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**SAMHSA Awards More than \$1 Million in Grants Promoting Follow-up Services for Those at High Risk of Suicide**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) today announced the award of six grants totaling more than \$1 million over three years to help crisis centers throughout the country develop special follow-up services for people at high risk of dying by suicide. Symbolic "big checks" were presented to the grant recipients at a ceremony held today at SAMHSA headquarters in Rockville, Md.

"Today's event highlights the extraordinary work that National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's crisis centers are performing in saving lives and providing hope to those in crisis," said SAMHSA Acting Administrator Eric Broderick, D.D.S., M.P.H. "These grants will begin a national effort to ensure follow-up support for people who reach out for help through the Lifeline."

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK) network works with suicide prevention crisis centers throughout the nation to provide round-the-clock phone counseling and referral services to callers contemplating suicide or concerned about a friend or loved one who may be in crisis.

Although these services provide important help to those in crisis, including emergency intervention when necessary, studies indicate that many people in danger of attempting suicide often do not follow through in getting timely treatment. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline crisis centers selected for these grants will develop or expand systems to determine callers who may be at higher risk and provide them with special follow-up services needed to get them help.

Six awards for National Suicide Prevention Lifeline crisis counseling centers from around the country are funded up to \$67,000 per year in total costs for up to three years. Continuation awards are subject to the availability of funds and progress achieved by awardees. The funds are awarded and administered by SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services.

The grant awardees and their anticipated yearly grant amounts are:

Mental Health Association of New York City, New York, N.Y. -- \$67,000. Grant monies will improve systems for determining callers who may be at higher risk and assisting them in getting proper follow-up help.

Crisis Connection, Richfield, Minn. -- \$67,000. This grant will help fund the continuation of a three year study on effective measures for providing suicidal callers increased access to critical support services after their initial call for help.

Integrated Health Resources, LLC, Atlanta, Ga. -- \$67,000. Grant monies will supplement on going programs for following up on the status and needs of high-risk clients following their initial calls.

Helpline Center, Inc., Sioux Falls, S.D. -- \$67,000. Grant funds will support systems for assessing high-risk callers and providing necessary support services for helping assure proper follow up treatment.

Third Level Crisis Intervention Center, Traverse City, Mich. -- \$15,000. The grant will help develop follow-up services for high-risk callers who may need additional help in accessing treatment.

Contra Costa Crisis Center, Walnut Creek, Calif. -- \$67,000. Grant monies will help implement a system of follow-up phone counseling and assistance services for suicidal callers needing help in getting proper treatment.

SAMHSA is a public health agency within the Department of Health and Human Services. The agency is responsible for improving the accountability, capacity and effectiveness of the nation's substance abuse prevention, addictions treatment, and mental health services delivery system.

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