The University Health System Zero Suicide program will implement a comprehensive, multi-setting suicide prevention and intervention approach under the framework of the seven essential elements of the Zero Suicide Model. In partnership with University Medicine Associates (UMA), the Health System aims to reduce suicide attempts and deaths among adults, 25 years and older, especially veterans and individuals with serious mental illness. Population: The Zero Suicide Program will screen 300,000 adults, 25 years and older, including veterans and individuals with serious mental illness, who are at-risk for suicide across 21 ambulatory clinics, including specialty care clinics, in five regional areas. Of these 300,000 it is estimated 5,400 will screen positive for suicidality. Zero Suicide Model: To ensure the successful implementation of the Zero Suicide model, an implementation team, including survivors of suicide, will build upon the strengths and weakness identified by the Zero Suicide Organizational Self-study and embed the seven elements of the Zero Suicide Model across the five regional clinic areas in yearly phases. In conjunction, the Zero Suicide Data Elements Worksheet will be utilizing to develop a data-driven, quality improvement approach to maintain fidelity and improve care, training, and policies. Goals and Objectives: The overall purpose of the Health System’s Zero Suicide program is to raise awareness, establish referral processes, and improve care and outcomes for patients at risk for suicide by creating a leadership-driven, safety oriented culture.

Measurable objectives are to:
(a) To transform the health system by implementing the Zero Suicide model, establishing an implementation team, and providing training to all UMA staff;
(b) Improve care and outcomes for patients at risk for suicide by enhancing the EMR and providing evidence-based treatment;
(c) Identify and engage patients at risk for suicide by increasing screening, comprehensive assessment, and safety planning; and
(d) ensure continuity of care by increasing formal agreements with community behavioral health.