Managing risk starts with planning. As such, CFMA has been working to address two major issues: the future development of the Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention (the Alliance) and the revision of CFMA’s strategic plan.

The Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention
Over the past several months, there have been some significant events impacting the structure and future progress of our work within the suicide prevention movement.

First, FCL Builders, a Chicago-based GC with staff who are passionately involved in the CFMA Chicago Chapter, held its third annual charity event on September 13, 2018, and selected the Alliance as this year's recipient. In order to accept tax deductible contributions, we established the Alliance as a separate 501(c)(3). Thanks to FCL's hard work and support, the grand total received from this event was nearly $144,000!

With these funds, we look to further the Alliance's mission of providing and disseminating information and resources for suicide prevention and mental health promotion in construction. These funds will also support the Alliance in hiring a full-time employee, which will increase the depth of what we can accomplish in the future. We are incredibly indebted to FCL Builders and their employees, who are CFMA members, Tracey Fenolio and Dean O'Brien.

On September 25, 2018, CFMA staff and volunteer leaders of our suicide prevention efforts met in Washington, D.C. with nearly 30 people who represented 17 Alliance member organizations. During the strategic planning meeting, the Board of Trustees were identified, a SWOT analysis took place, and the governance, fundraising, education, and marketing task forces were formed and are already hard at work. We are extremely proud of what we have accomplished thus far and look forward to more significant results on the horizon.

As Michelle Walker, Alliance Chairman, stated: “The action-oriented outcome and collaboration among all who were present at the strategic planning meeting clearly demonstrated the construction industry’s ability to come together. With the engagement and commitment of Alliance members on focused task forces, we are well on our way to effectively equipping companies to reduce the risk of suicide and impact of mental illness in construction.”

Of significant importance is the addition of North America’s Building Trades Unions (NABTU) as an Alliance member, along with Lendlease and FCL Builders.

CFMA’s Strategic Planning Meeting
In early October, CFMA’s officers and other leaders representing a cross section of CFMA members met with key CFMA staff members in Chicago, IL, to review and revise CFMA’s strategic plan for the next three to four years. The meeting lasted a day and a half and has given us much to consider about CFMA’s future endeavors. We will review the results of this meeting and develop a revised strategic plan by the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year.

Stay tuned for more detailed information as it develops.