2025 Suicide Prevention Priority Award

The Suicide Prevention Priority Award, part of SCHA's Zero Harm Priority Awards, is given in partnership with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Office of Mental Health, and recognizes facilities who are embracing Zero Harm through the adoption of specific Zero Suicide strategies. To qualify for the award this year, a facility must attest to completion of all the metrics in all 5 categories below during January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024.

New award winners (those who have not won a Suicide Prevention Priority Award in the past), will be required to provide documentation for each metric.

Previous winners should attest to improved or enhanced progression of each metric, and may be asked to provide additional information.

Learn more at zeroharmsc.org.

TRAINING

Suicide prevention training for all current and newly hired clinical staff as part of new employee onboarding and/or annual employee training. Examples of training modules include Talk Saves Lives, SafeSide Prevention, Zero Suicide Academy or CALM Training. Or evidenced based safety planning training, i.e. the Stanley Brown Safety Plan.

POLICY

Formal policies regarding suicide prevention/intervention/treatment that address how to screen patients, training expectations, frequency, care delivery expectations, incorporation of framework such as Caring Contacts, Postvention, Healing Conversations, Caring for Caregivers (C4C), or Ask the Question. Annual review and revisions (as needed) of formal policies.

SAFETY PLANNING

Incorporate the Stanley Brown Safety Plan Template, a fill-in-the-blank template for developing a safety plan with a patient at increased risk for a suicide attempt.

SCREENING

Adopt the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale, Patient Health Questionnaire 9 (PHQ-9) Depression Scale or another evidence-based screening tool.

FOLLOW UP

Establish a referral process with a local community mental health center or a local provider (warm hand-off process), Use of the Best Practices in Care Transitions report, and/ or use of the Best Practices in Care Transitions Infographic