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

(XX, South Carolina – November XX, 2022) [Insert Hospital Name] is pleased to announce winning the 2022 Drive to Zero Suicide award for incorporating 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 (DMH) to promote healthcare environments that pursue best practices for preventing suicide in our communities.

South Carolina’s Drive to Zero Suicide program recognizes 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 DMH share this partnership to reduce suicide as South Carolina continues to have a higher number of suicides than the national average.

“In 2021, 20,738 South Carolinians came into an emergency room with suicidal ideations, meaning, forming or considering thoughts of ending their lives. That’s why partnerships with hospitals are vital to ending suicide in our state,” said South Carolina Department of Mental Health Acting Director Robert Bank, MD. “We all have to be part of the solution - collaboration cultivates HOPE. Not only do these partnerships make us all better, more informed healthcare providers, they help raise awareness and increase knowledge among South Carolinians as a whole.”

“As healthcare providers, we recognize that suicide and self-harm are difficult to prevent with clinical treatments,” said [Hospital Leader]. “However, we also understand that for patients already receiving behavioral health services, there are screening procedures and best practices that can help these patients from falling through the cracks.”

This year 30 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/zero-harm.