

For Immediate Release
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**Rockingham Community Prevention Coalition, Allies in Substance Abuse Prevention,
Region J, Trained in Suicide Prevention**

School and community coalition staff from Derry, Epping, Newmarket, Raymond, Salem, Seabrook, and Timberlane recently completed a Connect 3-day Train the Trainer youth suicide prevention training conducted by NAMI NH, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and funded by the Department of Education Safe and Drug-Free Schools grant.

Designated as a national “Best Practice” Program, Frameworks/Connect was developed in NH and is operated by NAMI NH. The Frameworks/Connect suicide prevention training program focuses on teaching school community members how to:

- *Recognize* – youth at risk of suicide;
- *Connect* – with the youth;
- *Connect* – the youth to a qualified health care provider who can assess risk; and
- *Connect* – the school community to work together on community risk and protective factors and to reduce youth suicide.

The 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) indicates that 1 out of 7 high school students had seriously considered suicide within the past year. Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for New Hampshire youth, ages 10-24, and based on numbers reported in the YRBS, it is estimated that thousands of NH youth may be at risk of a suicide attempt every year.

Everyone plays a part in suicide prevention. These Connect Suicide Prevention Trainers from Derry, Epping, Newmarket, Raymond, Salem, Seabrook, and Timberlane will be offering free Connect trainings within their own communities. The Project encourages bringing schools, law enforcement, EMS, health care professionals, mental health providers, social service agencies, clergy, and community members together to work in suicide prevention. Over 2,000 people from across the state of NH have been trained in Connect suicide prevention.

While the training focuses on youth suicide, the skills learned apply to all ages. For more information, please contact Cyndi Desrosiers, Allies in Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, pcCOORDINATORJ@comcast.net or by phone at (603) 436-5554 x 147. For more information on the Connect Project and suicide prevention efforts in New Hampshire, go to www.naminh.org.