

Sample Letter to Staff Announcing Adoption of Zero Suicide Approach

This letter can be used and adapted to announce the commitment to improve the care provided to patients who are struggling with suicide and the adoption of the Zero Suicide approach. It should be sent from the chief executive officer, or someone else in a position of leadership, to all staff members.

Dear Staff,

<INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME> has made a commitment to improving the care we provide our patients who are struggling with suicide. The most vital difference we can make through our work is to save lives. We hope to make suicide a “never event.” To some this may sound audacious, but simply put, one life lost to suicide is one too many.

As we all know, the work of caring for individuals at risk for suicide is challenging. I want to assure you that <INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME> is committed to making sure our staff have the skills and confidence to treat these patients. In the coming year, we will be adopting the Zero Suicide approach to suicide care, a comprehensive approach developed by the Suicide Prevention Resource Center and the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention. We believe this approach will improve the care and safety of our patients, thereby making our organization a safer, and hopefully more fulfilling, place to work.

We have established an implementation team for our Zero Suicide approach and strategy. This team is led by <INSERT NAME OF TEAM LEAD>. Look for more information about this initiative through <INSERT COMMUNICATION METHOD> in the coming months as well as via discussion in staff meetings. If you have any questions, please contact <INSERT NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION>.

I would like to thank each of you for the good work that you already do and for your openness to new ideas in the coming months and years. Suicide must not be an option for those who have entrusted us with their care.

Signed,
<CEO>