

## Bridging the Divide: Call for Presentations – Application

1. Highlighting Two Colorado Initiatives: Zero Suicide and the Gun Shop Project
2. Sarah E. Brummett, MA, JD; Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Office of Suicide Prevention
  - a. Possible Co-presenter from one or more of our community partners implementing Zero Suicide or Gun Shop Project
3. One hour break out session
4. I am/we are a suicide prevention advocate(s) (panel may be mental health professionals, lived experience, peer support, or clinicians)
5. Presentation Audience (really anyone), but Prevention Efforts (any level) and Clinicians/Peer Support
6. This particular presentation would not have been given before
7. I presented at BtD once on the Suicide Prevention Commission, and once last year regarding gun shop project efforts
8. At the conclusion of the presentation the participants should be able to:
  - a. Generally understand the core elements of the Zero Suicide framework;
  - b. Identify current initiatives around zero suicide throughout the state.
  - c. Identify opportunities to infuse zero suicide initiatives in their community organization.
  - d. Understand the rationale behind the tack taken by the Gun Shop Project;
  - e. Explain the messaging core to the project;
  - f. Identify opportunities to reframe prevention messaging to be more inclusive and culturally relevant to the firearm community.

### 9. Abstract

The presentation will inform the programs that work track as it will inform participants' understandings of state momentum towards two initiatives, one based in healthcare and the other rooted in the community. *Zero Suicide* is built on the foundational belief that suicide deaths of individuals under care within health and behavioral health systems are preventable, and has shown significant results at reducing suicide.<sup>1</sup> This system level approach to quality improvement reflects a commitment to patient safety and the safety and support provided by clinical staff. The key elements of *Zero Suicide* include: leadership, training, screening and risk assessment, patient engagement, treatment, transition care, and quality improvement. Health systems that have implemented *Zero Suicide* have seen up to an eighty percent reduction in suicide deaths for patients within their care.<sup>2</sup>

The Colorado Suicide Prevention Commission has recommended that all healthcare systems within Colorado adopt the *Zero Suicide* framework. During the 2016 Legislative Session, the Colorado General Assembly passed Senate Bill 147, which encourages health care and other systems to adopt the *Zero Suicide* framework. The bill tasked the Office of Suicide Prevention with expanding the framework to serve a variety of Colorado settings including the justice system, faith community, school-based health centers, and higher education. The bill requires

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<sup>1</sup> <http://zerosuicide.sprc.org>

<sup>2</sup> [www.zerosuicide.com](http://www.zerosuicide.com)

partnership with the Office of Behavioral Health to ensure consistent training and awareness of current mental health hold criteria and procedures.

Audience members will have a chance hear current and past efforts around rolling out the implementation on a statewide level, how the project has been received, and how that information is helping to further tailor the project to meet the unique needs of Colorado.

The second portion of the presentation will expand participants' views of emerging strategies in suicide prevention within the realm of firearm safety. In Colorado, 78 percent of firearm deaths are suicides. Nearly half of all suicide deaths in Colorado involve the use of a firearm, which is the most common method of suicide death in the state. The Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP) engages stakeholders in partnerships and meaningful conversations to reduce firearm suicides, an issue all Coloradans support regardless of which side of the gun control debate they endorse.

The OSP has piloted the Colorado Gun Shop Project (adapted from the New Hampshire Gun Shop Project) in five Colorado counties with high percentages of firearm-related suicide deaths (Montrose, Delta, Mesa, Moffatt and Routt). In 2016, the Project is expanding to 2 additional counties within Northeastern Colorado. The project is an education and awareness partnership with firearm advocates, gun shops, firing ranges, and firearm safety course instructors to adopt and promote a common firearm safety and suicide prevention message. The core message is that restricting a suicidal individual's access to firearms is a critical aspect of firearm safety. Audience members will have a chance to review the materials, as well as hear community level feedback from the project. Additionally, initial evaluation data will be presented to understand how the project has been received and how that information is helping to further tailor the project to meet the unique needs of Colorado.