evaluation, and research methods, then conducted focus groups and a survey across Minnesota to better understand perceptions of mental health resources and communication. In collaboration with state public health staff, they developed “Someone to Talk to,” a conversation guide for peers to teach each other about the 988 Lifeline. High school peers with lived experience piloted the tool in school and community settings, and evaluation surveys measured changes in participants’ knowledge, confidence, and comfort discussing and using the 988 Lifeline.

*Wil Sampson-Bernstrom – Minnesota GLS
Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Health*

*Payton Counts – Minnesota GLS
Tribal Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Health*

Implementing Statewide Suicide Prevention Programs for Youth in Alaska

Congressional

Alaska’s GLS-funded suicide prevention initiatives strengthen statewide capacity through specialized trainings, lethal means safety campaigns, and the implementation of the Zero Suicide framework across health systems. The program supports postvention planning and community training to help Alaskans respond effectively after a suicide loss. Collaboration with the Department of Education and Early Development enhances youth-focused prevention, while aftercare coordination through the statewide crisis contact center ensures ongoing support for at-risk young people. These efforts are bolstered by strong partnerships with community organizations that promote outreach, education, and comprehensive suicide prevention strategies across the state.

*Sheli DeLaney – Alaska GLS
Statewide Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator
State of Alaska Division of Behavioral Health*

Connect and Collaborate: National Evaluation Networking Session

Judiciary

***For Cohorts 17, 19, and 19B Only**

This interactive session provides GLS state/tribal project directors and evaluators with a dedicated opportunity to connect directly with staff from ICF’s national GLS evaluation team and fellow grantees in a small group setting. Through facilitated discussions, participants will build and strengthen relationships with their assigned Technical Assistance Liaisons (TALs); exchange insights and experiences with peers across cohorts 17, 19, and 19B; and explore grantee-specific questions and priority topics in a supportive, collaborative environment. Small groups will be designed to encourage meaningful dialogue around shared challenges, evaluation topics, and program-specific needs. The session is intended to foster ongoing

collaboration, strengthen peer connections, and support practical problem-solving related to evaluation activities.

ICF Team:

*Sophia Zanakos, PhD
Director, GLS State/Tribal Evaluation
ICF*

*Brandylyn Arredondo, MS
Evaluation Specialist and TAL
ICF*

*Syreeta Skelton-Wilson, PhD
Senior Manager, Research Science
ICF*

*Christine Walrath, PhD, MHS
Evaluation Principal Investigator
ICF – New York, NY*

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm

BREAK

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Philanthropy as Sustainability

Regency Ballroom

Philanthropy has emerged as a newer source of funding for mental health and suicide prevention activities, particularly for youth. In this session, we'll explore examples of how philanthropy is operating in this space and provide ideas on ways grantees can engage with philanthropic organizations in their areas.

Moderator:

*Brandon J. Johnson, MHS, MCHES
Branch Chief, Suicide Prevention Branch
Division of Suicide Prevention and Community Supports
Center for Mental Health Services
SAMHSA*

Speakers:

*Anna Bobb, MPH
Executive Director
Path Forward*

*Rick Ybarra, MA
Senior Program Officer
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health*

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Closing Remarks from SAMHSA

Regency Ballroom

*Janel Cubbage, MS, LCPC, MPH
Public Health Advisor
SAMHSA*

DAY 2: August 6, 2026

9:00 am – 10:15 am

Plenary:
Beyond the Algorithm: Supporting Youth Well-Being in the Digital Space

Regency Ballroom

Panel discussion on how youth are engaging with AI and social media, the impact on youth mental health, and what is being done in the field to respond to this concern.

