



LIVING BEYOND
SUICIDE
SUMMIT

LIVING BEYOND SUICIDE SUMMIT

SUICIDE AND COMMUNITY IN THE CONTEXT OF 988

www.livingbeyondsuicide.org

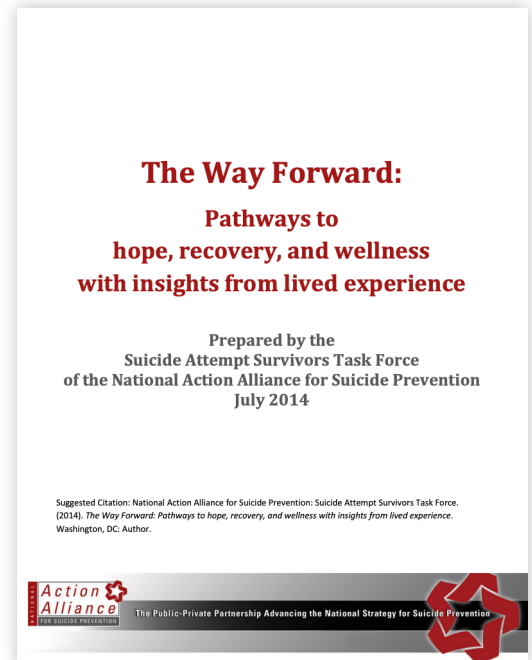
November 1-2, 2023
Golden, Colorado





Summary:

The 2023 Living Beyond Suicide Summit is a collaborative event designed to foster learning, engage diverse voices of experience and promote engagement in issues of suicide and suicide prevention in new ways. The Summit will bring together diverse minds and hearts for co-education and provocative dialogue, with a focus on the intersections of suicide, social injustice, public health, human rights and community empowerment in the context of 988. Primary output of the Summit is a Blueprint for Change focused on solutions for and recommendations on how suicide prevention and postvention is understood and addressed, and a timetable for engaging communities that have not been heard. This Blueprint for Change is in essence the 2.0 version of the 2014 “Way Forward” Policy Paper developed by the Suicide Attempt Survivors Task Force of the National Action Alliance.



Continuing the momentum from the 2015 report "The Way Forward"

Why:

Fifty plus years of suicide prevention activities and research have undoubtedly helped many individuals survive their encounters with suicidal intensity and suicide grief. These efforts however, have not turned the tide or stopped the upward trend in suicide death. Recent increases in “deaths of despair “ among working aged men, children and youth, people of color and women, underscore the fact that what has been done to date does not often address the pain and experience of historically marginalized communities, and the many ways that prejudice, the legacy of racism, poverty and colonialism manifest at the individual level, based on undeniable injustices. Approaches to support for people experiencing suicide as well as those impacted by suicide loss have been driven by the same voices as well -- leaving many communities unheard, unseen, and disempowered in spite of disparate suffering.

A new conversation, framed in terms of “understanding and addressing” suicide (as opposed to ‘preventing suicide’ through intervention), is needed now- to disrupt the conventions, address the failures and correct inequities that have arisen in broader social context as well as within the field of suicide prevention. This new conversation must invite, engage and center the experiences that haven’t been shared, the cultural and community views that haven’t been seen, the many voices outside the suicide prevention ‘sector’ that have never been heard.

With the launch of 988, communities have new opportunities to improve outreach and upstream supports as well as mental health emergency services. Expertise in developing these must include people with lived experience with suicidal intensity, caregiving and loss. Furthermore, according to the recently released data from the Pew Charitable Trust, only 13% of adults in the United States are aware of the national 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline or its purpose. To improve access, we need to engage a wider community of champions.



Delegates at the SPRC sponsored Suicide Experiences Roundtable in Oklahoma City, November 2, 2022

A groundbreaking stakeholder “Suicide Experiences Roundtable” sponsored by Suicide Prevention Resource Center was convened on November 2, 2022 in Oklahoma City. Over two dozen diverse leaders with lived experience explored these directions for change and other needs in suicide prevention and postvention. Core among the findings and recommendations was the need to engage new voices and communities in a broader more inclusive way – in order to take the next step forward in transforming the way suicide experiences are viewed and treated, and new directions for preventing the tragedy of death by suicide.

