Suicide Prevention
HOW TO HELP SOMEONE WHO IS SUICIDAL

**KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS:**

- Talking about wanting to die or to kill oneself
- Looking for a way to kill oneself (online or in person)
- Feeling hopeless or having no purpose
- Drug and/or alcohol abuse
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Acting anxious, agitated, or reckless
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge

**ASK QUESTIONS:**

- “Do you ever think about suicide?”
- “Do you have a plan to hurt or kill yourself?”
- “Have you attempted suicide before?”
- “Have you thought about when you would do it (today, tomorrow, next week)?”
- “Have you thought about what method you would use?”
- “Are you seeing your doctor or mental health professional regularly and often?”

**Do’s**

- Let the person talk and LISTEN to them without judgment
- Reassure them that treatment and help is available
- Tell them what they are experiencing is treatable and that suicidal feelings are temporary

**Don’ts**

- Don’t try to minimize problems or shame a person into changing their mind
- Don’t try to convince a person who is suicidal that “it’s not that bad”
- Don’t preach about suicide being right or wrong

**GET HELP!**

A suicidal person should see a doctor or mental health professional immediately.

- If the person has a plan to hurt or kill themselves and you fear they are in imminent danger:
  * Stay with the person
  * Get them to the nearest Emergency Department

**Don’ts**

- If you are not with them, keep the conversation going until you can connect them to help:
  * Ask questions about their plan
  * Listen to them
  * Reassure them that you are there for them and will help them find support

**CRISIS TEXT LINE**

TEXT "HELLO" TO 741741

A 24/7 texting service providing support for those in crisis.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

- If a friend has posted suicidal content on Facebook, use the safety tool to get them help.
- If a friend has posted suicidal content on Twitter, alert Twitter to get them help.

**If you feel the person isn’t in immediate danger, offer to work together to get help:**

- Contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
  1-800-273-TALK

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