Moderator:

Colleen Carr, MPH

Director

National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention

Speakers:

Shums Alikhan, MPH

Senior Manager

Surgo Health

Dan Reidenberg, PsyD

Managing Director

National Council for Suicide Prevention

Zainab Okolo, EdD, LCMFT

Senior Vice President, Policy, Advocacy and Government Relations

The Jed Foundation

10:30 am – 11:45 am

Morning Sessions

Regency Ballroom

Grantee Panel – Lessons Learned

Moderator:

Martin Jones

Public Health Advisor

SAMHSA

Innovative Implementation of GLS in Tribal Communities

The presentation will focus on GLS staff efforts to build partnerships with youth, parents/caregivers, schools, and behavioral health clinicians through school and community-based efforts. This includes implementation of Project Venture and the Katishtya Intergenerational Knowledge Cultural Sharing experiential initiatives. The goal of these efforts is to promote healthy dialogues with community members about suicide prevention and positive living. Additionally, the presentation will provide an overview of our efforts regarding crisis response planning and continuity of care. We will highlight what has worked well, the challenges we have experienced, and our efforts to overcome these challenges.

Jenae Sanchez – Pueblo of San Felipe

Systems of Care Director

Pueblo of San Felipe Systems of Care

Supporting Caregivers of Youth at Risk for Suicide

Emergency department (ED) visits for suicidal ideation and attempts among youth have increased five-fold over the past decade. Despite clear evidence that the weeks and months following ED discharge are a time of heightened risk, the availability of post-ED follow-up interventions designed to promote youth safety and continuity of care remains limited. Parents and other caregivers (hereafter, parents) are tasked with implementing post-discharge suicide prevention recommendations; yet, they express high stress and low confidence in engaging in these activities, highlighting opportunities for parent-facing interventions to improve post-ED youth outcomes. This presentation will elevate evaluation data collected by Michigan's GLS program regarding the needs of caregivers during and immediately after a suicide crisis and will present a novel text-based continuity-of-care intervention designed based on that data. Text-based Support for Parents of Suicidal Adolescents (TESP) delivers supportive text messages to parents of adolescents treated in an ED for suicide-related concerns. Messages reinforce key safety practices—such as lethal means safety, crisis resources, safety planning, communication, and caregiver self-care—to enhance family support and promote safer care transitions following an ED visit for acute suicide risk. TESP demonstrates promising impact in a small pilot trial of 120 families, yet it is currently available only in a research context. Via a partnership with MyMichigan Health, Michigan's GLS program is currently applying best practices in translational and implementation science to integrate TESP into seven EDs across the state. Presenters will share the process of using MyMichigan staff input to tailor and iteratively improve TESP for a real-world context, the feasibility of moving TESP into the Epic electronic management system, and preliminary feedback on TESP value, acceptability, feasibility, and impact from TESP family recipients and MyMichigan staff.

*Cindy Ewell Foster, PhD – Michigan GLS
Professor
The University of Michigan*

Expanding PA Suicide Prevention Efforts for Systems, Youth, and Families

Keep Empowering Youth – Partners, Providers, and Lived Experience (KEY-PPLE) is the current SAMHSA GLS grant in Pennsylvania. In the previous grant, we focused on utilizing the Zero Suicide Framework to support cross-system comprehensive suicide prevention efforts for youth and families. This presentation will provide an overview of the ways the KEY-PPLE grant builds from the previous one, by supporting coordinated care for evidence-based treatment in four counties and partnering with organizations across the state to elevate youth voice and provide resources for youth and families.

*Rose Milani, MPH – Pennsylvania GLS
Project Director
Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services*

*Katie Van Fossen, PhD – Pennsylvania GLS
Assistant Professor and Project Evaluator
Thomas Jefferson University*

11:45 am – 1:15 pm

LUNCH

Concurrent Sessions

Gathering the Goodness: Conversations Around Tribal History, Cultural Safety, and Community Collaborations With Suicide Prevention Grantees Across Minnesota *Susquehanna/Severna Suite*

Minnesota Department of Health tribal suicide prevention staff and the regional tribal suicide prevention coordinator collaborated to develop a one-day, in-person Indigenous knowledge training: the Tribal History and Cultural Safety Gathering (THCSG). The gathering specifically focuses on suicide prevention through Indigenous social determinants of health and seeking out community collaborations. Participants of the THCSG learn about the importance of community connections, meet local tribal partners, and learn ways to provide enhanced allyship in their service and partnerships with tribal partners. Participants in this breakout session can expect background information on the development of this gathering, an overview of the agenda, a review of lessons learned, next steps in train-the-trainer model development, and recommendations for adapting it in other communities.

