



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# Press Release

Office of Public Affairs  
VA Northern California  
Health Care System

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Sep. 10: VA NorCal to host Mental Health Summit at UC Davis Sacramento

Summit to focus on lethal means as factor in suicide prevention

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** — [VA Northern California Health Care System](#) (VA NorCal) will host a Community Mental Health Summit 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., Tuesday, Sep. 10, at [Betty Irene Moore Hall](#) on the UC Davis Sacramento Campus. Media coverage is invited.

This year's summit will focus on suicide and [lethal means prevention](#), including discussions on utilizing lethal means safety tools, the importance of lethal means counseling, and recently passed California state legislation related to gun violence restraining orders. Presenters include [Dr. Megan McCarthy](#), former VA Deputy Director of Suicide Prevention and current national clinical coordinator for the [Veterans Crisis Line](#), and [Dr. Amy Barnhorst](#), Vice Chair for Community Mental Health, UC-Davis Medical Center.

“Suicide remains a leading cause of death in the U.S. In fact, about twice as many people die by suicide than do from homicide,” said Brian C. Adkinson, manager of VA NorCal’s Suicide Prevention & REACH Vet program. “Discussing lethal means with depressed or suicidal patients, family members, and friends continues to be the most effective suicide prevention intervention.”

**WHAT:** VA NorCal Community Mental Health Summit  
**WHEN:** 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Tuesday, Sep. 10, 2019  
**WHERE:** Betty Irene Moore Hall, UC Davis Sacramento, 2570 48<sup>th</sup> Street  
**WHO:** Veterans, health care providers, law enforcement, legal professionals

For more information about the VA NorCal Community Mental Health Summit, please contact Will Martin, Chief of Public Affairs, at 916-843-9247 or [William.Martin6@va.gov](mailto:William.Martin6@va.gov).

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