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# Zero Suicide Evaluation

## Key Informant Interview Guide

### Cost Sub-Study

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Thank you so much for taking the time to speak with me today. My name is [NAME] and I work for Aptive/ ICF. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the Department of Health and Human Services is evaluating their Zero Suicide in Health Systems program. Aptive Resources along with its partner ICF (together as Team Aptive) are contracted by SAMHSA to conduct this evaluation. As part of this evaluation, we are conducting qualitative telephone interviews with administrators at provider organizations and other key staff involved in the Zero Suicide program.

These interviews gather context information around the suicide prevention care practices and the extent of implementation of the Zero Suicide Framework within your organization. Specifically, this interview will the cost implication of implementing Zero Suicide. We are asking you to provide information on [AGENCY NAME] program because of your involvement in the Zero Suicide program to date.

If you agree to be interviewed, here are some things you should know:

- You may ask questions about this evaluation at any time before, during or after the interview.
- Your participation in this survey is voluntary. There are no penalties or consequences for not participating. You may stop answering questions at any time, for any reason, and you may choose not to respond to any questions that you do not want to respond to without any impact on your job.
- The information that we report to SAMHSA will not contain any identifying information and your name will not be used in any reports about this evaluation.
- We want your permission to record this interview to ensure we accurately capture the details you provide.
- The interview should last approximately 30 minutes.
- You will receive a copy of this consent form via email.
- If you have any concerns about your participation in this study or have any questions about the evaluation, please contact Christine Walrath, principal investigator, at (646) 695-8154 or [christine.walrath@icf.com](mailto:christine.walrath@icf.com).
- For any questions related to your rights as they related to this research, please contact the ICF IRF at [IRB@icf.com](mailto:IRB@icf.com).

Do you agree to participate in this interview? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Do we have your permission to record this interview? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**To start off, I would like to ask a few questions about your role within [AGENCY NAME] and your responsibilities for the Zero Suicide Program.**

1. How would you describe your role within [AGENCY NAME]?
  - a. What is your title/position?
  - b. How long have you worked in this role (title/position)?
  - c. What are your key responsibilities overall?
  - d. What is your role/responsibilities for the Zero Suicide program?

**Now that we've discussed your role a, let's talk through the implementation of Zero Suicide .**

2. Can you briefly provide an overview of the implementation of Zero Suicide at your organization? What are the goals of your program?
  - a. How would you describe your agency's approach to the implementation of the Zero Suicide Framework? What key activities are you implementing as part of the program?
  - b. What was your organization's suicide prevention approach prior to beginning the Zero Suicide implementation? (i.e., Was there a suicide risk assessment or screening tool used? Was there a treatment or referral protocol in place? If so, what was the protocol?)

**Managing the financial aspects is crucial.**

3. Could you provide an overview of the Zero Suicide program's budget, including both grant-funded activities and additional costs, such as lost revenue due to staff training, investments in screening, assessment, and treatment methods, as well as follow-up services and data systems?
4. In terms of financial implications, how do you manage the costs associated with staff training, implementing evidence-based treatments, and enhancing screening and assessment processes for the Zero Suicide program?
5. How do you calculate the cost of implementing Zero Suicide per consumer and the cost per outcome, considering the program's various elements?
6. What strategies do you employ to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the Zero Suicide program, and have you conducted any cost-benefit analyses to gauge its financial efficiency and effectiveness in suicide prevention?
7. Can you describe the current funding and reimbursement models for suicide care in your organization, including the primary challenges you face with these models?
8. What are your views on the creation of a specialized suicide care bundle for billable services, and how do you think it would affect the implementation of the Zero Suicide program in your organization?
9. Have you conducted any return on investment (ROI) analyses for the suicide care services? If so, what were the key findings? If not, what barriers have you encountered in conducting such an analysis?
10. What specific changes or innovations at the federal/national level do you suggest for funding and reimbursement to support the implementation of Zero Suicide more effectively?

**As we near the end of our discussion, let's talk about an essential aspect - behavioral health equity.**

11. How does your organization address behavioral health equity in the context of the Zero Suicide program? Please discuss any strategies or practices you have implemented to ensure that suicide

prevention services are accessible and effective across diverse and underserved populations, including any specific adaptations made to cater to the unique needs of these groups.

Thank you very much for participating in this interview. Again, your participation is critical in helping us better understand your program activities and what has been helpful and not so helpful related to implementing the Zero Suicide program.



