



## BCBSM launches new CQI to address suicide prevention

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Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States. It is the only cause (with the exception of COVID) with rising rates, with an approximate 25 percent higher prevalence today than in 2020. Roughly, 48,000 people die of suicide each year, with nearly 1.4 million people attempting suicide annually. Health care systems are an important environment to prevent suicide, and Blue Cross is excited to announce its partnership with Henry Ford Health in launching the **Michigan Mental Innovation Network and Program Design (MI Mind) Collaborative Quality Initiative (CQI)**.

The overall purpose of MI Mind is to engage psychiatrists, psychologists, and primary care physicians to improve suicide prevention and care across the State of Michigan. The core CQI program will begin by collaborating with Provider Organizations to determine and implement system-specific suicide prevention elements and utilize data to implement rapid cycle quality improvement processes. Originally developed at Henry Ford, the Zero Suicide model leverages a care pathway comprised of a series of evidence-based suicide prevention practices, including screening and intervention. The model has now been adopted nationally as part of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention and internationally across more than 20 countries. Many health systems have started to implement the Zero Suicide model, but have not yet had the opportunity or forum the CQI will provide to develop approaches to work together.

The MI Mind collaborative is being led by Program Director, Brian Ahmedani, Ph.D., LCSW, Director for the Center for Health Policy and Health Services Research at Henry Ford Health and is internationally recognized for his work in suicide prevention, including the National Zero Suicide Model and Cathrine Frank, M.D., a practicing, licensed, and board certified psychiatrist; Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Services at Henry Ford Health; and widely regarded as the original clinical architect of the Zero Suicide program.

Recruitment for the MI Mind began in the first quarter of 2022, and the collaborative will officially go-live later in 2022. For more information about MI Mind, or any of the Collaborative Quality Initiatives, please email [MI Mind@hfhs.org](mailto:MI Mind@hfhs.org).