**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

**WISCONSIN ZERO SUICIDE TRAINING**

**August 2020 (Exact Dates TBD)**

**Appleton, Wisconsin**

1. **Background**

Mental Health America of Wisconsin (MHA), with support through a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services/Division of Care and Treatment Services, is inviting applications from eligible entities to participate in the 6th Annual WI Zero Suicide Training and subsequent learning community. Zero Suicide is a long-term commitment to quality improvement that includes both a cultural shift and a set of best practices in addressing suicide prevention within health and behavioral health care organizations. Zero Suicide presents an aspirational challenge and practical framework for system-wide transformation toward safer suicide care. Successful applicants will be embarking on a deliberate organizational journey to prioritize suicide prevention through a concerted commitment to change organizational culture and to allocate sufficient resources to implement a continuous quality improvement effort.

The Zero Suicide framework has seven elements:

1. **LEAD:** Creating a leadership driven, safety-oriented culture that commits to dramatically reducing suicide among people under their care that includes suicide attempt and loss survivors as part of their leadership and planning.

2. **TRAIN:** Developing a competent, confident, and caring workforce.

3. **IDENTIFY:** Systematically identifying and assessing suicide risk level among people at risk.

4. **ENGAGE:** Ensuring every person has a pathway to care that is both timely and adequate to meet their needs.

5. **TREAT:** Using effective, evidence-based care including collaborative safety planning, promoting suicide safe environments, and effective treatment of suicide risk.

6. **TRANSITION:** Continuing contact and support, especially after acute care.

7. **IMPROVE:** Applying a data-driven quality improvement approach to inform system changes that will lead to improved patient outcomes and better care for those at risk.

The website <https://zerosuicide.sprc.org/> is a repository of Zero Suicide tools and techniques.

1. **Eligibility**

**Eligible Organizations:** Eligible organizations are health care or behavioral health organizations that are committed to adopting and implementing the Zero Suicide framework and whose client population includes adults with Serious Mental Illness or youth with Serious Emotional Disturbance.

**A wide variety of organization types are welcome to apply.  Some examples include:**

* Health maintenance organizations
* Hospitals or hospital systems
* County human service programs, including mental health, crisis intervention services, community support programs, etc.
* Other public/private outpatient mental health/behavioral health programs
* Federally qualified health centers
* Veterans Administration hospitals or clinics or WI Department of Veterans Affairs facilities
* Campus counseling centers
* Long-term care facilities

1. **Wisconsin Zero Suicide Training Description**

MHA is offering a two-day WI Zero Suicide Training for organizations who have the commitment and the capacity (e.g., qualified staff, sufficient resources, active leadership support) to implement the Zero Suicide framework. The Wisconsin training will walk participants through the seven elements of the Zero Suicide framework, providing background about the resources and rationale for each and descriptions about how different types of organizations have implemented these elements in Wisconsin and elsewhere. Teams will be supported in developing an implementation plan to begin this process. Faculty will also discuss how participants might partner with others in their community to promote Zero Suicide efforts. Faculty will include two individuals who are national faculty for the Zero Suicide Academy presented by the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) as well as state faculty, individuals who have participated in prior trainings described above and successfully implemented these practices in their organizations, and others who have significant involvement in this initiative. A preliminary list of faculty members can be found in Attachment 2.

The training will provide informational content, real life examples and presentations, and small group sessions that will address all the dimensions identified above. The objectives of the WI Zero Suicide Training are to:

* Explore our attitudes about suicide and understand the perspectives of those with lived experience of suicide
* Understand the philosophy of Zero Suicide and the seven elements as a continuous quality improvement framework
* Develop an action plan for initial steps that an implementation team can take at your organization

The training will run from approximately 8:00 am - 4:00 pm each day. A detailed agenda will be provided to those accepted into the training.

This effort builds on work that MHA has been doing since 2013. You can find information about these efforts at: <https://www.preventsuicidewi.org/zero-suicide>.

1. **Expectations**

**Implementation Team:**

Key participants include organizational leadership (senior decision-makers), individuals with lived experience, lead clinical champion(s), quality improvement personnel, and medical record authorities.

