

## **Suicide Prevention in Vermont - Testimony to Senate Health and Welfare**

### **Presented by:**

JoEllen Tarallo, Ed.D., MCHES Executive Director, Center for Health and Learning, Director, VT Suicide Prevention Center [joellen@healthandlearning.org](mailto:joellen@healthandlearning.org) - 802-384-5671 cell

### **Suicide Infrastructure in Vermont:**

- **Data- National/Vermont (2-3 deaths per week in VT)**
- **Act 34 AHS Recommendations- only some prioritized in Governor's budget for funding**
- **Healthcare Engagement – D.A.s, Beyond the Scope of DMH – VDH, DVHA, Blueprint, OneCare**
- **Zero Suicide: Evidence – based Principles and Practices for Health Care**
  - **Zero Suicide Pilot sites 2015-2018**
  - **Zero Suicide 2020 - Seven D.A.s**
    - Organizational Self-Studies- Leadership, Work Plans, Coordination, Steering Committees, Quality Improvement
    - Workforce Development Survey
    - Outcome Measures- n=12, currently focused on Screening and Collaborative Safety Planning

### ***Opportunities and Challenges***

- Pathway to care- Suicide Specific Screening-Assessment-Treatment-Recovery
  - Designated Agencies and Independent Providers for Mental Health
  - Primary Care, Emergency Departments and Inpatient
  - Where and when does screening occur – recommendation for Universal Screening- medium and high risk
  - Follow Up and Care Coordination
  - Work Flows and Protocols
  - Practice Improvement
- Resources and Crisis Response
  - Lifelines/Text Line
  - Designated Agencies
- Recovery- Peer/Support groups and EBP, e.g., WRAP
- EHR – Embedded tools to establish mild, moderate, high risk
  - cohesive approach communicating a client's pathway status with warm hand-offs
- Outcome Measures-Data Elements
- Cultural Considerations – Subpopulations: Youth, Middle-aged, Older, LGBTQ, Veterans, New Americans/Refugees

### ***Workforce Development***

- Prevention: Clinical efficacy -Gatekeeper training- Umatter/QPR, etc.
- Intervention – EB screenings, Safety Planning, Treatment, Follow-Up

### ***Comprehensive Community Approach***

- Messaging and Media
- Schools and Campuses
- Community providers – Social Services, Juvenile Justice/Corrections, etc.



[www.healthandlearning.org](http://www.healthandlearning.org) [www.vtspc.org](http://www.vtspc.org)