The rate of Vermonters who die by suicide has for some time been higher than the national average. The Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care (VPQHC) is working with local partners to increase the number of Independent Mental Health providers trained in Suicide Specific treatment protocols.

VPQHC is working with private funders to significantly reduce the cost of Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS) https://cams-care.com/about-cams/ training for independent mental health providers. Practitioners trained by this program learn a therapeutic framework for assessing and treating suicidal risk. This flexible approach can be used across theoretical orientations and disciplines for a wide range of suicidal patients across treatment settings and different treatment modalities.

This training begins with watching an unscripted clinical demonstration video featuring the creator of CAMS, Dr. David A. Jobes. He teaches the CAMS Framework by showing how he works with a patient through the course of 12 sessions. The video is self-paced and takes approximately three hours to complete. After watching this initial video, clinicians choose at least four out of eight bi-weekly Consultation Calls. These calls reinforce learning through case discussions with experienced CAMS consultants.

After participants complete the training, VPQHC adds them to its Trained Provider Registry, https://www.vpqhc.org/trained-providers a growing list of providers who are trained in suicide specific treatment protocols.

CAMS is regarded as a best-practice model and it is referenced in the national Zero Suicide Toolkit and has been successfully integrated into many Zero Suicide initiatives. Go to this link https://cams-care.com/ to learn more about the CAMS framework.

Mental health providers may register for the CAMS training this spring at this link: https://www.vpqhc.org/cams-2022spring-registration. CEUs are available for psychologists, social workers and LCMHCs for $36.