



- Suicide is a serious public health problem in the United States that results in approximately 33,000 deaths and 395,000 emergency room visits annually. (www.minnesotamedicine.com)
- 75% of those who commit suicide have seen a primary care clinician for some reason within the month prior to their death. (www.minnesotamedicine.com)
- 8 million people consider suicide every year in the United States. (www.spanusa.org)

Prevention Program Focus

Veteran Focus

- We work to identify Veterans at high risk for suicide and assure they receive enhanced care and outreach which includes weekly follow up, an updated treatment plan, a safety plan, and a flag on their chart.
- When a Veteran calls the Veteran's Crisis Line and gives their permission, we are notified and follow up with that Veteran within 24 business hours

Health Care System Focus

- Within the Medical Center, we work to assure that every employee is capable of addressing suicide with a Veteran. Every employee receives training in suicide prevention as a part of orientation and other trainings throughout the year. We also provide consultation to employees to assist them with caring for Veterans.
- We work to address policy and procedures throughout the medical center to best address the needs of at-risk Veterans.

- We conduct an annual review of all suicide attempts and another review of all suicide deaths to identify areas that can be improved for patient care and overall goal of reducing suicide behavior.

Community Focus

- We provide at least 5 outreach events each month raising awareness about suicide and providing training to community members. We train at local colleges, hospitals, National Guard units, CVS Officers and local Law Enforcement.
- We recognize Prevention and Awareness Week each year (Sept. 6-9th 2011) and facilitate events for providers and community members throughout the state. We provide training on Veteran MH issues and suicide prevention at no cost.

Are you a "Survivor of Suicide?"

Any person grieving a suicide death of a family member, friend, or loved one is considered a Survivor of Suicide. Suicide survivors go through some of the same grief process as other people do, except they have additional unique problems due in part to the stigma that accompanies the death of a loved by suicide. In suicide survivor support groups survivors learn from and reassure each other through sharing experiences and feelings.

For "Survivor of Suicide" support groups in your area go to www.save.org.

Helpful Resources:

National Institute for Mental Health
www.nimh.nih.gov

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
www.samhsa.gov

Suicide Prevention Resource Center
www.sprc.org

Check out these recent publications for more information. . .

Minnesota Medical Publication- "The Physician's Role in Suicide Prevention: Lessons Learned from a Public Awareness Campaign"
<http://www.minnesotamedicine.com/CurrentIssue/PhysiciansRoleinSuicidePreventionJan2011/tabid/3634/Default.aspx>

The Dialog Publication— "Suicide in Indian Country: The Silent Epidemic"
http://www.samhsa.gov/dtac/dialogue/Dialogue_Vol7_Issue3.pdf



Save the Date:

Federal Legislation Overview - Suicide Prevention	July 28, 2011
This is an online training event. For more information please go to www.spanusa.org	

5K Run/Walk for Mental Health Lake Harriet Bandshell, Minneapolis MN For more information go to www.save.org	Aug. 13, 2011
--	----------------------

Minneapolis VA HCS—Suicide Prevention and Awareness Week. Events planned each day at the Minneapolis VA HCS. Contact Jessie Rae Rayle for more information at jessica.rayle@va.gov .	Sept. 6-9th, 2011
---	--------------------------