*Payton Counts – Minnesota GLS
Tribal Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Health*

Building Sustainable School Mental Health Systems *Diplomat/Ambassador*

This presentation will highlight the work of two federal initiatives—Project Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education (Project AWARE) and Trauma-Informed Services in Schools (TISS). The presentation will share how states, districts, tribal communities, and partners strengthen school mental health systems through Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, prevention, early intervention, suicide prevention, workforce development, and strong school–community partnerships. The session will also highlight actionable strategies to support long-term sustainability.

*Jennifer Treger
Public Health Advisor
SAMHSA*

Youth Safety Planning in the Real World: Buy-In, Family Engagement, and Implementation Challenges for GLS Grantees *Cabinet*

Safety planning is a core expectation in youth suicide prevention work, but implementing it well can be more complicated than completing a form or training staff. GLS grantees often have to navigate partner buy-in, school and community workflows, caregiver involvement, confidentiality, staff confidence, documentation expectations, and follow-up processes across multiple settings. This session will focus on practical strategies for strengthening youth safety planning as a meaningful, youth-centered intervention. Participants will explore common implementation barriers, strategies for engaging families and partners, ways to improve plan quality and usability, and opportunities for evaluators to help assess reach, consistency, and usefulness.

*Julie Goldstein Grumet, PhD
Vice President
Suicide Prevention Strategy
Director
Zero Suicide Institute
Education Development Center*

*Alex Karydi, PhD, LMFT, LAC, CASAC
Director II
Education Development Center / Suicide Prevention Resource Center*

Social Determinants of Health: Addressing Upstream Factors to Strengthen Suicide Prevention and Community Well-Being *Congressional*

Suicide is a complex public health issue that requires a comprehensive prevention approach. While many suicide prevention approaches address individual and downstream factors, approaches that target upstream factors—such as the broader systems, environments, and social conditions in which people live—can be an effective component of a suicide prevention ecosystem. Various institutions play a critical role in addressing these upstream factors through policies, programs, and cross-sector partnerships. In this session, we will explore how these upstream structural factors impact the populations and communities you serve, discuss the role organizations can play in reducing suicide risk, and identify strategies to address root causes to promote overall well-being and a comprehensive suicide prevention ecosystem.

*Janel Cubbage, MS, LCPC, MPH
Public Health Advisor
SAMHSA*

*Martin Jones
Public Health Advisor
SAMHSA*

Strengthening School Suicide Prevention Through Project SMARTS *Old Georgetown*

Schools are a non-negotiable setting for suicide prevention, with approximately 75% of youth mental health services delivered within school systems. This presentation will explore how Project SMARTS addresses these critical needs while offering implementation strategies that can be adapted to meet the unique needs of school districts across the United States.

*Alton Honors, II
University of South Florida GLS
Project Director
School Mental Health Assessments, Response, and Training for Suicide Prevention*

*Nathaniel von der Embse, PhD
Professor of School Psychology
School Mental Health Collaborative
University of South Florida*

***From Identification to Follow-Up: Strengthening
Continuity-of-Care Data Collection***

Judiciary

****For Cohorts 17, 19, and 19B: GLS National Evaluation***

This session focuses on strengthening grantee approaches to collecting high-quality data across the continuity-of-care pathway, with an emphasis on youth identified as being at risk for suicide in clinical and educational settings. Building on previous communities of practice discussions, participants will engage in facilitated, setting-specific, small group conversations to explore real-world data collection experiences in schools and emergency departments. During this session, participants will share challenges and promising practices; discuss strategies for improving individual-level and screening-related data collection; and identify actionable approaches to strengthen referral, follow-up, and connection-to-care tracking. Participants will leave with practical ideas to enhance data quality, improve feasibility, and strengthen continuity-of-care measurement across diverse implementation settings.

