



Newsletter Vol.51 (January 2026)

Japan Suicide Countermeasures Promotion Center



Thank you for subscribing to the newsletter of Japan Suicide Countermeasures Promotion Center (JSCP). In this issue, we feature reports on the “Meeting for Local Government Officials on Establishing Councils Based on the Amended Basic Act on Suicide Countermeasures” held on December 23, as well as the Training Session on Care of Suicide Attempt Survivors “in Psychiatric Emergencies.” Additionally, we have launched a new series introducing the results of commissioned research conducted under the “Innovative Research Program on Suicide Countermeasures” starting this month.

※This e-mail is sent to those who requested to receive this newsletter or provided us with the contact information through our activities. If you do not wish to receive further e-mails from us, please click [here](#) to unsubscribe.

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1. [Event Report] Meeting for Local Government Officials on Establishing Councils Based on the Amended Basic Act on Suicide Countermeasures

On December 23, 2025, JSCP held an online “Meeting for Local Government Officials on Establishing Councils Based on the Amended Basic Act on Suicide Countermeasures.” The Amended Basic Act on Suicide Countermeasures was promulgated in June 2025 and will be fully enacted on April 1, 2026 (with partial enactment starting December 1, 2025). The meeting aimed to raise awareness and support the development of systems for establishing the “councils” mandated by the Act, which are designed to effectively and comprehensively promote child suicide countermeasures within local communities. On the day of the event, more than 1,700 stakeholders participated, including officials responsible for suicide countermeasures from prefectures, ordinance-designated cities, municipalities, and health centers, as well as staff from boards of education and child/family welfare departments.

In collaboration with the Children and Families Agency, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), information was shared regarding the necessary preparations for establishing the councils.

The meeting began with Yasuyuki Shimizu, Representative Director of JSCP, explaining the purpose and objectives of the recent amendment to the Basic Act. Following this, Takehiro Ono, Director of the General Affairs Division of the Support Bureau at the Children and Families Agency (who also serves as the Office Head of the Suicide Countermeasures Office), explained the significance and operational methods of the “councils.” His explanation was based on key points from the “Guidelines” for the Establishment and Operation of Councils currently under development, as outlined below.

- While the establishing entities are local governments, municipalities may consider not only individual establishment

but also joint establishment or establishment with support from prefectures, depending on the actual conditions of the region. Prefectures can hold consultations regarding child suicide countermeasures in the region and are also expected to provide support for cases that municipalities cannot realistically handle.

- Municipal meetings are envisioned to consist of “Individual Case Review Meetings” and “General Meetings.” The former involves assessing the child’s circumstances, evaluating suicide risks, deliberating on support policies, and determining the division of roles among relevant organizations.
- Prefectural meetings are expected to include general meetings from a broad regional perspective, as well as discussions on response strategies at the request of municipalities, reviews of individual cases, and support for municipal case review meetings.
- The Basic Act lists schools, boards of education, child guidance centers, mental health and welfare centers, medical institutions, police stations, and private entities as examples of council constituents. However, it is not necessary to include all of these, and organizations not specifically listed may also be included as constituents.
- The specific workflow from individual consultation to support will be managed according to local circumstances, but the following steps are envisioned: 1. Identification of children for the Individual Case Review Meeting, 2. Collection of necessary information and determining the necessity of an Individual Case Review Meeting, 3. Information gathering and organization from relevant organizations in preparation for the meeting, 4. Convening the Individual Case Review Meeting (determination of support policies, etc.), 5. Implementation of support by relevant organizations, 6. Review of support policies and conclusion of follow-up at the Individual Case Review Meeting.
- The establishment and operation of the councils may be achieved not only by creating new entities but also by adding the council’s functions to existing bodies, such as Local Council for Children in Need of Protection, Local Councils for Child and Youth Support, Local Councils for Loneliness and Isolation Measures, or Liaison Councils for Suicide Countermeasures.
- Each constituent may provide personal data to the council in the following scenarios: 1. when based on laws and regulations, 2. when it is necessary for the protection of a person’s life, body, or property and obtaining the individual’s consent is not feasible, and 3. when it is particularly necessary for the improvement of public health or the promotion of the sound development of children and obtaining the individual’s consent is not feasible.

