



# Statewide Suicide Prevention Council

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## PRESS RELEASE

**For immediate release: Aug. 20, 2010**

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## Statewide Suicide Prevention Council meets in Kotzebue Aug. 23-25

*Public is invited to attend presentations, ask questions, give comments*

The public will have a chance to hear from members of Alaska's suicide prevention council, as well as ask questions and share comments, Monday through Wednesday, Aug. 23-25. The meeting is in Kotzebue. Alaskans in other communities are invited to attend by phone.

### Monday, First Baptist Church, Shore Drive:

- **4 – 6 p.m.:** The public is encouraged to offer formal comment.
  - To call in, please dial **1-800-315-6338**, then enter **7772#**
- **6 p.m.:** The Council invites the public to a community reception and forum after public comment.

### Tuesday and Wednesday, NANA Board Room, Shore Drive:

The council members will meet **8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Wednesday** and **8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Thursday**; the public is welcome to attend. The agenda includes presentations on:

- Suicide Prevention Strategies for the Arctic (Maniilaq)
- An update from Careline, Alaska's crisis hotline: 1-877-266-HELP
- Establishing an Alaska chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- Upcoming awareness and prevention activities, including presentations at Alaska Federation of Natives annual convention and for World Suicide Prevention Day
- New online prevention and awareness tools supported by the Council

These meetings offer members of the public an opportunity to learn about the Council, ask questions and offer comments on issues related to suicide, suicide prevention, and coping with a loss to suicide. The Council and Gov. Parnell's Administration seek to empower community-level prevention by partnering with individuals, families, schools, and agencies. State support includes listening sessions, prevention trainings and grants.

The Council is charged with broadening awareness of suicide, risk and protective factors involved in suicide, enhancing suicide prevention service and programs, and improving Alaskans' overall wellness by assisting in efforts to reduce suicide.

For the full agenda, visit [www.hss.state.ak.us/suicideprevention](http://www.hss.state.ak.us/suicideprevention).

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