

For Immediate Release
Thursday, September 20, 2007

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**Community Input Requested for Suicide Prevention
and Intervention Plan**

Grand Junction, Colo. September 25, 2007 – In 1998, Governor Romer developed the Colorado Suicide Prevention and Intervention Plan to address Colorado’s high suicide rate, assess trends and identify recommendations to address the problem. This year, the plan is being updated and will incorporate the participation of many partners across the state dedicated to preventing suicide and who aim to reduce Colorado’s suicide rate, which is 7th highest in the nation.

Miriam Dunnan, Project Director states, “We love and promote Colorado as a year-round mountain playground. Yet, our beautiful state has one of the highest suicide rates in the nation. That’s unacceptable.”

Mental Health America of Colorado (formerly the Mental Health Association of Colorado) and **Western Colorado Suicide Prevention Foundation** are coordinating the second of five stakeholder meetings to gather feedback about the needs and solutions that will reduce suicide in our state. **First Lady of Colorado, Mrs. Jeannie Ritter** is the Honorary Chairperson of the Advisory Council.

What: Suicide Prevention and Intervention Plan Stakeholder Meeting

When: Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2007
12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Where: The Museum of Western Colorado
Education Center
248 S. 4th Street
Grand Junction, CO

Who: Members of the community interested in reducing suicide in Colorado including: mental health professionals, consumers, educators, individuals and family members who have lost a loved one to suicide, policy makers, representatives of nonprofits working the health or mental health fields.

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“Through this partnership process, we are determined to bring together the best input and strategies for suicide prevention and intervention. These programs will provide life saving services. We all have a stake in this issue and we can all bring good ideas to the table to create a successful plan,” stated **Jeanne M. Rohner, President and CEO of Mental Health America of Colorado.**

The meeting in Grand Junction is the second in a series of regional meetings that will be held across the state through fall 2007, culminating in a comprehensive plan which is expected to be completed by May, 2008. Coordinated, statewide prevention efforts, reduction in suicides and suicide attempts as well as increased mental health funding are expected outcomes of the taskforce.

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About Mental Health America of Colorado

Mental Health America of Colorado, formerly the Mental Health Association of Colorado, is the catalyst and voice for the Colorado mental health movement. Through Education, Advocacy, Outreach and Prevention we provide resources to Coloradoans affected by the entire spectrum of mental health issues.

About The Colorado Trust

Funding for the Suicide Prevention and Intervention Plan is provided by The Colorado Trust, a grantmaking foundation dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of the people of Colorado. The foundation has been supporting suicide prevention efforts since 2000. To learn more, visit www.coloradotrust.org.

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