



Statewide Suicide Prevention Council

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PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Kate Burkhart, executive director, 907-465-8920, kate.burkhart@alaska.gov

Statewide suicide prevention plan now open for comment

Public is invited to comment on 2012-2017 plan until the end of November

Alaska's Statewide Suicide Prevention Council released its new statewide suicide prevention plan, *Casting the Net Upstream: Promoting Wellness to Prevent Suicide in Alaska*, for comment this week.

The public comment period began Oct. 25 and ends at 5 p.m. Nov. 30, 2011.

"I hope that Alaskans take the time to read the plan and to let the Council know how we can improve the plan to make it a useful tool for preventing suicide," said Kate Burkhart, executive director of the Council.

The draft plan for 2012-2017 was developed with input from meetings held around the state to ensure that it is relevant and accessible to all Alaskans. State statute requires the council to develop and update five-year prevention plans.

"Council members and staff have listened and learned from the experiences and ideas of hundreds of survivors, youth, elders, health professionals, experts and experienced suicide prevention providers," said Burkhart. "It's been a privilege to learn from so many Alaskans, and to create a plan that reflects the goals and objectives that people from all over the state identified."

The draft plan is posted on the Alaska Online Public Notice System at <http://notes4.state.ak.us/pn> under the Department of Health & Social Services, Public Notices; the Statewide Suicide

Prevention Council's website, www.hss.state.ak.us/suicideprevention; and the state suicide prevention portal, www.StopSuicideAlaska.org.

Comments can be:

- mailed to Statewide Suicide Prevention Council, attn: Eric Morrison, 431 N. Franklin St., Suite 200, Juneau, Alaska 99801
- emailed to eric.morrison@alaska.gov or
- faxed to 907-465-4410

Alaskans who experience a disability and need a special accommodation to participate, please contact Eric Morrison, 907-465-6518, eric.morrison@alaska.gov, no later than 4 p.m. on Nov. 15, 2011.

All public comments will be reviewed by the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council before the final plan is released.

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The Statewide Suicide Prevention Council is charged with broadening awareness of suicide and risk and protective factors involved in suicide; enhancing suicide prevention service and programs; and improving Alaskans' overall wellness by assisting in efforts to reduce suicide.

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