



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

NEWS RELEASE

Office of Communications
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

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Colorado suicide prevention experts rally the community for support

DENVER — The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s Office of Suicide Prevention is one of several sponsors presenting the fifth annual Bridging the Divide: Suicide Awareness and Prevention Summit Friday, May 18, at Colorado State University’s Lory Student Center in Fort Collins. Combating Colorado’s dangerously high suicide rate requires community-wide support and participation, reflected in this year’s theme: “Innovations to prevent suicide where we live, learn, work and play.”

Colorado has the sixth-highest suicide rate in the nation. In 2010, 867 Coloradans died by suicide, more than the number of deaths in Colorado from flu, pneumonia, homicide, HIV, motor vehicle crashes or diabetes. The summit will provide members of the community with information and access to resources for preventing suicide.

“Colorado is a leader in rallying support for suicide prevention, implementing innovative programs and supporting suicide prevention initiatives statewide,” said Jarrod Hindman, manager of the Office of Suicide Prevention at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. “This summit brings together the best minds and most passionate advocates for suicide prevention.”

This year’s summit will highlight new strategies in suicide prevention, provide details about at-risk populations and include specific sessions and tools designed for clinicians and mental health

professionals. Mental health and public health professionals, researchers, bereaved family members, advocates, students and concerned citizens will hear from national, state and local leaders to better understand suicide and learn methods for preventing it.

Keynote speakers at this year's summit include the following:

- Dr. Alan Wolfelt, director of the Center for Loss and Life Transition, author and expert on grief and recovery, who has appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show, NBC Today Show and Larry King Live
- Dr. John Draper, director of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, a national expert in crisis hotline practices who oversees more than 150 Lifeline call centers nationwide
- Laurie Davidson, director of Provider Initiatives at the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, a national leader in suicide prevention and intervention research and resources

For more information about the summit, please visit

<http://psy.psych.colostate.edu/cicrc/SPsummit2012.asp>, or contact Jarrod Hindman at jarrod.hindman@state.co.us or 303-692-2539.

If you or someone you know is suicidal, please call the 24-hour Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).