

**For Immediate Release**  
**Tuesday, September 4, 2007**

Contact: Jacy Conradt, Community Relations Coordinator  
Phone: 720-208-2234  
Email: [jconradt@mhacolorado.org](mailto:jconradt@mhacolorado.org)

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

**Greeley, Colo.** September 5, 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 7<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation. **Mental Health America of Colorado** (formerly the Mental Health Association of Colorado) is coordinating the first of five stakeholder meetings to gather feedback about the needs and solutions that will reduce suicide in our state.

**What:** Suicide Prevention and Intervention Plan Stakeholder Meeting

**When:** Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2007  
1:00p.m. – 5:00p.m.

**Where:** Greeley Police Department  
2875 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Greeley, CO

**Who:** Members of the community and northeast Colorado 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.

The **First Lady of Colorado, Mrs. Jeannie Ritter**, is Honorary Chairperson of the plan committee, she recently shared, “I’m very proud to be a part of the combined efforts of The Colorado Trust and MHAC to demonstrate that depression is treatable, and that there are avenues for intervention. We are determined to ensure that people know how to ask for help for themselves or someone they care about.”

“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**.

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The meeting in Greeley is the first 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 Coloradans 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](http://www.coloradotrust.org).