ICF Team:

Sophia Zanakos, PhD

Director, GLS State/Tribal Evaluation

ICF

Brandylyn Arredondo, MS

Evaluation Specialist and TAL

ICF

Syreeta Skelton-Wilson, PhD

Senior Manager, Research Science

ICF

Christine Walrath, PhD, MHS

Evaluation Principal Investigator

ICF – New York, NY

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm

BREAK

2:45 pm – 3:45 pm

Sources of Strength – Upstream Suicide Prevention *Regency Ballroom*

This presentation highlights Kansas's coordinated approach to advancing upstream youth suicide prevention across the state. The session will provide an overview of target populations, priority communities, training infrastructure, awareness campaigns, outcomes, schools reached, youth served, and alignment with the Kansas State Suicide Prevention Plan.

Presenters will describe how partners work together to strengthen prevention efforts statewide. DCCCA coordinates and facilitates the training infrastructure; Reflex AI enhances responder preparedness through simulation-based training; JNA Advertising leads suicide prevention awareness campaigns and promotes safe messaging practices; Shockey Consulting supports implementation and strategic integration; and Greenbush supports data collection, aggregation, analysis, reporting, and the development of interactive dashboards.

Participants will learn how the data supports county-level analysis of mental health, social vulnerability, depression, suicidal behavior, and suicidal

ideation indicators across GLS counties and statewide benchmarks. Presenters will demonstrate how partners use this evidence to identify needs, guide implementation, monitor progress, and drive continuous quality improvement. The session will illustrate how coordinated partnerships, data-informed decision-making, and shared accountability are advancing awareness to action and strengthen the impact of upstream suicide prevention across the state.

*Brooklynn Sumonja, Kansas State Department of Health
GLS Suicide Prevention Project Manager
Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services*

*Farzana Sultana, PhD
Statistical Analyst
Greenbush*

4:00 pm – 4:45 pm

Closing/Networking Session

Regency Ballroom

Join us at the end of Day Two for a dedicated networking session, offering grantees an informal space to connect, share insights, and strengthen relationships across the GLS State and Tribal community. This gathering provides an opportunity to meet fellow grantees, speakers, and subject matter experts to exchange ideas and build collaborative ties that support continued youth suicide prevention efforts nationwide.

We welcome all attendees to participate and make the most of this relaxed, connection-focused close to the day's programming.

DAY 3: August 7, 2026

9:00 am – 10:15 am

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Connecting States and Campuses

Cabinet

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has maintained a decades-long partnership with the Campus Suicide Prevention Center of Virginia (the Center), located at James Madison University near the border of West Virginia. Established in 2009 with the stated purpose of “getting people to think differently about what it means to prevent suicide,” the Center serves Virginia community institutions of higher education and newly, K–12 schools. With an emphasis on social interconnectedness as an upstream public health approach, the Center continues to identify, lead, and innovate, with an emphasis on shaping environments so Virginia’s youth can learn and thrive. This breakout session will discuss the origin of a public health approach to suicide with Virginia characteristics and explore how VDH, the Center, and other partners continue to identify, deepen, and maintain a shared commitment toward making suicide as preventable as possible.

*Justin Wallace, MPH
Project Director
Virginia Department of Health*

*Hannah Spector, MPH
Suicide Systems Coordinator
Virginia Department of Health*

*Lauren Yerkes, MPH
Injury and Violence Senior Epidemiologist
Virginia Department of Health*

Gizmo’s Pawesome Guide to Mental Health: An Upstream Approach to Mental Health and Suicide Prevention for Elementary Youth

Judiciary

This session will provide an overview of the Gizmo’s Pawesome Guide to Mental Health Elementary Curriculum and the associated evaluation being performed under the Connecticut Partnerships for Hope and Healing Initiative, a GLS Youth Suicide Prevention Grant (SM086113). This fun, flexible, turnkey curriculum for third- and fourth-grade elementary youth introduces the lessons and Mental Health Plan in Gizmo’s Pawesome Guide to Mental Health that are based on the Stanley-Brown Safety Plan. Video segments and interactive required and optional activities help youth learn to identify and care for their mental health needs themselves and by turning to trusted adults for support. The curriculum strives to help youth, their trusted adults, and the settings in which they live and learn support their mental health and social emotional learning. The program creates a greater sense of individual and community connectedness, thereby strengthening children’s mental wellness and reducing their risk of many negative health outcomes, but most importantly poor mental health. Attendees will learn: (1) why and how the curriculum was developed; (2) the main concepts of the curriculum and how they help connect youth to trusted adults and appropriate levels of care; and (3) about the evaluation process to assess effectiveness.