This “Living Beyond Suicide Summit” is that next step.

What:

This event will include unique presentations on programs and policy related to suicide, as well as special topic caucuses driven by participant interest that bridge lived experience, practice, research and advocacy. The convening will intentionally invite and integrate individuals with lived experience of suicide, including loss survivors, clinical/service survivors, supporters, those with personal experience of suicidal intensity, discrimination, and exclusion, and those with multiple forms of experience and expertise. In addition, key policy leaders and decision-makers will be invited to listen and establish new relationships with the goal of strengthening the 988 impact.

The Summit format is designed as an alternative to specialist, academic and industry-based conferences, with a view to breaking with conventional models and creating new traditions for a transformed and healthier world. In addition to the on-site events of the Summit, key sessions and discussions with the hopes of maximizing inclusion of interested stakeholders.

The collective output goal: “A Blueprint for Transformation: Suicide and Community in the Context of 988.”



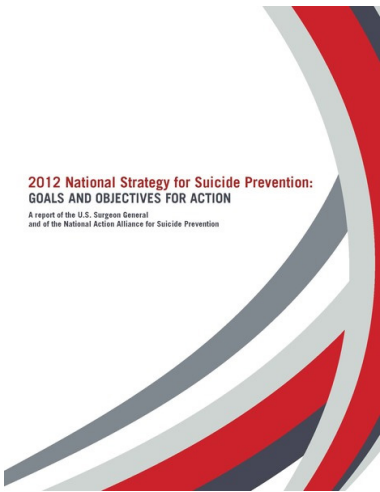
Community-building activities for people with diverse forms of lived and living experience at the Oklahoma City Roundtable

The final program for the Summit is being created with a focus on co-creation, knowledge sharing, innovations, minority voices, community development, healing, and social change. The Summit’s Program Development Committee, a broad coalition of lived experience thought leaders, experts and stakeholders, is derived from attendees at the inaugural Suicide Experiences Roundtable mentioned above.

The hope is that in addition to the Blueprint for Change, another output will be the support for an annual “Living Beyond Suicide Summit” with the 2024 event happening in conjunction with the 2024 Pan-Americas Conference of the International Association for Suicide Prevention in Orlando, Florida on November 9-11.



Building momentum toward the 2024 Pan-America's Conference and revised National Strategy for Suicide Prevention



Who:

Up to 170 individuals are anticipated at this crucial dialogue. The Summit is intended to provide a welcoming space for all stakeholders engaged in the project of “addressing and understanding suicide.” This ‘open tent’ approach is driven by the desire for connection and community, including among those who have not previously been engaged in the movement, with a special focus on people who have been, or felt, marginalized in related convenings. Registration and funding priorities will be geared to fostering inclusivity and engaging new leaders including people of color, ethnic cultural gender and sexual minority individuals, various forms of lived experience and others. Emphasis will be placed on shared experience and expertise, including multiple types of experience and ‘ways of knowing’.

When:

November 1st (evening networking event) and a full day Summit with facilitated discourse on November 2nd.

Where:

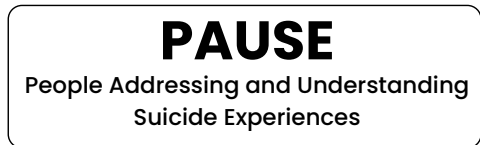
The Summit, as an alternative convening focused on empowerment, community building and co-learning, will be conducted in beautiful Golden, Colorado. With access to healing natural surroundings of the nearby mesas and flatirons – including the iconic Red Rocks Amphitheater – the goal is to provide a respite experience for attendees. The American Mountaineering Center has been identified as an affordable option. These priorities are grounded in the objective to ensure that the Summit as inclusive as possible, and to reduce barriers related to travel and cost.



The Living Beyond Suicide Summit is a program of



with strategic support from



And others!

For more information contact Co-Chairs Sally Spencer-Thomas at [SallySpencerThomas@gmail](mailto:SallySpencerThomas@gmail.com) or **720-244-6535** or Eduardo Vega at e.vega@humannovations.net.

Visit <https://livingbeyondsuicide.org/> for updates on the event.