

July - September 2022 Newsletter

SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE

The Department of Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health, along with their state partners, are excited to announce there will be a Suicide Prevention Conference on August 11th and August 12th, 2022, at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. This no-cost conference is a great opportunity to “Start the Conversation” around suicide prevention in South Dakota, featuring key speakers in the areas of veterans, youth, tribal communities, and resiliency as well as those with lived experience of suicide loss or survival. Click [here](#) to register for the conference. Registration will close when capacity is reached for the conference.



EVENTS

For more information on events, visit the South Dakota Suicide Prevention [Calendar](#).

July

18 – Helpline Center Open Golf Tournament

August

6 – Yankton Step Forward to Prevent Suicide Event

11 & 12 –South Dakota Suicide Prevention Conference – “Start the Conversation”, Sioux Falls Convention Center

September

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Remember, free training is available! To find the [list of trainings](#) and to request a training for your community, [click here](#).

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

September is Suicide Prevention Month

Suicide Prevention Month is a time to raise awareness and shift public perception, as well as spreading hope and vital information to people affected by suicide. All month, mental health advocates, prevention organizations, survivors, allies, and community members unite to promote suicide prevention awareness. While suicide prevention is important to address year-round, Suicide Prevention Awareness Month provides a dedicated time to come together with a collective passion and strength around a difficult topic. Suicidal thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background and we can all help prevent suicide.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline/988

988 is Live

On July 16th, 988 became the national three-digit phone number for all mental health, substance use and suicide crises. 988 will offer rapid access to behavioral health support through connection with trained crisis specialists. The current lifeline number (1-800-273-TALK) will *not* be going away. Dialing either number will get people to the same services. In the end, 988 is an easier-to-remember way to access lifesaving services.

What is the difference between 988 and 211?

- 988 is utilized for crisis situations, such as emotional distress, suicide, substance use information and support programs, care coordination and follow up support.
 - 988 meets national standards for risk/safety assessment and engagement of individuals at imminent risk of suicide and offers care traffic control – quality coordination of crisis care and follow up support.
- 211 is utilized for social service information or resources, such as housing/rental assistance, utility assistance, food resources, government information, financial assistance, disaster information, childcare information, and much more.