Agency Priority Goal | Action Plan | FY 22 – Q2

Suicide Prevention

Goal Leader:
Dr. David Carroll – Executive Director, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Deputy Goal Leader:
Dr. Matthew A. Miller – Director – Suicide Prevention, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
Goal Overview

Goal Statement

- VA is meaningfully contributing to whole of government and community-based efforts to target an overall 10% reduction in Veteran suicide rate from 2019 to 2024, with decreases in the long term of 3% annually by 2028, through enhancement of programs and training focused on community interventions. To help achieve this, VA will concentrate on non-VA providers who often lack training on specific suicide reduction tools for Veterans. By September 30, 2023, the VA will:
  - Provide opportunities to Community care network (CCN) providers for training in suicide risk identification, lethal means safety (LMS) and safety planning. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) will offer trainings to 100% of the CCN providers who are signed-up for VHA communication and take actions to achieve an increase of 10% in FY23 over FY22 baseline training completions.
  - Achieve a 10-fold increase in the number of community providers, including but beyond the CCN, who have completed lethal means safety training within localized suicide hotspots identified, using CDC and VA provisional data.
  - Increase by 100%, gun lock distribution to community-based providers.

Problem to Be Solved

- Few non-VA providers are trained to use specific suicide risk reduction and lethal means reduction as tools to help reduce suicide among Veterans.

What Success Looks Like

- By September 30, 2023:
  - 10% increase in CCN provider training completions in FY23 over FY22 baseline.
  - 10-fold increase in number of community providers (beyond CCN) completing LMS training.
  - 100% increase in gun lock distribution from FY21-FY23.
## Goal Targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievement statement</th>
<th>Key indicator(s)</th>
<th>Quantify progress</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish a baseline of the number of providers trained (FY 2022)</td>
<td>Baseline established of # of providers trained</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use the baseline developed in FY 2022 to develop targets and report progress updates.</td>
<td>Targets for # of providers trained will be used during FY 2023 for reporting</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieve a 10% increase in CCN provider trainings offered and completed in FY23 over FY22 baseline.</td>
<td>Trainings offered to CCN providers</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase the number of community providers (non-CCN) completing LMS training by 10-fold.</td>
<td>LMS Trainings Completed by non-CCN providers</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase gun lock distribution by 100% from FY21 baseline</td>
<td>Number of gun locks distributed to non-VA entities</td>
<td>159,200</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Goal Team

Senior Lead
• Dr. Jesse Burgard (Sr. Consultant for Interventions, Suicide Prevention)
• Kristin Cunningham (Executive Officer to the AUSH, Community Care)
• Dr. Todd Burnett (Sr. Consultant for Operations, Suicide Prevention)

Team Leads
• Aaron Eagan (Community Director)
• Kristi Fredritz (Community Engagement Implementation Lead)
• Cicely Burrows-McElwain (Technical Assistance Director)
• Dr. Jessica Walker (Clinical Telehealth Coordinator)
• Laurie Lamonde (Implementation Clinical Program Coordinator)
• Clairmont Barnes (Associate Director, Partnerships)
• Dr. Susan Strickland (Associate Director, Research & Evaluation)
• Dr. Bruce Crow (Associate Director, Program Evaluation)
• John McCarthy (Deputy Director, Data & Surveillance)
• Julianna Hallows (Associate Director, Policy & Planning)
• Sandra Foley (Grants Program Director)

Partnerships:
Community Care Network (CCN)
Goal Strategies

• VA will increase the number of providers trained and establish baselines and training targets by:
  • Creating a strategic communications outreach campaign for VA Lethal Means Safety (LMS) training. VHA will work with the CCN Third Party Administrators (TPAs) to encourage community providers to complete the training according to the contract requirements. VHA will also work with national provider associations (American Psychological Association, American Counseling Association, American Psychiatric Association) and through the Governor’s Challenge states to expand access to LMS training.
  • Partnering with VA’s CCN TPAs, professional societies, and other government and non-government entities to develop a strategy to widely disseminate Suicide Prevention and LMS training developed by VHA to healthcare providers.
  • Developing a reporting mechanism to track LMS training completed by CCN providers and other community providers.
  • Disseminating VHA-developed courses widely to the larger healthcare community so that the content can benefit both VA-enrolled and non-VA enrolled Veterans, as well as non-Veteran patients.
  • Developing process and outcome metrics defining success for CCN providers and other community providers.
Goal is to: a) reduce the Veteran suicide rate by 10% from 2019 to 2024 with annual rate decreases by 2% each year, and b) reduce the annual Veteran suicide rate by greater than 3% annually by 2028.
# of CCN Providers Trained

Establish baseline and target

Report with baseline and target

Target: 10% increase of baseline

Baseline: TBD
# of Providers Beyond CCN Trained

Baseline: 250

Target: 10-fold increase from baseline

Establish baseline and target  Report with baseline and target
# of Gun Locks Distributed

Target: 100% Increase over baseline = 159,200

Baseline: 79,600 = Total to non-VA entities in FY21
Key milestones

- Goal Element 1 - Community care network providers (CCN) will be trained in suicide risk identification, lethal means safety and safety planning. By September 30, 2023, the Veterans Health Administration will offer trainings to 100% of the CCN providers and take actions to achieve an increase of 10% in FY23 over FY22 baseline training completions.

