

2021-2024 Goals & Priorities Suicide Prevention Council Military & Veterans Committee

The following slides outline the areas in which committee members identified a need and interest to focus efforts in the coming years. The outline is in ROUGH DRAFT form and is a work in progress. The committee will proceed with discussing and identifying action steps for each priority area/strategy.

Goal: To reduce deaths by suicide among the greatest number of Service Members and Veterans possible

Means: Through a public health approach using four key components outlined by the CDC and supported in the National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide, U.S. Dept of Veteran Affairs

1. **Population Approach:** Public health uses a population approach to improve health on a large scale. A population approach means focusing on prevention approaches that impact groups or populations of people, as opposed to treatment of individuals.
2. **Primary Prevention:** Public health focuses on preventing suicidal behavior before it occurs and addresses a broad range of risk and protective factors.
3. **Commitment to Science:** Public health uses science to increase our understanding of suicide prevention so we can develop new and better solutions.
4. **Multidisciplinary Strategies:** Public health advocates for multidisciplinary collaboration, bringing together many different perspectives to engineer solutions for diverse communities.

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Area of Focus: Postvention protocols

- Continue and improve collaboration between the VA, state agencies and the NH National Guard in order to ensure productive postvention protocols are in place that can lead to effective evaluations.
- ~~1. To further assess and identify action steps accordingly, “Postvention Protocols” will be added to the monthly agenda as a standing discussion item. (completed)~~

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Area of Focus: Peer Support Services

- Expand access to peer support services

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Area of Focus: Virtual Care Services

- Increase access for SMVF population to virtual care services

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Area of Focus: Military Cultural Competency Training

- Increase number of general healthcare and behavioral healthcare providers trained in military culture
- Increase confidence of Veterans in the military cultural competence of their providers
- Expand access to military cultural competency training to other sectors outside healthcare

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Area of Focus: Social Connectedness

- Increase social connectedness of rural Veterans
- Increase social connectedness of military/Veteran spouses & families