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### ***Three New Influential Leaders Join National Public-Private Partnership to Prevent Suicide***

*Prominent leaders representing diverse sectors bring new expertise and vision to national suicide prevention efforts*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The [National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention](#) (Action Alliance) – the nation’s only public-private partnership charged with advancing the [National Strategy for Suicide Prevention](#) (National Strategy), a collaborative effort by the Action Alliance and the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General – announced the appointment of three new national leaders to its [Executive Committee](#) (EXCOM):

- [Bonnie Carroll](#), President and Founder, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) – U.S. non-profit organization that provides care and support to families and friends grieving the loss of a member of the armed forces
- [David Guth](#), Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of Centerstone – a not-for-profit health care organization that provides mental health care, addiction treatment and community education in Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee, and specialized programs nationally for service members, veterans and their loved ones
- [Chirlane McCray](#), First Lady of New York City and Founder, ThriveNYC – an innovative comprehensive approach to improving mental health for all NYC residents

The Action Alliance Executive Committee brings together more than 40 influential leaders and organizations from the public (e.g., the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Defense, the National Institute of Mental Health, the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General) and private sector (e.g., Facebook, International Association of Chiefs of Police, Union Pacific Railroad, Johnson and Johnson, Kaiser Permanente, Resolute Forest Products, The Joint Commission) to build a robust and effective national suicide prevention response.

“These three leaders bring both an impressive set of accomplishments and influence within their sector and their leadership will help the Action Alliance advance suicide prevention nationally,” said Bob Turner, Private Sector Chair of the Action Alliance and former Senior Vice President at Union Pacific Corporation. “The Action Alliance is committed to bringing the nation’s leading influencers together as part of a broad sector approach to preventing in suicide across the country.”

The goal of the Action Alliance’s diverse EXCOM is to provide strategic direction to advance the *National Strategy* and progress the Action Alliance’s key priorities—which were chosen for their potential to produce the systems-level impact necessary to substantially lowering the number of suicides in our nation. These include:

- **Transforming health systems** by working with healthcare leaders to fundamentally transform the delivery of suicide care in our nation to ensure individuals have access to effective care, when and where they need it;
- **Transforming community-based suicide care** by supporting efforts to put into practice effective suicide prevention strategies at the community level including efforts to advance workplace suicide prevention and to reach faith communities; and
- **Changing the conversation** about suicide and suicide prevention by working with news and entertainment media and public messengers to change the national narrative so that we are talking openly about suicide as we often talk about other public health issues.

“Ms. Carroll, Mr. Guth, and First Lady McCray represent the future of suicide prevention leadership where health care systems, city leadership, and NGO’s come together to ensure that prevention occurs across the continuum and within clinical and non-clinical settings,” said Dr. Carolyn Clancy, Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Discovery, Education, and Affiliate Networks, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. “Their willingness to offer leadership to this important public health challenge will strengthen the work of the Action Alliance and suicide prevention national.”

Action Alliance welcomes these three new members:

“TAPS is committed to working with the Action Alliance to leverage our impact, especially among Military and Veterans Service Organizations across the U.S., to reach all those who may be grieving the death of a military loved one, including by suicide,” said **Bonnie Carroll**. “While suicide is not solely a veteran or military problem, suicide is a major concern among these populations—and it is vital that we support those who have served and sacrificed for our country.”

“I am truly honored to be joining the Action Alliance’s partnership for suicide prevention. Suicide continues to claim the lives of so many of our family, friends, and neighbors despite the growing science showing how all of us can be involved in detecting those at risk and providing the needed help. I look forward to being part of this national collaboration of leaders together who are committed to stemming the tide of this devastating epidemic,” said **David Guth**. “At Centerstone, we understand the importance of providing the safest suicide care, and we hope to help further advance the Action Alliance’s priority of transforming health systems.”

“As the Founder of ThriveNYC and leader of the national Cities Thrive Coalition, I am delighted to see the Action Alliance’s community-based efforts, especially those aimed at reaching faith communities and workplaces,” said **Chirlane McCray**. “I join the Action Alliance in its commitment to advance community-based suicide prevention efforts, so that together, we can reach all people, especially those in crisis or having thoughts of suicide, wherever they live, work, and pray.”

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**FOR MEDIA PARTNERS:**

Research shows that the media may influence suicide rates by the way they report on suicide. Evidence suggests that when the media tell stories of people positively coping in suicidal moments, more suicides can be prevented. We urge all members of the media working on these stories to refer to the

[Recommendations for Reporting on Suicide](#) for best practices for safely and accurately reporting on suicide (such as including the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-TALK \[8255\]](#)). For stories of persons with lived experience of suicidality and finding hope, refer to [www.lifelineforattempt survivors.org](http://www.lifelineforattempt survivors.org).

#### **NATIONAL ACTION ALLIANCE FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION:**

The [National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention](#) is the public-private partnership working to advance the [National Strategy for Suicide Prevention](#) and make suicide prevention a national priority. The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) provides funding to [EDC](#) to operate and manage the Secretariat for the Action Alliance, which was launched in 2010. Learn more at [actionallianceforsuicideprevention.org](http://actionallianceforsuicideprevention.org) and join the conversation on suicide prevention by following the Action Alliance on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

#### **CENTERSTONE**

Centerstone is a not-for-profit health care organization dedicated to delivering care that changes people's lives. We provide mental health and substance abuse treatment, education and support to communities in Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee and additionally offer individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities life skills development, employment and housing services. Nationally, we have specialized programs for service members, veterans and their loved ones, and develop employee assistance programs for businesses of all sizes. Our research institute improves behavioral healthcare through research and technology, and our foundation secures philanthropic resources to support our work. For more information, visit [www.centerstone.org](http://www.centerstone.org).

#### **OFFICE OF ThriveNYC**

The Office of ThriveNYC reflects an unprecedented commitment by the City of New York to create a comprehensive mental health framework that meets the diverse needs of all New Yorkers. ThriveNYC aims to develop a broader understanding of mental health, build new pathways to care, close treatment gaps, and identify community-based solutions. ThriveNYC is reimagining the way the City approaches mental well-being by working across City agencies and fostering strategic partnerships with entities outside of City government. The work is guided by six principles for achieving sustainable innovation: change the culture, act early, close treatment gaps, partner with communities, use data better, and strengthen the government's ability to lead. For more information on the Office of ThriveNYC, please visit [thrivenyc.cityofnewyork.us](http://thrivenyc.cityofnewyork.us).

#### **TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS**

The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) is the leading national organization providing compassionate care and survivor support services for the families of America's fallen military heroes. Since 1994, TAPS has offered support to more than 85,000 survivors of fallen military in the form of peer-based emotional support, grief and trauma resources, grief seminars and retreats for adults, Good Grief Camps for children, case work assistance, connections to community-based care, online and in-person support groups and a 24/7 resource and information helpline for all who have been affected by a death in the Armed Forces. Services are provided free of charge. For more information go to [www.taps.org](http://www.taps.org) or call the toll-free TAPS resource and information helpline at 1.800.959.TAPS (8277).