



**sonoma county**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION  
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## Recommendations 2019 Suicides

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Presentation  
July 23, 2019

### Developing a Response to Deaths by Suicide on SMART Lines

- Background
  - Sonoma County DHS-BHD has implemented a set of Suicide Prevention Activities that are ongoing
  - Targeted and tailored approach needed to adequately impact suicides on the rail lines

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## Initial Recommendations and Resources

- Access National Expertise in Rail Safety/Suicide Prevention
  - Volpe Center – Department of Transportation
  - Suicide Prevention Resource Center
  - Each Mind Matters
  - Others



## Initial Recommendations and Resources (continued)

- Research & Evaluation – Preventing Suicides on Rail Lines
  - Barriers – Interrupting behavior results in long term resolution of suicidal impulse
  - Signage/Messaging – Suicide prevention messages and resources can redirect at-risk individuals
  - Training – Train relevant individuals (e.g., SMART staff) in identification of and response to at-risk individuals
  - Media – Research-based guidelines for media reporting of deaths by suicide to reduce risk of suicide and avoid unintentionally increasing risk of suicide



## Local Planning

- Multiagency effort
  - SMART
  - Law Enforcement
  - City Agencies
  - Local MH & SUD service providers
  - Local health care providers
  - Others
- Continue to collect Local Data to inform policy and services
- Analyze local data in context of suicide prevention research and best practices
- Design local responses