

Richard Whitley, M.S.
Administrator

Tracey D. Green, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer



Contact Name: Martha Framsted, PIO
Phone Number: 775.684.4014
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Page 1 of 1

Division of Public and Behavioral Health NEWS RELEASE

COMMUNITIES CONNECTING FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

Carson City-The 7th Annual "Walk in Memory, Walk for Hope" will take place on September 13-14, 2013, in 11 different communities across the state. The goal of the event is to increase awareness of the devastating effects suicide has on our nation and state, and to remember those who have been lost to suicide. The event is sponsored by the Nevada Coalition for Suicide Prevention and supported by the Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention, and community partners in Elko, Reno, Henderson, Douglas County, Winnemucca, Nixon, Caliente, Pahrump, Yerington and Mesquite.

Misty Allen, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, at Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health's Office of Suicide Prevention, states, "Unfortunately, Nevada has the fourth highest rate of suicide in the nation." Allen also states, "We have greatly increased efforts in Nevada to educate people about what to look for and how to help if someone is struggling with thoughts of suicide. Events such as 'Walk in Memory, Walk for Hope' assist in this goal by bringing the Coalition, community members, and other partners together in raising awareness."

Most of the community walk events are opening registration at 8:00 am. You can register on line or download a printable registration form. For more information on each individual site, please visit the website at www.nvsuicideprevention.org.

September 8th through 14th is National Suicide Prevention Week. Please join the Nevada Coalition for Suicide Prevention, Office of Suicide Prevention, and local organizations in supporting these efforts. Together we can reduce the number of lives shaken by a needless and tragic death.

For more information on suicide prevention, including information on learning the signs of suicidal behavior go to www.nvsuicideprevention.org. If you or someone you know is in crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). To organize a Walk in your community or to take part in one of the walks, contact the Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention in Northern Nevada at (775) 443-7843, or in Southern Nevada at (702) 486-8225.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Whitley".

Richard Whitley, Administrator

4150 Technology Way, Suite 300 Carson City, Nevada 89706
Phone (775) 684-4200, Fax (775) 684-4211
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