



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MHA of NYC Launches the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK

The Mental Health Association of New York City (MHA of NYC) and its partners, the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD), Columbia University and Rutgers University, today announced the launch of the federally-funded National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK. The national hotline is part of the National Suicide Prevention Initiative (NSPI)—a collaborative, multiproject effort led by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS') Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) that incorporates the best practices and research in suicide prevention and intervention with the goal of reducing the incidence of suicide nationwide.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is funded by a 3-year \$6.6 million grant from SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services. The daily operations of the network will be coordinated by Link2Health Solutions, an independent affiliate of MHA of NYC.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a network of local crisis centers located in communities across the country that are committed to suicide prevention. Callers to the hotline will receive suicide prevention counseling from staff at the closest available certified crisis center in the network.

“The purpose and promise of this national suicide hotline is to be there for people in their time of need,” said National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Director John Draper. “Working with our federal, state and local partners, we will be able to build on our strengths and expand this national hotline to reach suffering individuals in ways that each of us could not do alone.”

To ensure seamless support for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and to link mental health resources nationally, Link2Health Solutions will be working closely with NASMHPD. According to Draper, this national association brings a wealth of experience to the network that will help to expand the reach of suicide prevention and intervention services and create a centralized database of treatment and support services.

“For many people, crisis hotlines serve as an entry point into the mental health system,” said NASMHPD Executive Director Robert Glover. “By expanding the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline into underserved regions and by linking crisis centers to a national database of mental health resources, we can get people the help they need and reduce suicide in this country.”

In the United States, suicide currently is the 11th leading cause of death among all age groups, accounting for approximately 30,000 deaths annually. As the lead agency tasked with advancing the goals of

the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health and the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention, SAMHSA is committed to working with state and local organizations, such as MHA of NYC, NASMHPD, and community crisis centers, to expand the availability of suicide prevention and intervention services.

More than 109 crisis centers in 42 states currently participate in the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network, including:

Alabama

Crisis Center, Inc., Birmingham
Crisis Services of North Alabama/HELpline, Huntsville

Alaska

Careline Crisis Intervention, Fairbanks

Arizona

EMPACT Suicide Prevention Center, Tempe

California

Suicide Prevention Center, Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center, Culver City
Crisis Support Services of Alameda County, Oakland
County of San Diego, California United Behavioral Health Access and Crisis Line, San Diego
San Francisco Suicide Prevention, San Francisco
Santa Clara County Suicide and Crisis Center, San Jose
Suicide Prevention and Community Counseling, San Rafael
Contra Costa Crisis Center, Walnut Creek

Colorado

Pueblo Suicide Prevention Center, Inc., Pueblo

Connecticut

Wheeler Clinic, Plainville
United Way of Connecticut/211 Infoline, Rocky Hill

Delaware

CONTACT Delaware, Inc., Wilmington

Florida

211 Brevard, Cocoa
Act Corporation-Access Center, Daytona Beach
Alachua County Crisis Center, Gainesville
United Way 211, Jacksonville
The Center for Information and Crisis Services, Lantana
2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares, Largo
Lifeline of Central Florida, Inc., Orlando
Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services, Inc., Pinellas Park
2-1-1 Big Bend, Inc., Tallahassee

Georgia

Integrated Health Resources/Behavioral Health Link, Augusta

Illinois

Suicide Prevention Services, Inc., Batavia
Community Counseling Centers of Chicago, Chicago
Call for Help, Suicide and Crisis Hotline, Edgemont
Crisis Line of Will County, Joliet, IL
CONTACT of Rockford, Inc., Loves Park
Mental Health Association of Illinois Valley, Inc., Peoria

Indiana

Crisis Contact Hopeline, Gary
Information and Referral Network, Inc., Indianapolis

Iowa

Foundation 2 Crisis Center, Cedar Rapids

Kansas

Headquarters Counseling Center, Lawrence

Kentucky

Crisis and Information Center, Seven Counties Services, Inc., Louisville

Louisiana

Baton Rouge Crisis Intervention Center, Inc., Baton Rouge
VIA LINK COPE LINE, New Orleans

