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MEMO

TO: All Local Media Outlets

FROM: Sarah Derwin, Health Educator, Co-Chair of the Marquette County Suicide Prevention Alliance, 906-315-2621, sderwin@mqtco.org

DATE: May 4, 2020

SUBJECT: Health Department Offering Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training Online

In response to the restrictions placed upon gathering in groups due to COVID-19, the Marquette County Health Department is currently offering the opportunity for worksites, organizations, and community members to take part in a training virtually using the evidence-based "Question, Persuade Refer" (QPR) suicide prevention gatekeeper training.

"We know that in times of national crisis, certain risk factors for suicide may increase in intensity. We are pleased to be able to adapt quickly and meet training needs of those in our community" said Health Educator Sarah Derwin. Typically, this training is delivered in-person in a group setting; however, in response to COVID-19, the national QPR Institute will temporarily allow licensed trainers to deliver the training in a live, on-line format and distribute training materials via email.

Interested agencies, organizations and community members are urged to contact Sarah Derwin to set up a QPR training. Community members without access to internet services may contact the Health Department to have suicide prevention materials mailed to them directly.

(I would also strongly urge that if outlets choose to report on suicide, it is very helpful on every reported piece to include the National Lifeline number (800-273-TALK) and our local Crisis Center, Dial Help's information (800-562-7622). Dial Help has calling, texting or chatting capability 24/7).