

Script for Key Informant Interviews

[Done primarily as Microsoft Teams calls that will be previously arranged by email. Interviewer will have done research on [CMHC]'s current suicide prevention strategies, particularly regarding how they relate to the Zero Suicide framework.]

Interviewer: _____ Date of interview: _____ Interviewee (first & last initial only): _____
Interviewee's Organization: _____ Interviewee's Role in the Organization: _____

Microsoft Teams, phone or in-person: _____

Interviewer:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today. My name is RM and I'm a second-year medical student at the Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont. I'm working with TD to look at how [CMHC]'s Zero Suicide work has been shared and strengthened through working with community partners. To look further into this, we have contacted people who worked with [CMHC] like yourself to better understand these arrangements and their impact on suicide prevention.

Everything you tell me will be confidential. We may use quotes from this interview, but not in a way that would identify you. We will not share any information you share with us and that could lead to you being identified, unless you give us permission. A recording and transcript will be made of our conversation, but your name will not appear on the transcript and the recording will be destroyed afterward.

This interview will probably take about 30 minutes. You can stop the interview at any time, and there is no penalty if you choose to end the interview. Are you ready to start the questions?

If no, ask if there's a time they can be available. If yes, proceed to questions below.

Q1: To start off, can you tell me about your role in your organization and how that relates to suicide prevention? *Follow up: In particular, can you tell me about the work you and your organization have done with [CMHC]? Does your organization have any formal agreements with [CMHC], like an MOU or a joint pathway to care?*

Q2: When you've been in contact with [CMHC] about suicide prevention, is there a particular person that reaches out to you or that you reach out to who has been important to your suicide prevention work? How did you get connected with that person? How often are you communicating with this person or [CMHC]? Is your engagement with [CMHC] around suicide prevention ongoing or from the past? If in the past, why has that connection changed?

Q3: Thinking about your experience working with [CMHC] around suicide prevention, what aspects of that work has helped your organization? How has that work also helped the people you serve? *Can list different aspects to help them identify topics if they're having trouble (ex. coordinating*

care, adopting suicide-specific screenings, collaboration around training). Follow up: What changes have you made in your organization with or without [CMHC] involvement?

Q4: In designing and implementing changes to your organization's suicide prevention work, what were some of the barriers you encountered in making those changes? What were some of those ways you were able to overcome those barriers in your suicide prevention work? What measures were put into place to make the implementation of changes easier for you and your team?

Q5: Aside from [CMHC], who are the other partners in [CMHC's county] or beyond who have been important in helping your organization improve how you support people who might be at risk for suicide?

Q6: If there was anything you could change about the work you've done with [CMHC] regarding suicide prevention, regardless of current financial or political circumstances, what would you change and why? For example, what are some changes that would make coordinating with [CMHC] easier? What changes would you make for your organization *outside* of your work with [CMHC]?

Q7: Thank you for telling me about the work you've done with [CMHC]. Now that we have talked through those questions, what are some aspects of your organization's suicide prevention work or how you've worked with [CMHC] that we haven't yet talked about but are important for me to know?

Q8: Lastly, do you know of any other people who would be fitting for this interview and willing to speak with us? If so, would you provide their name(s)?

Again, thank you for taking the time to talk with me today. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this interview, or if you would like to make additional comments later, please reach out to RM at [RM email].