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Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2008 9:21 AM

Subject: From the Desk of Gwen Skinner

The November/December 2008 issue of State News magazine includes an article highlighting our Georgia Crisis & Access Line (GCAL) program. You can download the full version at www.csg.org/pubs/Documents/sn0811.pdf (an abbreviated version is attached). State News is a Council of State Governments (CSG) publication which is circulated to 15,000 legislators across the country. The end of the year issue contains the winners of the annual Innovation Awards which will be presented in Omaha, Nebraska on December 6 at the CSG Annual Conference State Trends and Leadership Forum. For the first time, State News featured one winner of the eight innovative programs on the cover. GCAL is proud to receive this distinction!

The State News article focuses on a case in which a GCAL Clinician intervenes to support a caller in psychiatric distress after taking a suicidal overdose. Since July 2006 when Georgia DHR initiated this statewide service nearly 650,000 calls have been received. Of those, 33,000 persons were suicidal individuals who contacted the hotline. Nearly 14,000 were assessed to be at significant risk.

Linking consumers with the most appropriate service has resulted in hospital diversion and better utilization of state resources (creating millions of dollars in cost avoidance for Georgia DHR). We are excited about the State News article and CSG Innovation Award bringing positive attention to this important program.

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