The ideal implementation team would include:

* Generally five to ten individuals depending on organization size
* A senior level administrative staff person who is positioned to engage in action planning during the training and who can ensure the Zero Suicide framework is embedded into the organization’s structure and budget
* A senior clinician who can represent the current knowledge and skills of the clinical staff and engage in action planning about changes to clinical practices and training
* Individuals with lived experience of suicidal ideation or behavior who can provide insight into the impact of organizational practices on those seeking care
* Key community partners, such as leaders of local suicide prevention coalitions or local health departments, to facilitate the spread of Zero Suicide within the broader community
* For large organizations, the following participants are strongly encouraged:
  + Quality Improvement (QI)
  + Information Technology (IT)

**Learning Community:** Organizations that attend the WI Zero Suicide Training are expected to participate in a learning community for one year post-training, which includes quarterly group calls and quarterly topic calls administered by teleconferences. Participating organizations are expected to use the action plans developed at the training as a starting point for the activities of their implementation teams and to modify plans as needed during the year. The group calls will be an opportunity to discuss implementation of action plans, share successes and challenges, and obtain consultation. At least one team member is expected to participate in each group call.

**Evaluation:** Organizations will be required to complete an Organizational Self-Study and provide updates on progress of their work. Those applying for the training are required to complete and submit an Organizational Self-Study along with the initial application. The purpose is to obtain an honest assessment of current suicide prevention practices to use as a baseline for action planning. The Self-Study is best completed by a team of individuals who can speak to both administrative and clinical practices within the organization. The Self-Study will be utilized in action planning at the training so those attending the training should be familiar with the Self-Study and ideally have participated in its completion. Organizations are expected to submit a new Self-Study to MHA at the end of one year as a way to measure change within the organization. The Organizational Self-Study can be accessed here: <http://zerosuicide.sprc.org/toolkit/lead/taking-organizational-self-study>

**Pre-Training Preparation:** In order to optimize training time, attendees may be asked to do some preparation. Organizations that are accepted for the training will be notified of any pre-training assignments.

1. **Timeline and Submission Process**

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| Application released | Monday, February 3, 2020 |
| Applicant Teleconference | Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 1:00 pm CT |
| Application and Self-Study Due | Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 4:00 pm |
| Applicants notified of their status | Thursday, July 2, 2020 |
| Zero Suicide Training conducted | Dates TBD |
| Final Organizational Self-Study Due | Wednesday, August 25, 2021 |

**Notification of Changes:** Any changes or updates to the application or instructions will be communicated through the Prevent Suicide Wisconsin listserv. If you are not signed up to receive e-newsletters through the listserv, you can do so at: <https://www.preventsuicidewi.org/e-newsletter>.

**Applicant Teleconference:** A teleconference will be held by MHA staff to provide an overview of the WI Zero Suicide Training, review the application and expectations, and respond to any questions.

**Wednesday, March 11 at 1:00 pm CT**

Watch the recording here:

<https://zoom.us/rec/play/7pMrfrqt_Wk3SIGQswSDUKB7W421Jqus0XIc_vQNy0q0VHQHMFHzbuRDN-Cwz1keCELbLp1up53XxBQZ?continueMode=true>

**Letter of Intent:** A letter of intent is not required.

**Application and Self-Study Date Submission:** Due to COVID-19 and the rescheduled training dates, the original deadline has been extended. The application narrative (Attachment 1) and Organizational Self-Study are due by **Tuesday,** **June 2, at 4:00 pm**. Applications must be submitted via email to Cara Hansen at [cara@mhawisconsin.org](mailto:cara@mhawisconsin.org).

The completed Organizational Self-Study must be sent along with the application. **Applications will not be considered completed until the Self-Study is received**. Submissions received after 4:00 pm on June 2 will be considered for inclusion in the training **only** if slots are still available.

