

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 30th, 2018

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**PRESS ADVISORY: NATIONAL EXPERTS TO HOLD SUMMIT WITH OREGON JOURNALISTS ON REPORTING ON SUICIDE**

Suicide takes the lives of over 700 Oregonians each year – but news organizations struggle with how and when to report on suicide.

On September 27, 2018, Lines for Life, the Oregon Association of Broadcasters, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and print, broadcast and digital journalists from around Oregon will host a Summit on Reporting on Suicide.

The Summit will be open to journalists from around the Pacific Northwest, and will feature interactive conversations with national experts on suicide prevention and the challenges and opportunities for reporting on suicide.

KGW will host the event in its Portland studios, and the event will be livestreamed and available for viewing around the Northwest.

The past year has brought substantial new attention to the crisis of suicide in the United States – with high profile deaths and the release of pathbreaking new report on suicide by the Centers for Disease Control (<https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/suicide/index.html>). More than two people on average die by suicide every day in Oregon – with youth suicide climbing steeply in recent years.

At the same time, resources – and hope – are increasingly available to people struggling with depression and suicidal thoughts. Over 25,000 Oregonians reached out for help from the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline in the last year – nearly double the number from 2012.

The Summit on Reporting on Suicide will equip journalists to report on this public health crisis and particular incidents of suicide responsibly and effectively. National experts will join leading local journalists to share strategy, best practices, and expert resources to help journalists navigate the challenges of reporting on suicide.

“The media has the power to positively impact suicide prevention. By sharing the stories of those who have survived crisis and providing resources for people who are struggling, media outlets and journalists have the power to change the public conversation about suicide, from one of tragedy to one of hope and healing,” said Dr. John Draper, Director of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and Executive Vice President, National Networks, of Vibrant Emotional Health.

“We are thrilled to pair national experts with Oregon journalists to share experience and insight in reporting on suicide,” said Dwight Holton, CEO of Lines for Life, home of Oregon’s National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. “We are in the depths of a national crisis – accurate, penetrating reporting is critical to helping us all find the right solutions to end the crisis.”

Registration information will be forthcoming, but be sure to mark the date for this important reporting event.

- What: Summit on Reporting on Suicide
- When: September 27, 7:30am – 11:00am
- Where: KGW Studios, 1501 SW Jefferson Street, Portland, Oregon
- Registration: <https://www.linesforlife.org/oregon-summit-on-safe-reporting/>

\*Available for webcast – details forthcoming.

For more information please feel free to reach out to Natalie Sept, Communications Director at Lines for Life, who will be coordinating this discussion: [natalies@linesforlife.org](mailto:natalies@linesforlife.org), 503-201-1928.

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