Suicide Prevention at Mercy Health Center

Gary Parker
Where We Work

Mercy Health Center
How it All Started

- The ER nurse’s story
- Changed my life and work
Getting Started

• Collaboration
• Oklahoma Suicide Youth Coalition
• Research
What We Found

- At-risk adolescents are first seen in ER
- Providers often dismiss warning signs
- Findings served as foundation for our program
Our Approach is Multi-Faceted

Providing Education

- Developed educational program on signs and symptoms of suicide
  - Visited urban and rural facilities
  - Increased suicide awareness
  - Education provided every two weeks
  - Education provided across ministry
- Updated referral sheet
Multifaceted Approach

Screening

- Sought input from providers across ministry
- Found flaws with tools used
- Incorporated evidence-based tools
- Committee review of pediatric screening tools
- Partnered with Teen Screen
- High school screening
Multifaceted Approach

Changing Levels of care

• Mental-health screening of ED patients
• Admissions checklist:
  • Notify security
  • Notify nutrition services
  • Arrange sitter
  • Nurses perform safety checks
  • Notify Housekeeping
Future Directions

• Return for high school assessment
• Adding Tele – Psych
• CALL SAM
• Continuous improvements

Manuscript in preparation:

“Mental Health Check–Ups: Screening Teens in the Community”
Questions?

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