



Agency Priority Goal Action Plan

Suicide Prevention, FY 2020 Q4 Update

Goal Leader:

Dr. David Carroll – Executive Director, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Deputy Goal Leader:

Dr. Matthew A. Miller - Director – Suicide Prevention, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Overview

Goal Statement:

Through Clinical and Community strategies, VHA will proactively identify and provide interventions for at-risk Veterans, both those using VHA care and those using other care systems, to prevent suicide and overdose death.

- Clinical Goals:
 - By September 30, 2021, VA will increase implementation of Safety Planning in the Emergency Department (SPED), to ensure completion of safety planning for eligible Veterans in the ED/Urgent Care Center (UCC) from a baseline of 34% to 90%.
 - By September 30, 2021, the percent of Veterans targeted through predictive modeling algorithms (REACH VET) within the VHA system will reach 95% across the four required metrics (Coordinator Accepted; Provider Accepted; Care Evaluation; Outreach Attempted).
- Community Goals:
 - By September 30, 2021, VA will partner with Health and Human Services (HHS)/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to develop statewide plans in 28 or more additional States or territories in a “Governor’s Challenge” to end Veteran suicide outside the VHA system (compared to the FY19 baseline of 7 states).

Overview

Challenge:

- While evidence-based interventions reduce the likelihood of suicide, they must reach those at risk to be effective.

Opportunities:

- **Reaching Veterans within VHA:** VA is using advanced analytics (REACH VET) combined with clinical interventions to identify people most likely in need of preventive intervention and connect them with services. Additionally, VHA is implementing evidence-based strategies to treat Veterans at high risk for suicide in the ED/UCC (Safety Planning in the Emergency Department (SPED) program).
- **Reaching Veterans in the Community:** Partnering with Health and Human Services/SAMHSA and 24 cities through the Mayor's Challenge and 7 states in the Governor's Challenge, VA is working collaboratively with local and state governments and communities to develop community action plans to end Veteran suicide.

Goal Structure & Strategies: Clinical Strategies (within VHA)

- **Safety Planning in the Emergency Department (SPED)** combines safety planning interventions with follow-up phone calls after discharge from ED/UCC
 - Research has shown significant reduction in suicidal behaviors as a result of the intervention.
- **Recovery Engagement and Coordination for Health – Veterans Enhanced Treatment (REACH VET)** identifies patients at statistical risk of death by suicide in the next month.
 - Patients identified as within the top risk tier at their facility based on the REACH VET model are expected to receive a care review and outreach intervention from a personally assigned care provider

Goal Structure & Strategies: Community Strategies (outside VA)

- **Governor's Challenges (in partnership with SAMHSA)** develop community strategic action plans that can be implemented at the local level to end Veteran suicide, reaching the 11/17 Veterans outside of VHA care.
 - Integrates Veteran suicide prevention into the values, culture, leadership, and work of a broad range of organizations and programs with a role in supporting suicide prevention activities.
 - Establishes effective, sustainable, and collaborative suicide prevention programs for Veterans at the national, state/territorial, tribal, and local levels.
 - Pursues and sustains public-private partnerships to advance Veterans suicide prevention.
 - Develops, implements, and evaluates communication efforts designed to reach Veterans.

Summary of Progress from FY 2020, Q4

Clinical Strategies

- SPED:
 - Increased from 48.4% (FY20Q1) to 60.3% (FY20Q4) on safety plans completed in the Emergency Department
- REACH-VET: Since FY20Q1, national performance metrics have:
 - Increased from 99% (FY20Q1) to 99.8% (FY20Q4) on Coordinator Accepted
 - Increased from 95.1% (FY20Q1) to 98.8% (FY20Q4) on Provider Accepted
 - Increased from 92.8% (FY20Q1) to 97.8% (FY20Q4) on Care Evaluation
 - Increased from 91.6% (FY20Q1) to 97.4% (FY20Q4) on Outreach Attempts

Community Strategies

- Governor's Challenges:
 - At the end of FY19, 7 states were engaged in Governor's Challenges
 - Twenty additional states joined the Governor's Challenge since FY20Q1, for a total of 27 states in FY20Q4.

