

From: Katz, Ira R.
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 11:42 AM
To: Chasen, Ev
Subject: RE: Not for the CBS News Interview Request
I want to wait until Jan gets back from leave and then plan talking points with her.

Ira R Katz, MD, PhD
Deputy Chief Patient Care Services Office for Mental Health

Phone: [REDACTED]
FAX: [REDACTED]

From: Chasen, Ev
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 11:40 AM
To: Katz, Ira R.
Subject: RE: Not for the CBS News Interview Request

I think this is something we should discuss among ourselves, before issuing a release. Is the fact that we're stopping them good news, or is the sheer number bad news? And is this more than we've ever seen before? It might be something we drop into a general release about our suicide prevention efforts, which (as you know far better than I) prominently include training employees to recognize the warning signs of suicide.

From: Katz, Ira R.
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 11:27 AM
To: Chasen, Ev
Subject: FW:Not for the CBS News Interview Request

Shhl

Our suicide prevention coordinators are identifying about 1000 suicide attempts per month among the veterans we see in our medical facilities. Is this something we should (carefully) address ourselves in some sort of release before someone stumbles on it?

Ira R Katz, MD, PhD
Deputy Chief Patient Care Services Office for Mental Health

Phone: [REDACTED]
FAX: [REDACTED]

From: Katz, Ira R.
Sent: Saturday, December 15, 2007 12:43 PM
To: Kussman, Michael J, M.D.
Subject: Re: Suicides

There are about 18 suicides per day among America's 25 million veterans. This follows from CDC findings that 20% of suicides are among veterans it is supported by the CBS numbers.

VA's own data demonstrate 4-5 suicides per day among those who receive care from us.

----- Original Message -----

From: Kussman, Michael J, M.D.
To: Katz, Ira R.; Zeiss, Antonette
Cc: Cross, Gerald M.; Van Diepen, Louise R; O'Grady, Laura (VHACO)
Sent: Sat Dec 15 10:26:38 2007
Subject: Suicides

Folks,

In the Clips this morning, our friend Chris Adams in the McLatchy Papers alleges that 18 veterans kill themselves every day and this is confirmed by the VA's own statistics. Is that true? Sounds awful but if one is considering 24 million veterans.

Michael J. Kussman, MD, MS, MACP
Brigadier General, United States Army, Retired
Under Secretary For Health
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC, 20420
Telephone. [REDACTED]
Fax. [REDACTED]