The Self-Study can be accessed here: <http://zerosuicide.sprc.org/toolkit/lead/taking-organizational-self-study>

* Use the online portal to complete the Self-Study. You will be required to create a login through the website. Once you click “Submit” and see your completed Organizational Self-Study on-screen, scroll to the bottom/end of your completed Organizational Self-Study and locate the “Print PDF” button, which will enable you to save a version to email or print a hard copy. If you close out before saving, you will need to log back in to access your Self-Study. **Please save as a PDF and email that document as an attachment with your application**.
* Cost: A fee of $100 per person participating in the training will be payable upon notification of acceptance. This will cover meals and materials. Lodging and travel must be covered by applicants.
* MHA will be applying for continuing education hours through the National Association of Social Workers-Wisconsin Chapter. These would qualify for meeting the requirement of 30 hours of continuing education per two-year credential period for licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, Professional Counselors, and Social Workers. Last year we were approved for 10.5 hours. We will notify participants if these are awarded.

**Location:** The training will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Appleton. Attendees need to make their own travel and lodging plans; these costs are not covered by MHA. Rooms are being held at the hotel and information will be provided to those who are accepted into the training.

1. **Selection Criteria:**

Each application will be reviewed by MHA. A variety of factors will be considered in making selections:

* The completeness of the responses to the Application Narrative found in Attachment 1.
* The timeliness of the responses:
* First priority is given to those organizations whose application and Self-Study are received by the March 31 deadline (application must meet completeness and quality criteria).
* Second priority is given to those organizations who submit their application and self-study after the deadline and slots are still available.
* The degree to which the organization serves the priority populations of adults with Serious Mental Illness and youth with Serious Emotional Disturbance.
* Consideration of geographical and organizational composition.

**Attachment 1: Application Narrative**

**Please respond to each of the following points. While there is not a hard page limit, applications are expected to be in the range of 3-5 pages total, single-spaced, plus attachments.**

1. Provide a description of your organization; e.g. are you applying as a health system, a behavioral health clinic, an FQHC; how many lives do you cover/individuals do you serve on a yearly basis?
2. Discuss how you serve adults with Serious Mental Illnesses and/or youth with Serious Emotional Disturbances. Identify whether you have unique programs for these individuals.[[1]](#footnote-1)
3. What has motivated you to apply to participate in this training?
4. Identify each team member and include the following information: name, credentials, job title, and job duties (including job duties as it relates to this project). You are encouraged to include individuals with lived experience, those representing local suicide prevention coalitions and/or other community partners. See “Implementation Team” section above.
   1. Please indicate who the lead is for the application; this person will receive all correspondence related to questions about the application, notification of acceptance, and information related to the training itself.
5. Describe what your executive leadership has done and will do to support implementation of the Zero Suicide framework.
6. Describe how you plan to fulfill the participant expectations that are outlined in Sec. D of the application.
7. Based on your organization’s Self-Study, what are one or two key elements on which you would like to focus your initial efforts?
8. What have you done within your organization to date to reduce suicide among your clients? What have the results been? Please describe any involvement in community-based suicide prevention efforts.
9. Zero Suicide is a continuous quality improvement framework. It requires modification to your organization's culture and practices over an extended period of time. If your organization engages in continuous quality improvement, please describe an effort your organization has undertaken. What did you learn from that process that informs your participation in this project? If you do not have an example of a continuous quality improvement within your organization, discuss what you understand this to entail.

**Attachment 2: Wisconsin Zero Suicide Training Faculty and Facilitator Bios**

**Clinical Faculty**

**Sue Jungen, CSAC, ICS,** is Certified Substance Abuse Counselor- Certified Clinical Supervisor, who has worked in the field for 35 years. Her last role prior to retirement was Director of Mental Health for Affinity Health System.

Sue is a former board member and Co-Chair/founder for the N.E.W Mental Health Connection (MHC), and Co-Chair of the Fox Valley Substance Abuse Coalition. Currently she serves as a board member for the WI Behavioral Health Association, Vice-Chair for the United Way Health and Healing Impact Panel, a member of the PSW Steering Committee, a QPR trainer, and a member of NEWMHC membership committee. Sue also volunteers at St Joe’s Food Pantry. Professionally Sue provides AODA Clinical Supervision at Samaritan Counseling as well as Baeten Consulting. Sue serves as the Chair of the Tri County Zero Suicide Initiative serving Outagamie, Winnebago and Calumet Counties.