Maine

Ingraham, Inc., Cumberland County Crisis Response, Portland

Massachusetts

The Samaritans of Boston, Boston
The Samaritans of Fall River, Fall River

Maryland

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc., Columbia
Frederick County Hotline, Frederick
Community Crisis Services, Inc., Hyattsville
Mental Health Association, Rockville

Michigan

Common Ground Sanctuary, Bloomfield Hills
Macomb County Crisis Center, Chesterfield
Neighborhood Service Organization, Detroit
Cooper Country Mental Health Services Board, Houghton
Dial Help, Inc., Houghton
Third Level Crisis Intervention Center, Traverse City

Missouri

Behavioral Health Response, St. Louis
Life Crisis Services, St Louis

Montana

Voices of Hope, Great Falls

Nebraska

Girls and Boys Town, Boystown

Nevada

Crisis Call Center, Inc., Reno

New Hampshire

Headrest, Inc., Lebanon

New Jersey

CONTACT of Mercer County, Ewing
CONTACT Hotline of Northern New Jersey, Pequannock
CONTACT We Care, Inc., Westfield

New Mexico

Crisis Response of Santa Fe, Santa Fe

New York

Long Island Crisis Center, Bellmore
Crisis Services, Buffalo
Covenant House Nineline, New York City
HELPLINE/Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, New York City
LifeNet, New York City
Dutchess County Department of Mental Hygiene-HELPLINE, Poughkeepsie
Life Line A Program of DePaul, Rochester

North Carolina

REAL Crisis Intervention, Inc., Greenville

North Dakota

FirstLINK HotLINE, Fargo

Ohio

Crisis Intervention Center of Stark County, Inc., Canton
Mental Health Services, Inc., Cleveland
Suicide Prevention Services/North Central Mental Health Services, Columbus
Community Counseling and Crisis Center, Oxford
CONTACT, A Program of Community Solutions Association, Warren
Help Hotline Crisis Center, Inc., Youngstown

Oklahoma

CONTACT Crisis Helpline, Inc., Oklahoma City

Oregon

Oregon Partnership Alcohol and Drug Helpline and Youthline, Portland

Pennsylvania

CONTACT Careline for Greater Philadelphia, Bala Cynwyd

CONTACT Beaver Valley, Beaver

CONTACT Lancaster Helpline, Lancaster

CONTACT Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh

CONTACT Bucks County, Richboro

Rhode Island

Mental Health Services of Cranston, Johnston and Northwestern Rhode Island, Johnston
Community Counseling Center, Inc., Pawtucket

South Carolina

211 Hotline, North Charleston

South Dakota

HELP!Line, HELP!Line Center, Sioux Falls

Tennessee

Frontier Health Mobile Crisis Response, Johnson City

The Crisis Center, Memphis

Centerstone Crisis and Referral Services, Nashville

Texas

CONTACT Crisis Line, Dallas

Suicide and Crisis Center, Dallas

Crisis Intervention of Houston, Inc., Houston

MHMRA Helpline, Houston

CONTACT Lubbock, Lubbock

Virginia

CrisisLink, Arlington

The Crisis Center, Bristol

Crisis Line of Central Virginia, Inc., Lynchburg

Crisis Line, Norfolk

Washington

Crisis Clinic of the Peninsulas, Bremerton

Volunteers of America/Crisis Response Services, Everett

CONTACT Tri Cities, Richland

Crisis Clinic, Seattle

Wisconsin

Crisis Center of Family Services, Green Bay
Emergency Services Unit, Mental Health Center of Dane County, Madison
North Central Health Care Facilities, Wausau
Waushara County Department of Human Services, Wautoma
Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division, Wauwatosa

Wyoming

Wyoming Behavioral Institute, Casper

For additional information about the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-TALK, contact Robert W. Glover, Ph.D., Executive Director, at (703) 739-9333 or visit
www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org