*Andrea Duarte, MSW, MPH, LCSW
Suicide Prevention Project Director
Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services*

*Alyeska Tilly, MSW, LMSW
Suicide Prevention System Manager
United Way of Connecticut*

*Sara Wakai, PhD – Connecticut GLS
Assistant Professor
UConn Health*

Tribal – Grief Training – Creating Safe Spaces to Heal *Susquehanna/Severna*

Spaces to Heal introduces a community-focused approach to addressing grief and loss in Tribal communities. This session provides an overview of the three-day training that blends storytelling, traditional knowledge, culturally aligned Western models, and readiness tools to help Tribes develop grief and loss programs tailored to their regions. Attendees will learn how the model supports the revival of traditional grief practices and strengthens local provider capacity to respond to grief as a public health issue.

*Barbara Aragon, MSW
Technical Assistance Coordinator
SAMHSA Tribal Training and Technical Assistance Center
Tribal Tech LLC*

CODE RED: Universal Safety Planning *Diplomat/Ambassador*

As part of Kentucky's GLS grant, over 15,000 people have been trained in CODE RED. This upstream universal safety planning intervention is designed for everyone ages 12 and up to create their own safety plan before their worst day. This presentation will introduce CODE RED and give preliminary data from youth and adults.

*Julie Cerel, PhD – Kentucky GLS
Professor
University of Kentucky*

Building Capacity for Suicide Prevention in Michigan's Child Welfare Agency *Old Georgetown*

Michigan's GLS program (Transforming Youth Suicide Prevention in Michigan) has been working in partnership with the state's child welfare agency for over a decade. This presentation will review elevated risk for suicide among child welfare involved youth, share needs assessment findings from child welfare staff, and present a data-driven and iterative process of developing and evaluating the new free online Suicide Prevention in Child Welfare course. Promising results of the course's impact on learners' self-reported preparedness, behavioral intentions, and self-efficacy to engage in suicide prevention actions with high-risk youth in the child welfare system will be shared.

*Cindy Ewell Foster, PhD – Michigan GLS
Professor
The University of Michigan*

*Lindsay DeCamp
State Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services*

10:15 am – 10:30 am	BREAK	
10:30 am – 11:45 am	Plenary: Postvention Planning Before It Happens: Obstacles, Decisions, and Readiness Strategies for GLS Communities Postvention planning is a critical part of youth suicide prevention, yet many communities do not begin clarifying roles, communication pathways, and supports until after a suicide death or suicide-related crisis occurs. This session will help GLS grantees examine common obstacles to postvention readiness, including unclear leadership, partner coordination, family communication, cultural responsiveness, memorialization, contagion prevention, staff support, and longer-term recovery. Participants will identify core decisions that should be made before a loss, consider the role GLS grantees can play in strengthening community readiness, and discuss how evaluators can help document planning progress and improvement over time. <i>Alex Karydi, PhD, LMFT, LAC, CASAC</i> <i>Director II</i> <i>Education Development Center / Suicide Prevention Resource Center</i> <i>Jonah-Mae (Jo) Neri</i> <i>Program Coordinator</i> <i>South Carolina Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Office of Mental Health</i> <i>Lee Fletcher, MDiv, MSW – South Carolina GLS</i> <i>School Mental Health Program Director</i> <i>South Carolina Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Office of Mental Health</i>	<i>Regency Ballroom</i>
11:45 am – 12:00 pm	Closing Remarks <i>Johari Dyson, MEd, LCPC</i> <i>Public Health Advisor</i> <i>SAMHSA</i>	<i>Regency Ballroom</i>