Sue will share her lived experience having lost a boyfriend to suicide as well as a child who was an attempt survivor. After attending Henry Ford Perfect Depression Care conference in 2013, she has been very active in sharing her philosophical shift as it relates to suicide. She is also a national faculty member for the Suicide Prevention Resource Center’s Zero Suicide Academy.

**Kim Propp, MS, LPC,** received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 1992 and her Master’s degree in Community Mental Health from Southern New Hampshire University in 2003. She has worked for Jefferson County Human Services for 23 years as a case manager, therapist, and supervisor of mental health programs. She currently is the Crisis Services Manager and oversees the emergency mental health team and the supervisor of the county crisis stabilization facility for adults. She is a trainer for Trauma informed Parenting. Kim led their team at the 2015 Zero Suicide Academy. Kim has been actively involved in implementing ZS within the human services system in Jefferson County so can provide particular expertise for similar public sector providers.

**Jim Salasek, PhD.** retired in 2016 after 42 years of active clinical practice. Throughout his career he provided clinical services primarily to individuals who generally expressed their anger in maladaptive ways engaging in acting out behaviors associated with domestic, community and workplace violence. He began his career working on a maximum security unit first in Ohio then in New York with individuals who had a serious mental disorder and repeatedly engaged in violent behaviors. In 1988 he moved to Sheboygan, Wisconsin where he became the program coordinator at the Sheboygan County Comprehensive Health Care Facility for their Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF-MR) and Institute for Mental Disorders (IMD).  In 1990, Jim joined the staff at St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac, where he saw children and adults in an outpatient setting.  In 1994 he was promoted to Assistant Director of Behavioral Health Services and in 1999 was asked to become the director of Behavioral Health Services for Agnesian HealthCare.  Jim was part of the team from Agnesian that participated in the first Wisconsin State Zero Suicide Academy in April 2015 and again at the second Academy held in June 2016 and was responsible for implementing Zero Suicide at Agnesian HealthCare.  He has been a WI Zero Suicide Faculty member since 2017. He is on the Steering Committee of Prevent Suicide Wisconsin. Prior to moving to Minnesota he was on the Executive Committee of Comprehensive Services Integration of Fond du Lac County, Inc. serving as chair of the Suicide Prevention subcommittee where he worked with community stakeholders to implement a three year grant: Destination Zero – Reducing suicide in Fond du Lac County. He was also on the Trauma-Informed Care committee and served five years on the Advisory Board of YScreen, an emotional health screening offered to all ninth graders in Fond du Lac County which has a focus of reducing suicide in the high school age population county-wide.

**Toni Simonson PhD, FACHE,** is the Executive Director of Behavioral Health Services in the Western Wisconsin for Hospital Sisters Health System and Prevea Health. Services include a full array of both inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance use disorders treatment. Toni has a PhD in Psychology with over 30 years of behavioral health experience.

Toni is passionate about suicide prevention and has served on the National Zero Suicide Institute as a faculty member since the summer of 2016. Additionally, she serves as faculty for Wisconsin’s Zero Suicide initiative. Toni is also passionate about addressing the opioid epidemic and has led the development and deployment of Medication Assisted Treatment services in Western Wisconsin.

Toni serves as a Board Member for the Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives; Chairs the Eau Claire County Suicide Death Review Team; and Chairs the Quality Committee of Eau Claire County’s Community Services Across the Lifespan (CSAL) committee. She also serves as a member of several local initiatives, including; the Chippewa County Suicide Death Review Team, Eau Claire County Suicide Death Review Team, Prevent Suicide Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire County Opioid Overdose Fatality Review Team, Chippewa County Overdose Fatality Review Team, Eau Claire County Hoarding Task Force and United Ways Health Advisory Council.

Personally, Toni enjoys spending time with her husband and family, engaging in activities that include kayaking, paddle boarding, canoeing, boating, bicycling, playing board games, going to movies, and just being together.

