



**HSR&D Suicide Prevention Research Impact NeTwork (SPRINT)
Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
VIRTUAL National Meeting July 9-10, 2020
AGENDA SUMMARY**

DAY 1 Objectives

- 1) Review current state of evidence, operations and research priorities, and active suicide prevention projects, with a focus on intervention research spanning a continuum from clinical care to community.
- 2) Highlight and discuss several ongoing research projects along this continuum.
- 3) Review prior research on mental health impacts (including suicidal self-directed violence) of pandemics and other national crises, and introduce several COVID-19 projects in process.

DAY 2: Objectives (by invitation—working meeting)

- 4) Discuss and problem-solve around barriers and facilitators to conducting suicide prevention research along the continuum, and in the context of COVID-19
- 5) Promote new and enhance existing collaborations among researchers and operations leads to facilitate development of new suicide prevention research along the continuum.

**Thursday July 9 Suicide Prevention Research in VA:
Developing a Continuum of Intervention**

- 10:00am (Pacific) Welcome and Opening Plenary. Includes brief review/updates of: PREVENTS initiative and Suicide Prevention Program priorities; current suicide prevention research gaps and active suicide prevention projects
- 10:30am Presentations of ongoing research along the continuum, followed by panel discussion. Brief presentations will be given by:
- Behavioral activation for depression/suicidality in primary care (Funderburk)
 - Suicide safety planning for high-risk Veterans (Goodman)
 - Community level lethal means safety (True)
 - Public messaging strategies to facilitate help seeking for at-risk Veterans (Karras-Pilato)
- Panel members will include Health Services Researcher and Veteran, Dr. Jeff Pyne, Dr. David Carroll of the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Dr. Wendy Tenhula of the Office of Research Development, and Dr. Carolyn Clancy, the VHA Deputy Under Secretary for Health (DUSH) for Discovery, Education & Affiliate Networks (DEAN).
- Noon **Break**
- 12:15pm Presentation on COVID-19 and impacts of pandemics. Dr. Mark Reger will lead the session. Includes review of what is known about prior pandemics and mental health/suicide risk. Several new projects on COVID-19 and mental health will be described, and Dr. Matt Miller of OMHSP will serve as discussant.
- 1:30pm Meeting Concludes for the Day

Friday July 10 **Suicide Prevention Research: Moving us Forward**

10:00am (Pacific) Welcome and review goals of day

10:10am Experiences, barriers and facilitators to conducting suicide prevention research in the context of COVID. In this panel, several ORD-funded researchers will discuss how COVID is affecting their research. Dr. Atkins of HSRD will serve as discussant.

11:10am Session on data relevant to suicide prevention research. This session will address these questions: What data sets are available to suicide prevention researchers and what are the processes for accessing these data? Several experts on suicide prevention data (McCarthy; Stephens; Hoff) will provide brief updates and there will be opportunity for Q&A.

12:10pm **Break**

12:30pm Optional Virtual Breakouts (pre-registration required). Here we will form virtual breakout groups to discuss high priority research topic areas:

Topic 1: Lethal Means safety
Topic 2: Risk/Screening and assessment (including in medical populations)
Topic 3: Community & Engagement; incl. Veterans not, or previously treated in VA
Topic 4: Other interventions (including psychotherapies; telehealth)
Topic 5: Implementation research in suicide prevention

Each group will focus on discussing what the critical barriers (and potential solutions) are to doing research in that area, with a focus on addressing challenges with measurement, accessing data, or accessing populations

1:15pm Work Group Report Outs and Discussion; Report outs will include suggestions or recommendations for SPRINT or research/operations leadership

1:45pm Perspective: A representative from NIH will offer perspective on our activities and suggestions for addressing challenges

2:00pm Meeting concludes