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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