

Can Suicide Be A Never Event?



Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network

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People At Risk For Suicide Are Falling Through the Cracks in Our Health Care System

In the month before their death by suicide:

- Half saw a general practitioner
- 30% saw a mental health professional

In the 60 days before their death by suicide:

- 10% were seen in an emergency department

“Suicide represents a worst case failure in mental health care. We must work to make it a ‘never event’ in our programs and systems of care.”

*Dr. Mike Hogan
NY Office of Mental Health*

Suicide Care in Behavioral Health Care Settings

- Suicide prevention is a core responsibility for behavioral health care systems
- Many licensed clinicians are not prepared
 - 39% report they don't have the skills to engage and assist those at risk for suicide
 - 44% report they don't have the training

“Over the decades, individual (mental health) clinicians have made heroic efforts to save lives... but systems of care have done very little.”

Dr. Richard McKeon
SAMHSA

What is Zero Suicide?

- *A priority* of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention
- *A goal* of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention
- *A project* of the Suicide Prevention Resource Center
- *A framework* for systematic, clinical suicide prevention in behavioral health and health care systems
- *A focus* on safety and error reduction in healthcare
- *A set of best practices* and tools for health systems and providers

“It is critically important to design for zero even when it may not be theoretically possible...It’s about purposefully aiming for a higher level of performance.”

Thomas Priselac
President and CEO of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Better Approaches to Suicide Care Are Available, Effective, and Fill The Cracks in Our Health Care System

Zero Suicide Core Components

- Leadership commitment
- Standardized screening and risk assessment
- Suicide care management plan
- Workforce development and training
- Effective, evidence-based treatment
- Follow-up during care transitions
- Ongoing quality improvement and data collection

Zero Suicide Is Feasible

Health and behavioral health care organizations have found:

- It's feasible—without additional funding.
- It's working—lives are being saved.

For resources and additional information:

www.ZeroSuicide.com