Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans and their Families

New Hampshire
Suicide Prevention is a national priority

In 2018, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) partnered to advance the strategic implementation of suicide prevention policies and practices for Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF).
# Suicide Prevention is a NH priority

## New Hampshire 2016*

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NH Suicide Rate</td>
<td>22.1**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Veteran Suicides</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NH Veteran Suicide Rate</td>
<td>30.6</td>
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## United States 2016*

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nat’l Suicide Rate</td>
<td>17.5**</td>
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<tr>
<td># Total Suicides in NH</td>
<td>237</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nat’l Veteran Suicide Rate</td>
<td>30.1</td>
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*U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, 2016, NH Veteran Suicide Data Sheet

**Rates are per 100,000
VA/SAMHSA are sponsoring local & state work

Participating states and communities are receiving technical assistance through SAMHSA’s SMVF TA Center to:

• Form interagency teams that bring together civilian and military stakeholders to advance suicide prevention initiatives
• Build capacity to support the strategic implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention of Veteran Suicide
• Develop policy to practice implementation plans
Technical Assistance Provided by SAMHSA’s SMVF TA Center:

• Policy Academies
• Implementation Academies
• Conferences
• Facilitated Strategic Planning—Site Visits
• State-to-State Learning
• Subject Matter Expert Consultations
• Training & Consultations from the RAND Corporation
• Webinars/Learning Communities
• Resources & Publications
7 states were selected to participate in Governor’s Challenge:

New Hampshire  
Colorado  
Texas  
Montana  
Arizona  
Kansas  
Virginia
The NH State Team & Partners

Multi-disciplinary team

30 stakeholder agencies/departments represented
30 active team members
10 counties represented
19 serve, or have served, in the U.S. Armed Forces

More are always welcome!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/3/18</td>
<td>NH receives invitation to participate</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/8/18</td>
<td>Governor expresses desire &amp; commitment</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/5/18</td>
<td>Team Lead notified NH selected</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/6-12/7/18</td>
<td>Site Visit #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/6-2/8/19</td>
<td>Policy Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/13-3/14/19</td>
<td>Site Visit #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/15-5/17/19</td>
<td>Implementation Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/16-7/17/19</td>
<td>Site Visit #3</td>
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Governor’s Challenge Timeline

**Phase 1**
- State Preparation
  - Oct-Jan
    - Orientation
    - Pre-site Visit
    - Virtual Prep

**Phase 2**
- State Planning
  - Feb-Mar
    - Policy Academy in D.C. Feb. 6-8, 2019
    - Follow-up Site Visit

**Phase 3**
- Engaging Communities
  - Apr-May
    - Virtual Prep with Communities
    - Implementation Academy in D.C. May 15-17, 2019

**Phase 4**
- Follow-up and Reporting
  - Jun-Aug
    - Follow-up Site Visit
    - Virtual TA as needed
    - Progress Reports
PRIORITY 1: DEVELOP A COORDINATED STATEWIDE SMVF SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORT

Intended Outcomes

• Consolidation of groups currently duplicating efforts.
• Increase in awareness about existing resources & services.
• Increase in # organizations utilizing Ask The Question components
• Increase in provider competency through standardization & increased availability of Military Culture Training.
• 6 strategies
PRIORITY 2: ENSURE A CENTRALIZED, STATEWIDE RESOURCE & REFERRAL HUB FOR SMVF

**Intended Outcomes**

- Elimination of barriers to accessing services SMVF currently experience.
- Implementation of a sustainable process and network that includes & supplements the VA, NHNG, and community organizations.
- Increase in quality of service delivery through standardized processes & training.
- Creation of community-based, coordinated network of care for SMVF that addresses social determinants of health.
- 1 strategy
PRIORITY 3: STRENGTHEN ACCESS & DELIVERY OF SERVICES LEADING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RECOVERY CARE FOR SMVF

Intended Outcomes

• Reduction in barriers to immediate, high-quality and accessible care.
• Increase in levels of social connectedness for veterans in rural communities.
• Increase in public awareness of the signs of suicide risk.
• Creation of well-defined postvention protocols allowing valuable information to inform program & practice evaluation across sectors.
• Reduction in risk for survivors and families through more effective communication of postvention resources.
• 9 strategies
What does this mean for your organization or profession?

• Benefits of more measurable outcomes leading to a reduced veteran suicide rate in NH
• Future opportunities to replicate evidence-based practices in your profession, organization or community
• More awareness of the services & resources available to SMVF in NH will lead to better outcomes in treatment
• Ability to access quality resources for your organization at little or no cost
• One place to seek assistance & resources when you don’t know the answer
• Trust in a well-coordinated and well-trained network of providers when you refer
• Increased referrals for your organization if you actively participate in the network
How can you help or support the Governor’s Challenge?

• Get involved! Additional professionals from all fields are welcome to join in the work!

• Take advantage of services & resources that will be offered.

• Spread the word to other businesses.

• Spread the word to SMVF.

• Collaborate with the Governor’s Challenge Team when planning events, activities or initiatives.
together we’re stronger

NH military & civilian groups are working to implement best practices aimed at preventing suicide among service members, veterans and their families.

Join Us!