

# Hope for the Future; A Qualitative Analysis of Community Conversations on Youth Suicide Prevention in Pinellas County

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## a. A Public Health Crisis

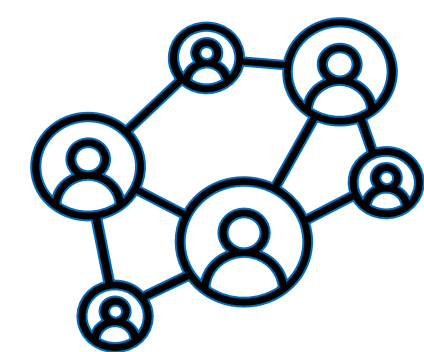
What issue are we trying to address?

Suicide is a leading cause of death among youth in the United States.<sup>1</sup>

How are we trying to address it?



Community Conversations



Building a Web of Hope

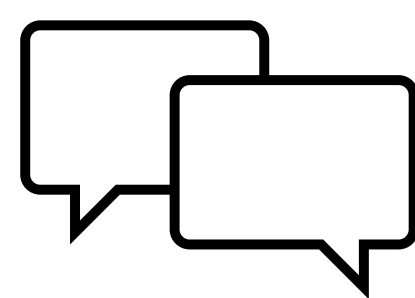
How can communication help with suicide prevention?

Putting Alternative Logics to Work

Crafting Normalcy

Affirming Identity Anchors

Maintaining & Using Communication Networks



Foregrounding Action & Backgrounding Feelings

Communicative Resilience (CR)<sup>2</sup>

## b. Community Comes Together

What do we want to learn?

"How are communicative resilience processes enacted for youth suicide prevention in Pinellas County?"

How did we learn more about it?

<b>Growing Hope</b> hosted a town hall in April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero Suicide Partners of Pinellas</li> <li>Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas</li> <li>The Harrell Center, USF</li> </ul>
<b>2 Community Conversation<sup>3</sup> (CC) groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 adult group (n=80)</li> <li>1 youth group (n=8); ages 10-24</li> <li>1 facilitator &amp; 1 scribe/ each</li> </ul>
<b>3 questions</b> Inspired by Appreciative Inquiry framework <sup>4</sup>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What has helped you or someone you know during a time when you felt hopeless?</li> <li>What would an ideal community look like if there were more feelings of hopefulness?</li> <li>What actions should be taken to reduce suicide in our community?</li> </ol>
<b>Responses</b> collected via post-its; qualitatively coded and analyzed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responses entered in Excel</li> <li>Inductively coded by constant comparative method</li> <li>Deductive coding and secondary analysis using CR</li> <li>Findings reviewed &amp; consensus provided by community partners</li> </ul>

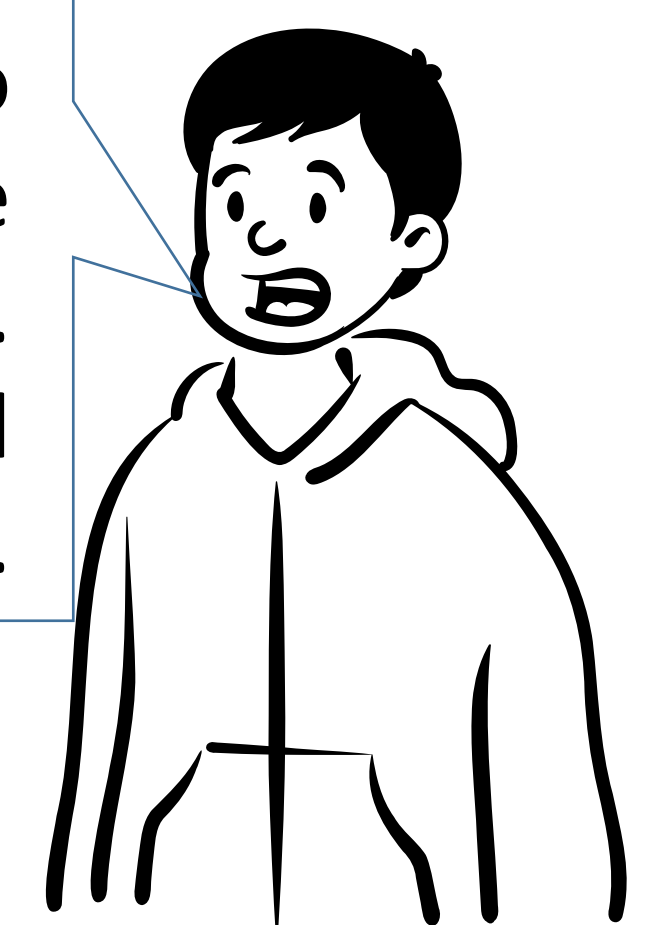
## c. What We Learned

We learned that peer support, feeling accepted, practicing mindfulness, and community connectedness can help save the lives of youth in Florida.



We need community coming together to help each other with more empathy and less stigma!

Yeah, the first step is to stop bullying...and be more open-minded. Then maybe we could talk more openly.



Adults (n=80) Youth (n=8)

What has helped you or someone you know during a time when you felt hopeless?

**Youth**  
Companionship  
Creative Expression  
Motivation

Crafting Normalcy

Putting Alternative Logics to Use

**Adult**  
Peer Support  
Mindfulness  
Motivation

Foreground Productive Action & Backgrounding Negative Emotion

What would an ideal community look like if there were more feelings of hopefulness?

**Youth**  
Mindfulness  
Acceptance  
Connectedness

**Adult**  
Mindfulness  
Acceptance  
Connectedness

What actions should be taken to reduce suicide in our community?

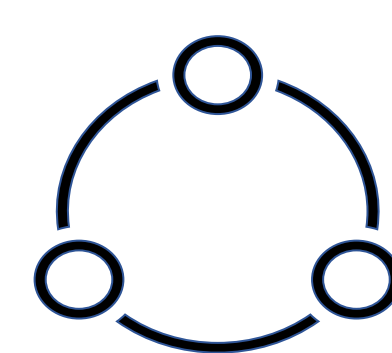
**Youth**  
Mindfulness  
Acceptance  
Peer Support

Affirming Identity Anchors

**Adult**  
Peer Support  
Access to Services  
Knowledge Expansion

Using & Maintaining Comm. Networks

## d. Implications for the Community & Our Next Steps



- Access to existing resources may be difficult for some youth experiencing thoughts of suicide, particularly youth living with poverty and discrimination.
- Resources which increase connectedness and communication are vital to supporting youth with their mental health.



- Share results with community stakeholders and external audiences.
- Host additional community conversations to gather more data.
- Advocate for evidence-based policies and programs that support suicide prevention.

## We would like to thank:

- You...for stopping by to learn more about this critical issue and the adaptive-transformative power of communication<sup>2</sup>.
- All who attended, volunteered, and participated...particularly those who shared their own stories, strategies, and hopes for a community free of suicides.

## Our References

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