

2014 Community Initiative for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Regional Conference

June 28-29, 2014
234 Strawberry Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

You are cordially invited to attend the 2014 Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Regional Conference sponsored by Bhutanese Community-Based Organizations in collaboration with Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) and Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), Refugee Health Program.

The global suicide rate is 16 per 100,000 people. The suicide rate for the general population in USA is 12.4 per 100,000 population. According to the study conducted in 2012 by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Refugee health Technical Assistance Center of the Massachusetts Public Health Department reveals that Bhutanese suicide rate is 20.3 among refugees resettled in the US and 20.7 among those in the refugee camps in Nepal. High suicide rate and prevalence of depression among Bhutanese – Nepali refugees is a concern of all parties who are involved in refugee resettlement agencies, social and health care providers to find and recommend strategies that can to enhance and expand mental health services at all levels, strengthen Community-Based organizations active involvement to address refugees health problem, and to expand mental health interventions that are relevant to the Bhutanese culture.

The first day of the conference will have panel of discussion from the community leaders followed by presentation from the experts, each from a refugee health provider, ORR, SAMSA and PA Refugee Health Program, Department of Health.

On the second day of the conference, ORR will provide training on Mental Health First Aid Kit and Suicide Prevention

We encourage VOLAGs Case Workers, Community leaders, Healthcare Providers, and other refugee stakeholders to attend and participate in this conference. We strongly encourage every states and cities, Community-Based organization representatives to participate and share their views, lesson learned experiences, and recommend practical solutions.

Please forward this invitation to your colleagues, partners, and to all concerns who would be interested in attending this conference.

Thank you in advance for your participation and contribution to the success of the 2014 Mental Health and Suicide prevention regional conference!

Sincerely,
Organizing Committee