

Youth Suicide

County to County Communication

VOCAB:

LMHA: Local Mental Health Authority

ME: Medical Examiner

OHA: Oregon Health Authority

HB 3037

Problem:

When a youth attempts suicide in one county, is transported to another county's hospital and then dies, it is the 2nd county's ME that is responsible for declaring the cause of death. Current statute allows the ME to notify its LMHA, but doesn't allow for communication with the home county. The county of residence is the county that needs to know this information so as to take local action to identify close contacts of the deceased and launch a trauma-informed, post-vention plan. Due to HIPAA concerns, HB 3037 seeks to clarify the statute.

History:

SB 561(2015) directed OHA to develop a communication plan between LMHAs, schools, and itself to ensure all parties coordinate to address the aftermath of a youth suicide -- to prevent contagion and to promote healing.

Solution:

HB 3037 specifies the ME will notify its LMHA within 48-72 hours of the determination and the LMHA shall then contact the deceased's home county LMHA within 72 hours of the ME's notification.

