WHAT IS ZERO SUICIDE/SUICIDE SAFE CARE?
WHY NOW?

Texas Suicide Prevention Symposium
August 2015
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Where it Began: Action Alliance Clinical Care and Intervention Task Force Report

Access at: www.zerosuicide.com
Zero Suicide/Suicide Safe Care is...

- A framework for systematic, clinical suicide prevention in behavioral health and healthcare systems.

- Now embedded in the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention.

- A focus on error reduction and safety in healthcare.

- A set of best practices and tools including [www.zerosuicide.com](http://www.zerosuicide.com).

- A movement and a mission…strong in Texas
GOAL 8: Promote suicide prevention as a core component of health care services.

GOAL 9: Promote and implement effective clinical and professional practices for assessing and treating those at risk for suicidal behaviors.
Why? Suicide in Health Care Settings is a Problem

- 45% of people who died by suicide had contact with **primary care** providers in the month before death. Among older adults, it’s 78%.

- 19% of people who died by suicide had contact with **mental health** services in the month before death. About 1/3 were receiving mental health care.

- South Carolina: 10% of people who died by suicide were seen in an **emergency department** in the two months before death.
And...Suicide in Mental Health Care is a Problem

- **Ohio:** Between 2007-2011, 20.2% of people who died from suicide were seen in the public behavioral health system within 2 years of death.

- **New York:** In 2012 there were 226 suicide deaths reported among consumers of public mental health services, accounting for 13% of all suicide deaths in the state.

- **Vermont:** In 2013, 20.4% of the people who died from suicide received care from state-funded mental health or substance abuse treatment agencies within 1 year of death.
A FOCUS ON PATIENT SAFETY AND ERROR REDUCTION

WITHOUT IMPROVED SUICIDE CARE, PEOPLE SLIP THROUGH GAPS

Adapted from James Reason’s “Swiss Cheese” Model Of Accidents
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THE TOOLS OF ZERO SUICIDE FILL THE GAPS

- Screening
- Assessment
- Risk Formulation

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Avoid Serious Injury or Death

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SUICIDAL PERSON

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A focus on patient safety and error reduction

The tools of Zero Suicide fill the gaps

- Screening
- Assessment
- Risk Formulation
- Collaborative Safety Plan
- Treat Suicidal Thoughts and Behavior

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- Continuity of Care

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What is Different in Suicide Safe Care?

- Making suicide prevention a core responsibility of health care
- Applying new knowledge about suicide and treating it directly
- A systematic clinical approach in health systems, not “the heroic efforts of crisis staff and individual clinicians.”
- System-wide approaches have worked to prevent suicide:
  - United States Air Force Suicide Prevention Program
  - UK (While et al., 2009)
  - Henry Ford Health System
A System-Wide Approach for Health Care: Henry Ford Health System

Suicide Deaths/100k HMO Members

Launch: Perfect Depression Care
Early ZS Innovators are Seeing Results: Centerstone

![Graph showing annual suicides per 10,000 clients seen (Rolling 12 months)]
Zero Suicide: A Movement and a Mission