Following this, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) introduced their respective suicide countermeasure initiatives. For MEXT, Masanobu Ikeda, Student Guidance Investigator of the Student Guidance Office, Student Affairs Division, Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau, spoke about collaboration between schools and local communities based on the amendment to the Basic Act. For MHLW, Chiaki Miyazaki, Counsellor for Policy of Suicide Countermeasures at the Minister’s Secretariat, explained the collaboration with Child Suicide Crisis Response Team.



Takehiro Ono, Children and Families Agency



Masanobu Ikeda, MEXT



Chiaki Miyazaki, MHLW



Yasuyuki Shimizu,
Representative Director
of JSCP

■ A more detailed event report is available on our [website](#). Please take a look.

2. [Event Report] FY2025 Training Session on Care of Suicide Attempt Survivors, “In Psychiatric Emergencies”

On December 14, 2025, JSCP held the “FY2025 Training Session on Care of Suicide Attempt Survivors, ‘In Psychiatric Emergencies’” in Tokyo (hosted by JSCP, co-hosted by the Japanese Association for Emergency Psychiatry and the Japanese Society for Emergency Medicine). The training session was aimed at doctors, nurses, mental health social workers, psychologists, public health nurses and other professionals working in mental health and welfare. On the day of the event, 54 participants attended, splitting into 8 groups to discuss specific case studies. Participants completed lectures via e-learning in advance. Those who passed the test (which could be taken multiple times) participated in the face-to-face multi-disciplinary workshop.

The post-training survey received comments such as: “I was reminded of the many issues surrounding young people and the lack of understanding among the older generation, which made me think about what I can do.” “I was encouraged to learn that there are people working so energetically across the country.” and “Being able to work on the same level as participants who

possess specialized knowledge, experience, and the ability to take action was an invaluable asset.”



Scenes from the training, attended by 54 professionals including doctors, nurses, mental health social workers, psychologists, and public health nurses

- Click [here](#) to see a detailed report.
- You can check [here](#) for upcoming “Training Session on Care of Suicide Attempt Survivors” schedules.

3. [Investigations & Research] Innovative Research Program on Suicide Countermeasures: Research Results Report (1)

“Social Implementation of Tele-Mental Health Care for Depression in Children and Development of Early Treatment System -Collaboration with KOKOROBO and Children’s Registry of Mental illness”

JSCP implements the “[Innovative Research Program on Suicide Countermeasures](#)” (IRPSC), a research and study initiative based on the General Principles of Suicide Countermeasures Policy. IRPSC is a cross-sector public-private program that provides funding for research through open calls. It aims to promote innovative suicide countermeasures research that strengthens the link between the frontlines, academia, and policy. To share these results with the public, we host the annual “Les Halles of Suicide Countermeasure Promotion” (results presentation of commissioned research), where principal investigators present their latest findings. Below is an overview of the research projects presented at the 2025 Les Halles of Suicide Countermeasure Promotion.

At the Les Halles of Suicide Countermeasure Promotion held in 2025, findings were reported for 11 research projects conducted across three domains. In this issue, we provide an overview of the report for Domain 1 (Suicide Countermeasures for Children and Youth), Project R4-1-5: “Social Implementation of Tele-Mental Health Care for Depression in Children and Development of Early Treatment System -Collaboration with KOKOROBO and Children’s Registry of Mental illness.” The principal investigator for this study is Associate Professor Tsuyoshi Sasaki, at the Chiba University School of Medicine.

The purpose of this study is to promote suicide prevention by collecting large-scale data for the “Child Mental Illness Registry” and conducting objective, multi-faceted evaluations to accurately assess the clinical profiles of child and adolescent mental illnesses and the effectiveness of treatments. Furthermore, the study aims to clarify whether establishing a system, using tools such as the tele-mental healthcare system “KOKOROBO” to conduct psychiatric evaluations and initial responses for depressed children before connecting them early to psychiatrists or child psychiatrists, contributes to the improvement of clinical symptoms and the prevention of suicide.

- Click [here](#) for the details of the research results report.
- Click [here](#) to view the final report of this study.



