**After-Action Report: Question, Persuade, Refer Gatekeeper training (QPR), October 26, 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 testimony of Craig J. Bryan, PsyD,, ABPP to Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affair September 27, 2017 [“Veteran Suicide.”](http://d31hzlhk6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20170927/88/aa/30/10/41fd91e1a9225c6124bb44a4/Bryan_NCVS_Testimony_09.27.2017.pdf) *Testimony stated* ***“only 30% of all Veterans who died from suicide were VA users, which means the considerable majority of suicides are occurring among Veterans external to the VA.”***
5. V2VT prepared white hand out bags with suicide prevention material provided by the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network and the VA Knoxville Outpatient Clinic.
6. Total attendance included:
   1. 10 male veterans; all five branches represented
   2. Average age of attendees was 33.40
   3. 90% surveys returned.
   4. 100% attendees acknowledged they know someone who is or was suicidal.
   5. First suicide prevention training for 9% of the attendees.
   6. 100% attendees have firearms.
   7. **No one admitted publicly, however, one vet revealed he was currently suicidal after the session.**

**Comments**:

1. *“Screaming in a room with suicidal people is a bad idea. Once you were done with your bad demonstration I barely heard a word you said. I had no desire to listen to you after that.”* Rated the course 7
2. *“Good class.”*
3. *“Awesome. Learned a lot. Exceptional”*
4. *Great presentation. Thank you so much.”*

**Lessons Learned:**

1. Response to the role playing has been well received for years; this is the first exception. Most of the veterans stated the role-playing is one of the most memorable positive segment of the training.
2. In the future, we will notify the attendees about the role-playing segment and lower the volume.
3. Great group interaction and discussion
4. One veteran was involved with a high risk suicidal individual and was asked *“If suicide was a sin?”*
5. Excellent discussion about the VA and the veteran interaction.
6. Encouraged veterans to use the VA for mental health/suicide services.
7. Encouraged enrollment into a veteran support group.

The next Veteran specific QPR training is scheduled for Thursday November 30, 2017 at Cornerstone of Recovery.

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