



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
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News Release  
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## **Dayton VA Medical Center to Host Suicide Prevention Event**

The Dayton VA Medical Center will host a Suicide Prevention event on Thursday, September 28, at 2 PM in the main hospital building's lobby in recognition of September as Suicide Prevention Month. The purpose of the event is for VA staff to publicly sign the VA Suicide Prevention Declaration and to invite our suicide prevention community partners to sign a similar declaration as well, to show our demonstrate our joint commitment to VA Secretary Dr. Shulkin's goal of "getting to zero" Veteran suicides per day. **(The two declarations which will be signed at the event are attached to this email).**

Approximately 20 Veterans die each day across the nation from suicide. But of those 20, only six were receiving VA healthcare – and only three were receiving mental health services through the VA. We believe that by raising both of these numbers – getting more Veterans enrolled in the VA and getting them increased access to mental health care – the number of suicides will decrease. As part of these efforts, even for Veterans who otherwise don't qualify for VA care due to receiving a "other than honorable" discharge from the military, we provide evaluation, stabilization, and 90 days of suicide prevention treatment and make arrangements for the Veteran to continue receiving care in the community beyond those 90 days as needed. We also provide 24/7 suicide prevention services to all Veterans through our Emergency Department and our Veterans Crisis Line (1-800-273-8255).

The event will feature speeches from Dayton VAMC CEO/Director Glenn Costie, Dayton VAMC Suicide Prevention Coordinator Karon Wolfe, and a representative from the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation. Following the speeches, VA staff and our community partners will sign the declarations which will be displayed at the Dayton VAMC.

This event is open to the public. Media are invited to attend.

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