



# 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





# Publications

- Parker, G., Fanning, L., Hawkins, J., Reyna, K., Round, T., Weigel, C. (2009). Adolescent suicide prevention: the Oklahoma community reaches out. *The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*, 40 (4), 177-180.

Manuscript in preparation:

*“Mental Health Check-Ups: Screening Teens in the Community”*





# Questions?

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