

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION PLAN

Ministerial Forward

As Minister of Health, Agriculture, Sports and Human Services, I am pleased to present this National Suicide Prevention Plan. This plan outlines the specific goals and objectives that will be targeted in order to discourage the thoughts of suicide, hence reducing the number deaths caused by suicide within the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The plan reveals a slowly growing problem with death by suicide and suicide attempts. Many of the risks factors are well known and efforts are already underway to address this problem. Actions already taken include the training of general practitioners in the public and private sector to identify and treat Depression and other common mental illnesses. In addition, a protocol for the management of suicide was developed in 2018 and screening tools are being developed for use at the primary health care level.

This document represents a comprehensive set of actions that will guide our country towards reaching its goal of significantly reducing suicide and suicide attempts. This will take a concerted effort by both government and nongovernmental organizations but I am extremely hopeful that we will be able to help all those persons who are at risk.



Hon. Edwin Astwood
Minister of Health, Agriculture, Sports & Human Services