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Denver Health honors lives lost to suicide during Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

DENVER (Sept. 9, 2024) — September is [National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month](#) – a time to raise awareness about suicide and suicidal ideation, remember the lives lost to suicide and acknowledge the individuals, families and communities that have been impacted.

“We hardly need a month, a week or a day to shine light on suicide. With 49,000 deaths by suicide per year in the U.S., we continue to face a suicide epidemic,” Denver Health CEO Donna Lynne said. “We can—and must—do better to provide access and resources to those who suffer. Denver Health is working across our health care system to provide critical support where it is needed most. I couldn’t be prouder of everyone on the front lines, and also in the background, who care for those who suffer with such extraordinary compassion.”

During the event, two Denver Health patients shared personal stories of the impacts of suicide. Mackie Robinson shared how his journey with a substance use disorder led to suicidal ideations and attempts, and how calling the suicide hotline helped him receive the psychiatric care he needed. Myra Nagy talked about her experience witnessing suicide deaths while unhoused, which lead her to complete training to better support those in crisis.

“Just know suicide is not the answer,” Robinson said. “No matter how bad it may get, there is always tomorrow. I am so grateful to be alive today. Life is so precious and once you’re gone, you’re gone forever.”

In addition, Danielle Vice, LCSW, director of School-Based Health Centers Integrated Behavioral Health Services at Denver Health, shared about the new Therapeutic Response and Urgent Stabilization Team (TRUST) which seeks to quickly reach kids in crisis and connect them with resources.

“Students who indicate positive responses on a mental health or suicide screen are connected to care in as quickly as 24 hours from referral through TRUST,” Vice said. “Through this new program funded by Caring for Denver, we are able to meet the needs of youth with the most acute behavioral health needs who often fall through the cracks.”

Learn more and watch the full event on [Denver Health’s YouTube channel](#).

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About Denver Health

Denver Health is a comprehensive health and hospital system that provides high-quality care and proudly serves as the city's safety net hospital. For more than 160 years, Denver Health has been guided by its mission to serve the people of Denver, to educate the next generation of health care professionals and to engage in research and community partnerships to better deliver the health care needs of our patients while strengthening our community.