Associate Professor Tsuyoshi Sasaki, at the Chiba University School of Medicine (Research Representative)

4. [Interview with JSCP Staff] **Hiromi Shozu, Office Head for Local Support, Department for Promoting Local Collaboration**

“Debts can be settled, but a lost life cannot be recovered” — Supporting lives as a team through “multi-system collaboration” in suicide countermeasures

Hiromi Shozu (Office Head for Local Support) works to integrate suicide countermeasures with other social support systems, drawing on her extensive background in consumer affairs consultation and support for those in financial need in Yasu City, Shiga Prefecture. We spoke with her about her experience engaging with citizens on the frontlines of consultation services, what “multi-system collaboration” entails in suicide countermeasures, and why it is so vital.

<Profile> Hiromi Shozu

Born in Kyoto. After joining the Yasu City Hall (Shiga Prefecture) in 1999, she served until her retirement in 2022. She subsequently joined JSCP, where she currently serves as the Office Head for Local Support at the Department for Promoting Local Collaboration. During her tenure at Yasu City Hall, she primarily handled consumer affairs administration and self-reliance support for those in financial need. She was instrumental in the enactment of the “Yasu City Ordinance for Mutual Support in Daily Life,” which comprehensively integrated these two fields. In addition to being involved in the self-reliance support system for those in financial need since its inception, she has served as a member of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare’s “Expert Panel on the Promotion of Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Measures” and the Consumer Affairs Agency’s “Consumer Education Promotion Council.”



Currently, she serves as a member of the “Social Security Council” (Subcommittee on Self-Reliance Support for those in Financial Need and Public Assistance) of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. Her other roles include Board Member of the National Network for Self-Reliance Support for those in Financial Need, Executive Director of the Japanese Society of Comprehensive Suicide Countermeasures, Supervisor for the Project to Enhance Comprehensive Consultation and Support Systems in Osaka City, Vice Chair of the National Council on Consumer Debt and Rebuilding Life, and Auditor of the Social Security Support Center “Tsunagaru.” Her primary publication is “Practical Procedures for Tax Delinquency Management with a Focus on Rebuilding Life” (Gyosei, 2013).

—Please tell us about your main duties and roles.

Shozu) As the Office Head for Local Support at JSCP, I oversee the Kinki and Chugoku regions. My work includes managing the “Concierge for Local Government Supporters,” a service where I provide direct consultation to local government officials. I also collect best practices in order to share successful suicide countermeasures initiatives with other municipalities.

One area I am particularly focused on is leveraging my background to promote multi-system collaboration between suicide countermeasures and the self-reliance support system for those in financial need. To achieve this, I am providing practical information to facilitate this coordination through various training sessions and workshops.

—Could you tell us a bit more about “multi-system collaboration,” which is the core of your work?

Shozu) The essence of “multi-system collaboration” is simply “connecting people to people.”

Behind individuals at risk of suicide, there are often various underlying issues such as debt and financial hardship. For this reason, it is essential that suicide countermeasures departments do not attempt to handle everything on their own, but instead collaborate with other administrative systems.

However, the departments responsible for suicide countermeasures do not personally hold the “tools” (such as housing allowances) that provide direct livelihood support. That is precisely why their role is to serve as a precise link. They must connect individuals to other departments equipped with the systems and support measures capable of solving root issues—such as debt, housing, and family relationships—ensuring that various administrative services are utilized to their full extent.

For instance, if someone expressing suicidal ideation is also struggling with multiple debts or housing instability, we refer them to the department in charge of self-reliance support for those in financial need. In this way, each department contributes its unique expertise and specialized systems, working together as a team to support the individual. This is what “multi-system collaboration” looks like in practice.

▼Other Questions

- What did you do before working at JSCP?
- What led you to become involved in suicide countermeasures?
- What are the benefits of “multi-system collaboration,” and what would you like to work on in the future?

■ Click [here](#) to read the full article.

5. [Investigations & Research] Survey Results Published for the Les Halles of Suicide Countermeasure Promotion

As introduced in section 3, JSCP hosts the research reporting session “Les Halles of Suicide Countermeasure Promotion” to widely disseminate the findings of the “Innovative Research Program on Suicide Countermeasures” and apply them to local practices. We have recently compiled and published the results of the follow-up surveys for the sessions held this fiscal year (August to September 2025).

