**SB16-147 Suicide Prevention Through Zero Suicide Model**

**Senators Newell, Martinez-Humenik & Representatives Pettersen, Landgraf**

**Along with 17 Bipartisan Co-sponsors**

The **Suicide Prevention Commission** has **recommended adoption of the Zero Suicide Model** because suicide is a complex public health problem in Colorado, which demands a **systemic solution**. By implementing Zero Suicide in systems across the state, it is hoped most services that touch the lives of those at risk will be improved.

So far, **the Zero Suicide Model in other health systems have shown up to 80% reduction in suicides** of those in care.

**WHY:**

* **1,058 Coloradans died of suicide in 2014** – the **highest number in history** - and suicide was the 7th leading cause of death in Colorado.
* Colorado ranks **7th in the nation for suicide**, and consistently ranks in the top ten states.
* In 2014, there were more than twice as many suicides than motor vehicle fatalities (486).
* Suicide is the 2nd cause of death for youth ages 10 – 24.
* The largest number of suicides occurs in men of working age, and certain groups are known to be at high risk (**veterans, active duty military, and first responders**).
* **Rural and frontier counties have higher rates of suicide than urban counties.**
* It is estimated that for each suicide death there are about 25 attempts that most often show up in the healthcare system.
* Although significantly more men than women die by suicide, women make more attempts.
* **Each suicide death in Colorado costs about $1,104,000** (including work loss) –more than $1 billion for all suicides deaths in 2013.
* **More than 30% of persons who die of suicide are receiving mental health care at the time of death, 45% see their primary care provider within a month of death; 25% go to the Emergency Department in the month before death.**

**WHAT SB16-147 WILL DO:**

* This model is based on a principle that suicide is preventable for persons who are in care of the health/behavioral health systems. **It is not expected that we will see no suicides altogether**, but with this model, **the goal is to significantly reduce the number of persons at risk from “falling through the cracks.”**
* The Office of Suicide Prevention in CDPHE will collaborate with its sister health agencies and the private healthcare systems to foster the **national Zero Suicide model**.
* Health state agencies are encouraged to gather **already existing data** in order to more fully understand suicides occurring while in care and learn how to prevent them.
* A wide variety of health and behavioral health systems (including community mental health centers, HMOs, hospitals, substance abuse treatment facilities, and the statewide crisis services system) will be encouraged to adopt the **7 tenets of Zero Suicide: leadership, training, identification and assessment, patient engagement, treatment, transition, and quality improvement.**

**Supporters**

**(as of 3.7.16)**

Dr. Barbara Becker, Deputy Director/Public Policy, Arapahoe/Douglas Mental Health Network

Arapahoe/Douglas Mental Health Network

Carson J. Spencer Foundation and Sally Spencer-Thomas, Psy.D.

Colorado Behavioral Health Council (CBHC)

Dale and Dar Emme, Executive Director/Founders Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program

Depression Center, Anschutz Health Sciences Center (support all efforts toward preventing suicide)

National Behavioral Health Innovation Center (support all efforts toward preventing suicide)

Scott LoMurray, Deputy Director, Sources of Strength

Second Wind Fund, Inc.

Suicide Prevention Coalition of Colorado

Ted Harms, Executive Director, The Anschutz Foundation

Douglas/Arapahoe Suicide Prevention Alliance

Michael Allen, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry & Emergency Med., CU School of Medicine; Attending

Psychiatrist, CO. Depression Center; Medical Director, Rocky Mtn. Crisis Partners; Commissioner,  
Suicide Prevention Commission

Colorado Psychiatric Society

Legislative and Advocacy Committees of United Veterans Committee

Colorado Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Society  
Colorado Professional Firefighters Association

The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado

The Conflict Center

Cunningham Fire Protection District

Colorado Youth Advisory Council - Mental Health Group

Firefighters of the Fairmount Fire Rescue

National Alliance on Mental Illness Colorado

Colorado Mental Illness Network

Colorado Psychological Association