**Lived Experience Faculty**

**Val Neff** is a Certified Peer Specialist who holds bachelor's degrees in psychology and music performance from Lawrence University. She is employed with NAMI Fox Valley as the Assistant Director at Iris Place Peer Run Respite, and she co-facilitates NAMI's Alternatives to Suicide support group and their Young Adult Support and Transition group. She is also a member of the Prevent Suicide Wisconsin Steering Committee, as well as the Tri county Zero Suicide Coalition. All of her experiences, both personal and professional, have instilled in her the importance of individualized person-centered support, as well as the need for more strengths-based approaches in the human services field.

**Patty Slatter** is a mental health and suicide preventionspeaker, heavily involved member of NAMI Rock County, Co-Chair of NAMI Rock County’s Paint The Town Yellow 5k for Mental Health and Suicide Awareness, Mental Health America of Wisconsin Faculty Member for Zero Suicide, and a member of the Rock County Behavioral Health Redesign Steering Committee. Patty is trained in facilitating peer support groups, Youth Mental Health First Aid, and serves on the Prevent Suicide Wisconsin Steering Committee.

My involvement with mental health and suicide awareness is driven by my lived experience of over 20 years.  After a long road of recovery, it has been my pleasure to share my story in order to give others hope and assist in identifying treatment gaps.  In all my roles, I am powered by my passion to raise awareness, support my peers, and increase knowledge and understanding to all community members in the hopes to break the silence around mental health challenges and suicide.  I love collaborating with local organizations on mental health and suicide Awareness!!

**Additional Faculty and Facilitators**

**Julianne Dwyer, JD,**is with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), Division of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS), where she is the Mental Health Promotion and Prevention Coordinator. She administers the state’s Mental Health Block Grant funding for suicide prevention, which supports the systems approach of Zero Suicide. Julianne participated in the first workshop at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, Michigan about its effective Zero Suicide model (Perfect Depression Care) in 2013. Since that time she has facilitated a learning community supporting those organizations and has participated in subsequent state-sponsored Zero Suicide workshops.

**Leah Rolando, MSW,** is the Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator with Mental Health America of Wisconsin (MHA). She co-chairs Prevent Suicide Wisconsin (PSW), a statewide public-private partnership and advisory body for the Wisconsin state suicide prevention plan. Leah organizes the annual PSW statewide conference. She leads the DHS funded Adolescent Suicide Prevention Learning Community for local health departments in Wisconsin. Leah is a Wisconsin Zero Suicide faculty member and coordinates quarterly topic and consultation calls for health care organizations trained through the WI Zero Suicide Training. Leah is a Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Instructor and volunteer crisis counselor with Crisis Text Line (CTL).

**Brian Michel, JD,** is the Director of Prevention Services for Mental Health America of Wisconsin (MHA). He administers statewide suicide prevention programming, including support for PSW coalitions, coordination of Zero Suicide and MCH learning communities, and expansion of suicide prevention efforts to the veteran community throughout Wisconsin. Brian also serves as the Program Director for the R&R House, a DHS-funded Peer Run Respite for Veterans, scheduled to open in the Spring of 2020. Brian is a member of the Legislative and Policy Committee of the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health, an executive committee member of the Veterans Health Coalition, and recently joined a team tasked with fulfilling the Veteran’s Affairs Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide among Service Members, which aims to promote and implement the National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide.

**Brad Munger** has worked in behavioral health service delivery networks in a variety of communities and settings, and from multiple perspectives—from inpatient, outpatient, to the streets. As a licensed professional counselor, he has worked in both in private and public sectors for decades in a range of capacities from psychological evaluation to direct treatment and clinical/administrative supervision in a broad array of programs within the Wisconsin mental health system.

Currently an Advanced Program and Planning Analyst in the Division of Care and Treatment Services within the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, he is the technical consultant and contract manager for several areas, such as Crisis Intervention, Community Support Programs (CSPs), Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and a variety of other areas. Suicide prevention has been a part of his work throughout his career. He provides training and technical assistance around suicide and employs a variety of curricula ranging from the two-day Recognizing and Responding to Suicide Risk (RRSR), to the one-day Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk (AMSR), to the more brief QPR.

**Additional faculty and facilitators may be named prior to the training.**

1. Wisconsin Zero Suicide training is supported by funds from the federal Mental Health Block Grant, which has these specific populations as target populations. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)