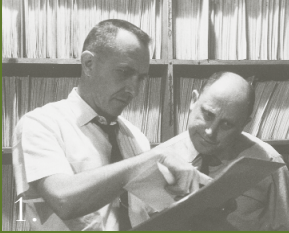


A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE



1953

Drs. Farberow and Shneidman find suicide notes in the Los Angeles County Coroner's basement. *1. Farberow and Shneidman study cases of known suicide*



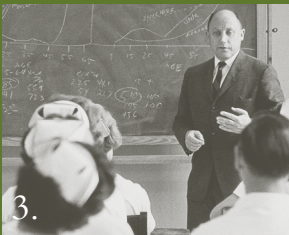
1955

Farberow and Shneidman perform the first psychological autopsy. *2. Shneidman, Farberow and Dr. Robert Litman interview a suicide attempt patient*

1958

Farberow and Shneidman publish *Clues to Suicide*.

Farberow and Shneidman receive a National Institute on Mental Health grant to start the Suicide Prevention Center (SPC).



1959

SPC begins to offer extensive training in suicidology to local professionals. *3. Shneidman trains local nurses in suicidology*

1960

International Association of Suicide Prevention is founded.



1962

SPC building on Pico Boulevard is constructed.

Marilyn Monroe suicide causes flood of calls to the hotline. Farberow, Litman and Dr. Norman Tabachnick perform a psychological autopsy and confirm her suicide.

1963

Suicide hotline expands to 24-hour coverage.

Resident Scholars program begins to explore theory of suicide from different interdisciplinary perspectives.



1964

The first volunteers are trained on the hotline. *4. A few of the earliest SPC volunteers*

1965

L. A. Police Department officers begin training with SPC in crisis response. *5. Farberow gives a lecture to crisis responders*

SUICIDE PREVENTION CENTER

1968

American Association of Suicidology (AAS) is founded.
6. Shneidman addresses the newly formed association



1971

L. A. County Department of Mental Health begins funding SPC.

1972

SPC establishes the first methadone maintenance program in L. A. County to explore the relationship between substance abuse and suicide.



1973

SPC moves to the Menlo building.

1974

SPC establishes the Dignity Center as a teenage anti-gang program.
7. Dignity Center client creates an art project

1976

Comprehensive Group Therapy programs start for chronically suicidal individuals.

1977

Institute for the Study of Self Destructive Behaviors is founded as an umbrella organization of SPC.

1980

Depression Clinic starts at the Robertson site.



1981

Survivors After Suicide (SAS) groups start.

Dr. Michael Peck develops *Manual on Suicide Prevention and Education* for use in all California high schools. *8. Dr. Michael Peck*

1983

SPC celebrates its 25th anniversary.
9. Longtime supporters Katherine and Judd Marmor at the celebration.



1984

SPC receives research grant to study the dramatic increase in California's youth suicide.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE



1986

SPC celebrates its 30th anniversary with “Dear Abby.”
10. Pauline and Jeanne Phillips (a.k.a. “Dear Abby”)

1988

SPC merges with the Family Service of Los Angeles (FSLA).

1989

Survivors’ newsletter is started.

1990

SPC begins bereavement groups in high schools following student suicides.



1991

A study of males in California indicates a significant reduction of suicide. Nationwide, suicide among males has increased.

1996

FSLA merges with Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center.
The Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN) is founded.
First annual Survivors’ Potluck is held.

1997

SPC website is created.

1998

First *Alive & Running for Suicide Prevention 5K/10K* is held.
11. Volunteers pass out fruit at Alive & Running

Live televised suicide causes a flood of calls to the line.

The Trevor Project, a national toll-free suicide prevention hotline for gay teen, begins.

SPC begins training FBI agents.

SPC celebrates its 40th anniversary.



1999

Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher publishes ground-breaking *Report on Suicide*. The next year, Satcher receives an *Erasing the Stigma Leadership Award*.
12. Dr. David Satcher

SUICIDE PREVENTION CENTER

2000

Under the Department of Health and Human Services, a federal steering group forms, resulting in four public hearings addressing the *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action*.



2001

The California Endowment awards a major grant to SPC for suicide prevention outreach to minority communities.

2004

In collaboration with the Los Angeles City Mayor's Office, the Suicide Response Team (SRT), a program of SPC, is established.

13. SRT members Stan Lelewer, Ester Bryant, David Davis, Mary Halligan and Paul Rosenberg



2005

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) launches the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-TALK, with SPC joining as a crisis center member of the Lifeline.

South Korean army chaplains contact SPC for advice on how to respond to the high rate of suicide among its ranks.

14. South Korean army chaplains first visit SPC



2006

SPC crisis line expands toll-free coverage to Orange County

South Korean army chaplain trains with SPC, culminating in a visit from two dozen other army chaplains hoping to learn how to address soldiers' needs.

15. Chaplain Ko Jacheon gives a lecture on his training

16. South Korean army chaplains at the second visit to SPC



2007

SAS group for adolescents/teens begins in partnership with Our House, a bereavement support program for children, adults and families.