- Notes: All milestones are on track

### Milestone Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Milestone</th>
<th>Milestone Due Date [e.g., Q2, FY 2017]</th>
<th>Milestone Status [e.g., Complete, On-Track, Missed]</th>
<th>Change from last quarter [optional column]</th>
<th>Owner [optional column]</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop strategic communications outreach campaign for CCN Providers</td>
<td>Q1 FY2022</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td></td>
<td>OCC</td>
<td>Strategic Communications Outreach campaign has been developed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop strategy to disseminate training to CCN Providers</td>
<td>Q1 FY2022</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td></td>
<td>OCC</td>
<td>A strategy to disseminate training to CCN Providers has been developed and deployed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop reporting mechanism for CCN Provider Training</td>
<td>Q2 FY2022</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td></td>
<td>OCC</td>
<td>A reporting mechanism has been developed and tracking for a FY22 baseline has begun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disseminate courses to the larger healthcare community</td>
<td>Q4 FY2022</td>
<td>On Track</td>
<td></td>
<td>SPP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop baselines and targets of providers trained</td>
<td>Q4 FY2022</td>
<td>On Track</td>
<td></td>
<td>OCC/SPP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Begin reporting of providers trained using baselines and targets</td>
<td>Q1 FY2023</td>
<td>On Track</td>
<td></td>
<td>OCC/SPP</td>
<td></td>
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Key milestones

- Goal Element 2 - Expand the number of community providers by 10-fold over the FY22 number of community providers who have completed lethal means safety training by September 30, 2023.

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<th>Milestone Status [e.g., Complete, On-Track, Missed]</th>
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<tr>
<td>Work with EES to ensure CEUs and CMEs are available for the LMS course</td>
<td>Q2 FY22</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td></td>
<td>SPP</td>
<td>CEUs and CMEs are available for TMS course 34560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify Veteran suicide hot spots for targeted LMS training efforts</td>
<td>Q3 FY22</td>
<td>On-track</td>
<td></td>
<td>SPP</td>
<td>Working with SPP Data and Surveillance to identify hot spots for targeted LMS training to community providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve LMS training video quality with SMEs to enhance training experience</td>
<td>Q3 FY22</td>
<td>On-Track</td>
<td></td>
<td>SPP</td>
<td>Working with SME LMS training developers for quality improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work with the SPP CBI team to market the LMS course in VA TRAIN and the availability of CEU/CMEs</td>
<td>Q3 FY22</td>
<td>On-track</td>
<td></td>
<td>SPP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinate with professional organizations to support the dissemination of VA’s Lethal Means Safety training to community providers</td>
<td>Q4 FY22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SPP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track and report completion quarterly</td>
<td>Q3 FY22</td>
<td>On-Track</td>
<td></td>
<td>SPP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieve target of 2550 community providers completing LMS training</td>
<td>Q4 FY23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SPP</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Key milestones

- Goal Element 3 - By September 30, 2023, increase gun locks to non VHA entities by 100% over FY21 gun lock distribution baseline.

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<th>Milestone Status [e.g., Complete, On-Track, Missed]</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Expand gun lock distribution to non VHA entities</td>
<td>Q4 FY22</td>
<td>On-Track</td>
<td></td>
<td>SPP</td>
<td>SPP has expanded gun lock distribution to non-VA entities, including 100,000 to DoD in January 2022.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track and report gun locks distributed to non VHA entities</td>
<td>Q4 FY22</td>
<td>On-Track</td>
<td></td>
<td>SPP</td>
<td>SPP tracks distribution of gun locks to non-VA entities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieve target</td>
<td>Q4 FY23</td>
<td>On-Track</td>
<td></td>
<td>SPP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>
• An article on the VHA TRAIN Suicide Prevention Training was sent to the TPA contractor who is working with their communications teams to push the information to those CCN providers that are not signed up for VHA communications.

• CEUs and CMEs are available to providers taking the Lethal Means Safety Training (course 34560) via VA TRAIN.

• Gun locks included an order of 100,000 to Department of Defense for distribution.
• Baseline data is in development for "non-CCN Providers trained"
• The Office of Community Care will provide data related to CCN providers trained
• The Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention will provide data related to “Outside CCN Providers trained” and gun lock distribution.
• Training data will come from training records through the VA TRAIN program
Additional information

**Contributing Programs**
Organizations: None
Program Activities: None
President’s Management Agenda: None
Regulations: None
Tax Expenditures: None
Policies: None
Other Federal Activities: None

**Stakeholder / Congressional Consultations**
None