

**SB16-147 Suicide Prevention Through Zero Suicide Model**  
**Senators Newell/Martinez-Humenik & Representatives Pettersen**  
**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 has 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 7<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Colorado.
- Colorado ranks 7<sup>th</sup> **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4.12.16)

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  
Dr. Michael Allen, Professor of Psychiatry & Emergency Medicine, CU School of Medicine;  
CO Depression Center; Rocky Mtn. Crisis Partners, Suicide Prevention Commissioner  
Colorado Psychiatric Society  
United Veterans Committee  
Colorado Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Society  
Colorado Professional Firefighters Association  
The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado  
The Conflict Center, Executive Director Ron Ludwig  
Cunningham Fire Protection District  
Colorado Youth Advisory Council - Mental Health Group  
Firefighters of the Fairmount Fire Rescue  
National Alliance on Mental Illness Colorado  
Colorado Psychological Association  
Colorado Mental Wellness Network  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
Colorado Department of Public Safety  
Colorado School Safety Resource Center  
Mental Health Colorado  
Colorado Medical Society  
Kaiser Permanente  
Colorado PTA  
Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado  
Office of Behavioral Health, Colorado Department of Human Services  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – CO. Chapter  
The Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials  
Children's Hospital Colorado