

# New form submission

## [YSPTF Testimony Form](#)

Submitted on 21 October 2018, via IP 166.182.82.238 by Anonymous

<i>NOTE: All testimony submitted is subject to public disclosure under the Kansas Open Records Act and will become a part of the official record of the Task Force.</i>	
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Meeting at which you wish to testify:	Written Testimony Only
What hurdles have you experienced and/or lessons learned through your efforts?	<p>My mother suffered her first official breakdown December 13, 2013. This was my daughters wedding day. Many attempts to get her help were squashed after local police arrested her. She had just been officially deemed a danger to herself by the local mental health facility and was awaiting transportation to Osawatomie for admission. With her hands cuffed behind her back, she charged the police officer. She was then arrested for assault on a police officer. This caused more issues with her in the next year in her bitterness because in her incapable mental state, she had to plead no contest and pay hundreds of dollars in fines. She was already labeled crazy and now she was a criminal that spent the night in jail before heading to the mental hospital. Then, about a year later, the system failed again. I knew she was acting out again and I tried to talk to her doctor (I had power of attorney) only to be told no one could talk to me anymore. The entire system failed me and my mother, who completed suicide June 9, 2015. For God's sake even the doctor at Osawatomie let her come home after I explained she was hallucinating about who was with her in the hospital! He indicated he would just lower the dosage but go ahead and still come get her.</p>
What efforts have proven to be successful in your purpose to address youth suicide?	<p>We used a scholarship to bring a speaker into the school to talk. We've had numerous students complete suicide and kids need to see the signs; report the signs; and help friends. It's been a taboo subject for too long.</p>

Recommendations or suggestions for the task force to consider:	<p>Let kids honor those kids in schools. They need to grieve. As a student body. When one of our students completed suicide, the kids wanted to wear shirts with his basketball number on the back. The school said no because they cannot put that student on a pedestal. That tells the kids there's something wrong with what they did. In the age of social media, these kids are already memorializing them in their own way. Put it out there...have classes about it. Do what you can do kids see it, hear it and act on it. Please. I've been so outspoken about this since my moms death. I have to live with regret and "what if's" for the rest of my life, but it took me a long time to accept that without assigning fault to myself. Guilt without fault is ok. I've learned to accept that. We have to change our mentality or we will never change the culture.</p>
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