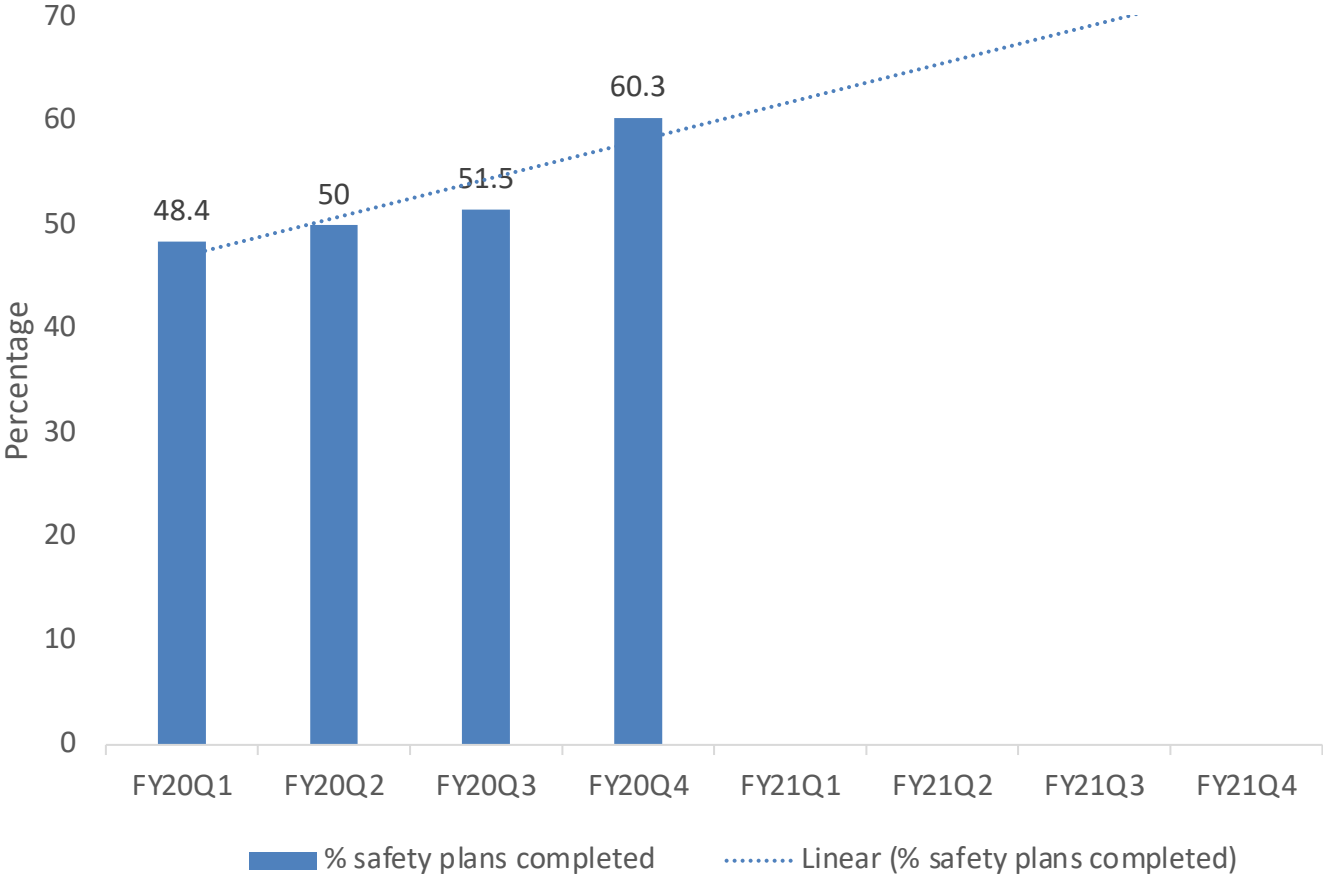
Key Milestones (Clinical Strategies - SPED)

Increase implementation of Safety Planning in the Emergency Department, to ensure completion of safety planning for eligible Veterans in the ED/UCC

Milestone Summary					
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date <i>[e.g., Q2, FY 2017]</i>	Milestone Status <i>[e.g., Complete, On-Track, Missed]</i>	Change from last quarter <i>[optional column]</i>	Owner <i>[optional column]</i>	Comments <i>[Provide discussion of Progress, changes from last update, Anticipated Barriers or other Issues Related to Milestone Completion]</i>
Identify local champion at each Health Care System (HCS) for implementation of SPED	FY20Q1	Complete			100% of Health Care Systems with an ED/UCC have identified a SPED POC.
Implement monthly reporting to all Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) for increased accountability on safety planning development	FY20Q2	Ongoing			Metrics reporting to VISN CMHOs started in first week of May and is ongoing, monthly.
Implement targeted Technical Assistance (TA) for sites performing below national targets in 3 consecutive months	FY20Q2	On-going			Via emails to VISN CMHOs and EM Leads, TA is being offered to all facilities who have performance under the national benchmark for 3 consecutive months.
Implement national note templates to assist in post-ED follow-up contact documentation and tracking	FY20Q3	Complete			Suicide Risk Management Follow-Up note was required for installation at facilities nationwide by 4/9/20.
Increase the percentage of Veterans who are eligible for SPED that receive a Safety Plan while in the ED to 90%	FY21Q4	In Progress			TA continues to be offered and the implementation team is discovering and documenting best practices to be shared with the field.

