



Office of  
Mental Health

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Commissioner

CHRISTOPHER TAVELLA, Ph.D.  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

March 26, 2018

Scott MacLeod, The Sophie Fund  
Lee-Ellen Marvin, Suicide Prevention and Crisis Service  
Ithaca, NY 14850

Dear Scott and Lee-Ellen,

On behalf of the *Suicide Prevention Office* and the *Suicide Prevention Center of New York State*, we thank you and applaud the efforts that have taken place in Tompkins county over the past year. Under your leadership and commitment to make Tompkins County a suicide safer community, you introduced and pushed forward the state's vision, making extraordinary progress over the last year. We consider Tompkins County and its newly formed Suicide Prevention Coalition an exemplary testament to vision, dedication and mobilization of community key stakeholders.

Specific highlights include:

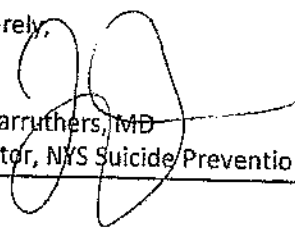
- Signing of the *Watershed Declaration*, where 18 organizations declared Suicide a "serious public health concern"
- Issuing a *City Proclamation* by Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick recognizing Suicide as a public health concern
- Joining the rest of the state and officially designating *September as Suicide Prevention Month*


In addition, we want to particularly acknowledge The Sophie Fund's efforts to bring *Zero Suicide* into healthcare systems in Tompkin's County, by partnering with Ithaca's Suicide Prevention and Crisis Service, and:

- By hosting a half-day summit conducted by leading state and national figures to introduce *Zero Suicide* to county outpatient, inpatient and college campuses leadership
- By dedicating a *Zero Suicide* page on The Sophie Fund website
- By submitting a request to the Tompkins County Suicide Prevention Coalition to develop a subcommittee that will focus on *Zero Suicide* implementation

As the *New York State Prevention Plan* states: "Suicide Prevention cannot succeed without community involvement and leadership." Thank you for your work, and we look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

  
Jay Carruthers, MD  
Director, NYS Suicide Prevention Office

  
Sigrid Pechenik, PsyD  
Director, Suicide Prevention Center of New York