Community Responses to Suicide Risk

The National Veterans' Suicide Hotline

Vic Bridges

Program Management Officer
National Veterans' Suicide Hotline

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans

- Health Science Specialists graduate degrees in Social Work, Counseling, Education Counseling, Psychology
- Health Technicians assist in rescue procedures and Follow-ups
- Supervisors support staff, provide training, Quality Assurance
- Clinical Coordinators (Psychologists) coordinate training and Quality Improvement

Who answers the phones? Who assists?

- HSS call responders are trained in three crisis intervention models.
- All approved crisis intervention models include:
 - Connecting with the caller
 - Asking the caller if they are considering killing themselves.
 - Listening to their reasons for living and dying.
 - Identifying and reviewing the risk factors with the caller
 - Considering ways to keep the caller safe
 - Coming to an agreement about a plan for safety and follow-up.

1-800-273-8255 What happens next?

- 24 hours: Health Technician (HT) staff call SPCs to ensure consult has transmitted successfully. (If not, F/U call to SPC)
- 72 hours 1 week: HT Staff complete a medical record check to ensure contact with caller has been attempted. (If not, F/U call to SPC)
- 2 weeks: HT Staff complete a medical record check to determine if SPC and caller are working on a Suicide Prevention Plan.
- 4 weeks: HT Staff complete a medical record check to determine the outcome of the intervention

Follow-up?

Range from prank calls to suicides in progress

As of September 30, 2010

- 318,254 callers since July, 2007
- 170,893 were identified as veterans
- 21,100 were calling to help a friend or family member
- 38,998 SPC Referrals
- 10,816 Rescues
- 4,016 Callers were active duty

Our Calls

CHAT Services to prevent suicide are available through portal at:

SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE.ORG (Veterans' Page)

- CHATs are private.
- Services are offered by HSS Responders
- From July 4, 2009 September 30, 2010, there have been 7552 ACTIVE CHATS.
- 8609 people got onto the CHAT Service to look around.
- 870 CHATTERS agreed to call the Veterans Hotline.
- 3442 CHATTERS mentioned suicide.

CHAT SERVICES