Key Indicators – Clinical - SPED

% safety plans completed – 90% Target



Key Milestones (Clinical Strategies – REACH-VET)

Increase the percent of Veterans targeted through predictive modeling algorithms within the VHA system that are successfully reached through REACH VET

Milestone Summary					
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date <i>[e.g., Q2, FY 2017]</i>	Milestone Status <i>[e.g., Complete, On-Track, Missed]</i>	Change from last quarter <i>[optional column]</i>	Owner <i>[optional column]</i>	Comments <i>[Provide discussion of Progress, changes from last update, Anticipated Barriers or other Issues Related to Milestone Completion]</i>
Implement monthly push reporting to all VISNs for increased accountability	FY20Q1	On-going			Monthly reporting to VISN CMHOs regarding REACH VET metrics continues
Offer intensive TA consultation for sites performing below national targets 3 months in a row	FY20Q1	On-going			We continue to offer TA consultation to all sites, but specific requirements for consultation to those who have fallen below the national standard 3 months in a row
Update REACH-VET model and decision support to run at sites with the Cerner medical record.	FY20Q3	In progress			Progress is underway but was stalled due to impacts of COVID-19 pandemic.
Optimize REACH-VET model to improve identification of Veterans at near-term risk of suicide, potentially through additions of new candidate predictors, subgroup analysis, and/or advancement of statistical methods.	FY20Q4	In progress			REACH VET 2.0 model has been finalized and documented.

Key Indicators – Clinical – REACH VET

Completion of clinical strategies for REACH VET



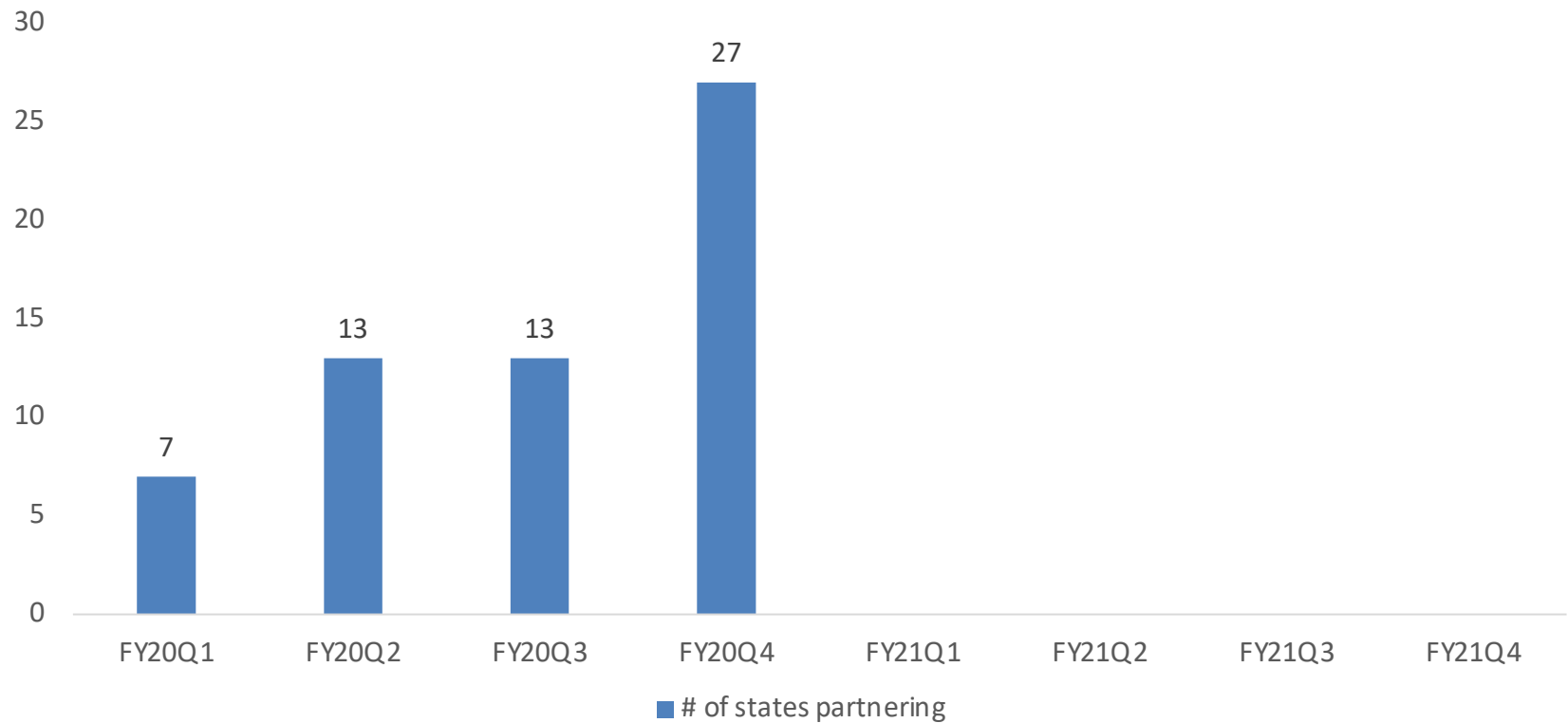
Key Milestones (Community Strategies)

