



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



February 11, 2020

Benita McLarin, FACHE
DIRECTOR

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

20 North San Pedro Road
Suite 2002
San Rafael, CA 94903
415 473 6924 T
415 473 3344 TTY
marinhhs.org

SUBJECT: Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services presentation on the Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan.

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Receive report from Department of Health and Human Services regarding the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan.

SUMMARY: Studies by the Centers for Disease Control show that in recent years suicide rates are rising. The causes of suicide are complex, and the solutions require sustained, comprehensive efforts involving multiple sectors. In October 2018, the Department's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) initiated the suicide prevention strategic planning process in collaboration with the Division of Public Health, the Marin County Office of Education and community partners. The first phase of this effort was a countywide Community Needs Assessment to better understand the specific context of suicidal behavior in Marin County. This assessment included an analysis of data on suicide deaths and attempts, surveys, focus groups and key informant interviews with service providers and community members to identify the priorities and needs of the community.

The Strategic Plan, finalized in January 2020, consists of seven key strategies aimed at improving timely access to supports and services for individuals at risk of suicide, strengthening protective factors, building community connections, and reducing stigma, and reducing suicide attempts and deaths in Marin County. The seven strategies include:

1. Establish infrastructure to provide leadership, oversight, and accountability to the Strategic Plan.
2. Develop a coordinated system of care to promote suicide prevention and wellness.
3. Implement public campaigns to raise awareness about warning signs, promote available resources, and increase help-seeking.
4. Provide evidence-based suicide prevention trainings and education to Marin County residents.

- 5. Provide outreach, engagement, and support to all residents with targeted efforts to groups disproportionately affected by suicide.
- 6. Foster safe and healthy environments on all school campuses.
- 7. Reduce access to lethal means for those at risk of suicide.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT: Marin County has among the highest suicide rates in all the Bay Area. In 2017, the county experienced the loss of three high school students to suicide in the span of just one month. To respond to this urgent public health issue and with the understanding that suicide is preventable, Marin County BHRS, its partners and community members joined together to develop a countywide plan for improving supports and coordination, building community connections, and reducing stigma around seeking help. The goal of the plan is to reduce suicide attempts and deaths in Marin County and the devastating impacts for individuals, families, and communities.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal component associated with acceptance of this report.

REVIEWED BY:	County Administrator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Department of Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Human Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	County Counsel	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Respectfully Submitted,

Benita McLarin
Director