

VA Suicide Prevention Coordinators

Awareness, Attention, Intervention

VA Overview

- VBA (Veteran Benefits Administration)
 - Pensions
 - Service Connection
 - Loans
 - Cemetery
- VA Healthcare
 - Medical Center's and CBOCS (Community Based Outpatient Clinic)
 - Vet Centers

VA Strategy for Suicide Prevention

- Universal
 - For everyone
 - Destigmatizing mental illness
 - Screening
 - Improving capacity & access for MH services
- Targeted
 - For those at increased risk
 - Promoting high quality MH treatment
 - Integrating MH & Primary Care
 - Focusing on recovery, rehabilitation MH specialty care
 - Implementing evidence-based care
- Indicated
 - For those at high risk
 - Promoting case identification and tracking
 - Increased monitoring, intensifying care

VA Activities Designed to Promote Suicide Prevention

- Suicide prevention coordinators in each medical center 153 total
- 24-hour hotline
- Ready access to Mental Health services
 - 24 hour triage, appointment in 14 days

Suicide Prevention Coordinator Responsibilities

- To promote awareness at the facility about suicide and that suicide prevention is everyone's responsibility
- "Guide Training" for non-clinical staff throughout the facility
- on-going education for all staff

Suicide Prevention Coordination Responsibilities

- Identify high risk veterans
- Assure that the care and monitoring for these veterans is intensified

Suicide Prevention Coordination Responsibilities

- Identify veterans who have attempted suicide
- Review the care we are providing to these patients in order to determine if we could do things better.

Suicide Prevention Coordination Responsibilities

- VA Suicide Prevention Hotline
 - Receive consults from the hotline the next day
 - Assist hotline callers in getting appropriate care
 - Providing follow-up for these veterans to help assure that they continue to receive this care
- 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Suicide Prevention Coordination Responsibilities

- Community Outreach
 - VA Guide training
 - Information about VA care and services
 - Promote veteran and community suicide awareness
- Coordinate with other providers

OEF/OIF Program (Operation Enduring Freedom/ Operation Iraqi Freedom)

- Program Manager in each medical center
- Transition Patient Advocates
- Provide Seamless Transition
- Coordinate with Community Providers

Vet Center OEF/OIF Outreach Coordinators

VA Contacts

Call your Suicide Prevention Coordinator

Call your OEF/OIF Program Manager

Call your Vet Center

Find your local VA facility: <http://www.va.gov/directory/>

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