

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Boise VAMC Understanding the Veterans Affairs

St Lukes 3/28/24

Travis Schmidt, LCSW

Tacy McCoy, LCSW

Boise VA Healthcare System

Objectives

- Share VA resources with community providers/ staff and the service members, veterans, and families they work with.
- Suicide prevention as a public health issue.
- Boise VA crisis and suicide prevention resources.

What is the VA?

- Veterans Healthcare Administration
 - If you qualify for VA health care, you'll receive coverage for the services you need to help you get—and stay—healthy. Learn more about your health care benefits.
- Veterans Benefits Administration
 - Common VA Benefits: Disability, Veterans Readiness and Employment (Voc Rehab), Pension, VA Home Loan, Life insurance
- National Cemetery Services
 - VA burial benefits: find out how to apply for the burial benefits you've earned, and how to plan for a burial in advance or at time of need.

How do I access the VA?

- Online: www.va.gov
- In person:
 - Boise VA Medical Center @ 500 Fort St. Boise, ID
 - Boise Vet Center @ 2424 Bank Dr, Boise, ID
 - Boise Regional Office @ 444 Fort St. Boise, ID
- Call
 - Boise VA Medical Center 208-422-1000
 - Boise Vet Center 208-342-3612
 - VA Benefits Hotline 800-827-1000
 - National Cemetery Services 800-535-1117
- **NEED YOUR DD214 to prove eligibility for all services.**



- www.veterans.idaho.gov
- Idaho Division of Veterans Services (IDVS)
- Appt only – (208) 780-1380
- Offices in: Boise, Nampa, Caldwell, Twin Falls, Pocatello, Lewiston, Post Falls
- Boise Office: 444 W Fort St. Boise, ID 83702
- Accredited Veteran Services Officers (VSO) – VFW, American Legion



- Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
- www.dav.org
- Walk-in Appts only
- Office: Boise VA Regional Office
- 444 W Fort St. Boise, ID 83702
- Veteran Services Officers (VSO) – DAV

Boise VAMC Suicide Prevention

Services Include:

- Veterans Crisis Line 988, press 1
- Compact Act- veterans can go to any ER/ Urgent care
- Managing Veterans who are identified as High Risk and collaborating with providers to continue to assess for safety
- Lethal Means Counseling – Gun Locks/ Medication disposal bags
- Community Outreach- Travis Schmidt
- S.A.V.E. Education for VA staff or community
- Postvention care for families and VA staff



How to connect with the Suicide Prevention Team?

Call us:

Kate (Katherine) Pape (SPC), 208-422-1000 ext:7504

Maritza Lorenzana, Victoria Thompson, Brooke Hanson (SPS)

Tacy McCoy (COMPACT Act)

Travis Schmidt, travis.schmidt2@va.gov, 208-353-8378 (CEPC)

Email us: VHASPCID-531BOISuicidePreventionTeam@va.gov

Healthcare Programs at Boise VAMC

- Primary Care/ Pharmacy/ Women Veteran Care
- Mental Health (inpatient/ outpatient)/ Suicide Prevention
- Specialty Care
 - Audiology/ speech/ optometry
 - Cancer/ hematology/ oncology
 - Neurology/ pain management/rehab and extended care/ surgery
- Social programs
 - Caregiver support/ Homeless/ LGBTQ+/ patient advocates/ post 9/11/ social work
- Whole health