Expand the Governor’s Challenge to 28 states, developing localized community strategic action plans that can be implemented to end Veteran suicide for all Veterans.

Milestone Summary					
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date <i>[e.g., Q2, FY 2017]</i>	Milestone Status <i>[e.g., Complete, On-Track, Missed]</i>	Change from last quarter <i>[optional column]</i>	Owner <i>[optional column]</i>	Comments <i>[Provide discussion of Progress, changes from last update, Anticipated Barriers or other Issues Related to Milestone Completion]</i>
Identify 28 new states to join the Governor’s Challenges	FY20Q1	Complete			Identified 28 States to invite to participate in the Governor’s Challenge.
Issue invitation to first 14 new states to join the Governor’s Challenges	FY20Q1	Complete			Invitations sent via email on 12/4/2019.
Issue invitation to second 14 states to join the Governor’s Challenges	FY20Q2	Complete			Invitations sent via email on 1/10/2020. 21 states accepted invitations; 7 declined.
Conduct Policy Academy for first group (7) of the 14 initial invited states	FY20Q2	Complete			First Policy Academy took place February 25-27, 2020; 6 completed, 1 state declined.
Conduct Policy Academy for second group (7) of the 14 initial invited states	FY20Q3	Complete			Second Policy Academy postponed due to COVID 19; held virtually Aug. 4-6, 2020 with 7 states.
Conduct Policy Academy for third group (7) of the second set of 14 invited states	FY20Q3	Complete			Third Policy Academy held virtually Aug. 18-20, 2020 with 7 states.
Conduct Policy Academy for fourth group (7) of the second set of invited states	FY20Q3	Complete			Fourth Policy Academy cancelled due to 7 states declining. In place of Policy Academy, existing teams will be convened for a virtual conference focused on evaluation Sept. 1-3, 2020.

Key Indicators – Community – Governors Challenge

of States Partnering as part of the Governors Challenge, completing initial Policy Academy



Data Accuracy and Reliability

- Data on whether targeted patient populations receive recommended interventions are based on data elements within the VA Corporate Data Warehouse. Data is limited by accuracy and completeness of clinical coding.
- High risk patients are identified using predictive models developed on VA data. Information on the validation and limitations of these models have been published (Kessler et al., 2017; McCarthy et al., 2015; Oliva et al., 2017)

• Additional Information

Contributing Programs

Organizations:

- States participating in the Governor's Challenge

Policies:

- VHA Handbook 1160, Uniform Mental Health Services

Other Federal Activities:

- Health and Human Services/SAMHSA

Stakeholder / Congressional Consultations

- Congressional consultations
- The Veteran
- Veteran Service Organizations
- Community Partners

Leadership & Implementation Team

Oversight and Program Management

Dr. David Carroll, Executive Director, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (OMHSP)
Dr. Matthew A. Miller, Director for Suicide Prevention, OMHSP

Data and Milestones Leads

Implementation Leads

**Internal
(Clinical)**

**Milestones
Lead**

Dr. Jodie
Trafton,
OMHSP

Data Lead

Dr. Susan
Strickland,

OMHSP

**External
(Community)**

**Aaron Eagan
Milestones
Lead**

Juliana
Hallows,
OMHSP

**REACH VET
and SPED
Leads**

(Clinical)

Dr. Bridget
Matarazzo
and Dr. Kaily
Clark,
OMHSP

**Governor
Challenge
Lead**

(Community)

Ms. Andrea
Le,
OMHSP