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Riverside County Suicide Prevention Coalition Conference Gathers Leaders, First Responders, and Educators

PALM SPRINGS, CA (Sept. 30, 2025) – The annual Riverside County Suicide Prevention Coalition (SPC) Conference on Oct. 2 will provide tools and resources to support communities, first responders and educators in the aftermath of suicide loss.

This year's theme, "Postvention: Best Practices for Community Helpers, First Responders, and Educators to Respond and Support After a Suicide Loss," highlights the importance of fostering resilience, compassion and healing across Riverside County.

"Way too often, we know someone who has attempted to commit suicide or taken their own life," said Riverside County Board Chair and Fourth District Supervisor V. Manuel Perez. "We know that depression, behavioral health issues or PTSD has been a cause of those actions. This conference provides a space to learn, to collaborate, to bring people together and to think about how we can build stronger systems of support ensuring that we don't have to experience suicide among our friends anymore."

The daylong conference begins at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 2, at the Palm Springs Convention Center, 277 N. Avenida Caballeros, Palm Springs. The event is free and open to the public.

Keynote speaker Dr. David J. Schonfeld, a developmental-behavioral pediatrician and founder of the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement, will share insights from more than 35 years of experience helping schools and communities navigate grief and crisis.

Attendees will hear personal stories from those who have suffered loss and will have the opportunity to participate in breakout sessions on how to access resources that strengthen both professional practice and personal well-being.

According to the latest data from RUHS-Public Health's [Epidemiology & Program Evaluation program](#), in Riverside County, there were 266 confirmed suicide deaths in 2024. Postvention practices play a critical role not only in supporting those grieving but also in preventing future tragedies.

"Connection is the starting point for healing," said Dr. Matthew Chang, Director of Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH). "When professionals and community members come together to share knowledge and support, they open the door for recovery and lasting hope."

The SPC was established in 2020 by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and formed in partnership with RUHS-BH, RUHS Public Health (RUHS-PH), the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE), law enforcement, community partners, and healthcare organizations.

The coalition works to reduce suicide rates by increasing awareness, improving access to resources, and fostering collaboration across agencies. In addition to the annual conference, the SPC offers a variety of free, evidence-based trainings and workshops throughout the year to strengthen community capacity for suicide prevention and support after a loss.

For more information about the conference, visit <https://rivcospc.org/news/4th-annual-suicide-prevention-coalition-conference-thursday-october-2-2025-palm-springs>

Learn about the coalition: rivcospc.org

For local data and resources on suicide prevention, visit RUHealth.org/public-health

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About Riverside University Health System

Riverside University Health System (RUHS) includes a 439-bed Medical Center in Moreno Valley, Calif., 14 Federally Qualified Community Health Centers, and the departments of Public and Behavioral Health. RUHS is Riverside County's safety net provider, offering high-quality, patient-centered care. With more than 8,000 staff members and over 125 years of experience, RUHS continues its commitment to and legacy of delivering exceptional, compassionate care with a focus on public health, behavioral health, community wellness, and medical education. Visit ruhealth.org to learn more.