

Community Lifeline Partnership:

Expanding Access to the 988 Crisis Line Throughout Our Communities

Eliminating Veteran suicide remains a top clinical priority across all of VA.

- VA utilizes a comprehensive, evidence-based model embedded across all services.
- Suicide risk screening, intervention, and crisis resources for every level of care.
- Heavy promotion of the 988 Veterans Crisis Line which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

One large barrier we currently face:

- 2023 data: 17.5 Veterans die by suicide per day; 6.8 are actively engaged with VA care and the remaining 10.7 are not
- Greater than 60% of Veterans who die by suicide are not actively engaged in VA care – with this pattern holding steady year by year

Proposed solution to this barrier:

- Community partnerships to promote the Veterans Crisis Line
- 988 signage in public parks, sports complexes, walking trails, boat ramps, fishing piers, stadiums, community centers, and other public gathering places.
- Promote immediate access to a lifesaving resource at the exact moment someone may need it most.

Additional benefits to the broader community:

- 988 Crisis Line signs aiming to serve Veterans also serve all in our communities.
- Teenagers, older adults, first responders, anyone in emotional distress or mental health crisis.

Proposed timeline:

- Signs installation throughout the month of September, Suicide Prevention Month.

- As signs are installed, they will be promoted by VATVCBHCS on social media to acknowledge the collaboration on this important matter and support utilization of county facilities.

Questions can be directed:

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