A total of about 800 people, mainly local government officials, attended on those days. The survey was conducted according to three fields of the program (Field 1: Suicide countermeasures for children and youth, Field 2: Analysis and approach toward high-risk groups for suicide and Field 3: Suicide countermeasures using big data, AI, etc.). There was a total of 378 responses (46.7%). In total, 98.7% of responses were favorable, with 60.1% indicating they were “satisfied” and 38.6% indicating they were “somewhat satisfied.” Each category received strong praise as well, with satisfaction rates of 99.4% for Field 1, 97.7% for Field 2, and 98.9% for Field 3.

Regarding the overall feedback for the “Les Halles of Suicide Countermeasure Promotion” sessions, many participants expressed a strong desire to apply the research findings to their local work and to share their new insights and learnings with colleagues, despite acknowledging the challenges of implementation. Furthermore, there was significant emphasis on the importance of using such forums to foster coordination and collaboration across different organizations and sectors.

■ Click [here](#) to see an overview of the survey results.

■ Click [here](#) to see the event report on the Les Halles of Suicide Countermeasure Promotion (results presentations of commissioned research in FY2024).

6. [Related Information] Now Accepting Registrations for the 5th Annual Conference of the Japanese Society of Comprehensive Suicide Countermeasures: “Exploring Loneliness and Isolation through the Lens of Child and Youth Support and Grief Care”

The Japanese Society of Comprehensive Suicide Countermeasures will hold the “5th Conference: Exploring Loneliness and Isolation through the Lens of Child and Youth Support and Grief Care” online on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 (co-hosted by the Research Center for Medical and Health Data Science, The Institute of Statistical Mathematics, under the Research Organization of Information and Systems; sponsored by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and JSCP).

The Japanese Society of Comprehensive Suicide Countermeasures has been holding policy study groups, lectures, and conference sessions to respond to feedback from those on the front lines of suicide countermeasures. These events present the efforts of local governments and support groups, share their concerns, and facilitate discussions that contribute to solutions. To date, we have worked to connect first-hand knowledge with the expertise of various specialists in an ongoing effort to modestly improve frontline practices.

At this 5th Annual Conference, under the theme of “Exploring Loneliness and Isolation through the Lens of Child and Youth Support and Grief Care,” we have organized the following sessions. Given the strong connection between loneliness/isolation and suicide countermeasures, we will hear from practitioners engaged in child and youth support as well as bereavement care, and use their insights to reconsider how society should respond to loneliness and isolation in real-world settings.

For details and registration instructions, please visit the event information page of the Japanese Society of Comprehensive Suicide Countermeasures. In addition to society members, anyone with an interest in suicide countermeasures is welcome to participate (participation is free of charge). The application deadline is Monday, January 26, 2026.

Part I: Exploring Loneliness and Isolation through Outreach to Children and Youth

Speaker: Hitoshi Taniguchi (Representative Director, Certified NPO Student Support Face)

Commentator: Akiko Suzuki (Executive Director, Certified NPO Free Space Tamariba)

Moderator: Hiromi Shozu (Office Head for Local Support at JSCP; Executive Director, Japanese Society of Comprehensive Suicide Countermeasures)

Part II: Exploring Loneliness and Isolation through the Lens of Grief Care

Speakers: Yukihiro Sakaguchi (Professor, School of Human Welfare Studies, Kwansei Gakuin University; Director, Kwansei Gakuin University Center for Grief and Bereavement Studies), Chizuru Akada (Visiting Researcher, Kwansei Gakuin University Center for Grief and Bereavement Studies; Researcher, NPO Life Museum)

Commentator: Kazuhiro Yamaguchi (Representative, NPO Network for Those Bereaved by Suicide “Re”; Executive Director, Japanese Society of Comprehensive Suicide Countermeasures)

Moderator: Mayumi Oka (Ph.D. Project Professor, The Institute of Statistical Mathematics, Research Organization of Information and Systems; Executive Director, Japanese Society of Comprehensive Suicide Countermeasures)

■ Click [here](#) for more information and registration.

**We're looking for new JSCP staff to join us
in working on suicide countermeasures.**

※[Click](#) here for more information.

- Training videos are gradually being uploaded to the YouTube “JSCP_PR Office” channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNWP2O5zTuuI-i8GITeKzHQ>

- JSCP shares articles on suicide issues and countermeasures via Yahoo! News Expert

(Written by Ms. Kaoru Yamadera, Public Relations Officer at JSCP)

<https://news.yahoo.co.jp/expert/authors/yamaderakaoru>

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