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**[Insert Hospital Name] Wins Drive to Zero Suicide Award**

(XX, South Carolina – Month XX, 2020) [Insert Hospital Name] is proud to be recognized with the 2021 Drive to Zero Suicide award for advancing a culture that addresses suicide prevention as a key element of care. The award is given by the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Mental (SCDMH) to promote healthcare environments that pursue best practices for preventing suicide in their communities.

This is the inaugural year of South Carolina’s Drive to Zero Suicide program recognizing state healthcare facilities for adopting specific Zero Suicide strategies into their culture of care. These strategies include evidence-based suicide prevention training for staff, formal policies to screen patients, enhanced safety planning and a follow-up process for patients with a local community mental health center or other provider. SCHA and SCDMH share this partnership as South Carolina has a higher number of suicides than the national average and had seen a rise in the suicide rate even before the pandemic.

“In 2020 there were 23,975 South Carolinians that walked into an emergency room with suicidal ideations, and that’s one South Carolinian every 22 minutes,” said Jennifer Butler, Program Director for the SCDMH Office of Suicide Prevention. “That’s why these partnerships with hospitals are so important. We know they’re coming in their doors, and we know they need help.”

“As healthcare providers, we have implemented certain clinical and operational practices to ensure that we are providing the highest level of quality and patient safety possible,” said [Hospital Leader]. “Now we are taking that same culture of communication and high reliability and directing it to suicide prevention. We are grateful for this recognition and will continue to support our community every way we can.”

This year 20 facilities in South Carolina were recognized for embracing the Drive to Zero Suicide program to help prevent suicide in their communities. For more information about this year’s awards and a full list of winners, go to [scha.org/ZeroHarm](https://scha.org/initiatives/zero-harm/).