

# The Mental Health Association in North Carolina

*Working for North Carolina's Mental Health through Advocacy, Education, & Service*

## ***Suicide Prevention Hotline calls to be redirected***

The Nation's 1-800-SUICIDE Hotline may go out of service this Saturday, August 12. ***Help is immediately available through 1-800-273-TALK.***

The entire suicide prevention community is working diligently to ensure that every person calling for help during a suicidal crisis is answered. The federal Department of Health and Human Services through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, are putting measures in place to make this happen. They include:

- Ensuring that the entire suicide-prevention community is working the phones and Internet to make sure that all referring agencies know that 1-800-273-TALK is the number to call for suicide intervention.
- Notifying service providers, including directory 411 and 211 operators, that 1-800-SUICIDE is scheduled to go out of service beginning August 12, 2006 and to direct callers to 1-800-273-TALK for help.
- Redirecting callers who call 1-800-SUICIDE to call 1-800-273-TALK through a recording.

**The data remind us daily of the numbers of individuals – both young and old – who are in crisis and contemplating suicide.** Suicide is the eighth leading cause of death in the United States. More years of life are lost to suicide than to any other single cause except heart disease and cancer. Annually, 30,000 Americans commit suicide and an additional 500,000 Americans attempt suicide annually.

**MHA/NC AFFILIATES:** Please be sure to share this information with your programs, providers and other constituents. In addition, please begin to change information you may have on your Web site and materials from 1-800-SUICIDE to call 1-800-273-TALK.

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