**After-Action Report: Question, Persuade, Refer Gatekeeper training (QPR), September 28, 2017**

Vet to Vet Tennessee (V2VT) and the Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council provided their monthly Veteran Specific QPR training at Cornerstone of Recovery, Louisville, Tennessee. Rod Jackson, Cornerstone Recovery Monitoring & Veterans Services Program Director co-facilitates.

1. The program was conducted by Sheryn & Don Davis, Freddie Owens and Ed Junod.
2. The QPR training session was 90 minutes; Ed Junod is a certified QPR Institute QPR Gatekeeper instructor.
3. Cornerstone printed the course handouts and provided excellent audio and visual equipment.
4. Reviewed the VAOIG September 19, 2017 *“Overview of VA Suicide Prevention Efforts and Data Collection.”*
5. Reviewed the September 27, 2017 VA statement on *“#bethere: What more can be done to prevent Veteran Suicide”* by John D. Daigh, Jr., M.D., CPA Assistant Inspector General for Healthcare Inspections, VA.
6. V2VT prepared white hand out bags with suicide prevention material provided by the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network and the VA Knoxville Outpatient Clinic.
7. Total attendance included:
   1. 9 males, 1 female, 10 veterans
   2. Average age of attendees was 33.40
   3. 100% surveys returned.
   4. 100% attendees acknowledged they know someone who is or was suicidal.
   5. First suicide prevention training for 80% of the attendees.
   6. One active duty veteran is currently a suicide prevention coordinator.
   7. 100% attendees have firearms.
   8. One witnessed the deceased body of a friend who had committed suicide by hanging 3 years ago.
   9. **One (1) admitted they have attempted suicide**

**Comments**:

1. *“Have been through training before and am the suicide prevention coordinator for my unit and still learned things today that I had never heard. Thank you all.”*
2. *“Had suicide training before. I wish we had more time! Everything is current and up to date on stats and changes within the VA”*

**Lessons Learned:**

1. “Thumbs Up” technique identified a young veteran who disclosed a previous suicide attempt
2. Great group interaction and discussion
3. One veteran used the VA Crisis line and was very happy with the results, however, he had to wait for 11 minutes before a counselor answered. *“Very stressful 11 minutes, almost hung up”*
4. Having current VA suicidal reports were very helpful. Encouraged veterans that the VA cares and is improving veteran suicide prevention programs.
5. Encouraged veterans to use the VA for mental health services.
6. Encouraged enrollment into a veteran support group.

The next Veteran specific QPR training is scheduled for Thursday October 26, 2017 at Cornerstone of Recovery.

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