Warning Signs

Concerning Behaviors
- Expressed desire or intention to hurt or kill oneself
- Seeking ways to kill oneself (e.g., seeking access to fire arms, pills, or other means)
- Talking or writing about death, dying or suicide, when these actions are out of the ordinary
- Increased substance (alcohol or drug) use
- Acting reckless or engaging in risky activities
- Giving away prized possessions or seeking long-term care for pets

Notable Changes in Behavior
- Changes in:
  • Overall energy level
  • Sleeping habits
  • Eating habits
- Loss of interest in most activities
- Withdrawal from friends and family
- Neglect of health and self-care
- Sudden change in physical appearance and/or personality

Changes in Mood
- Appearing depressed or sad most of the time
- Feeling:
  • Hopeless
  • Helpless or trapped
  • Excessive guilt or shame
  • Strong anger or rage
Communicating Your Concern

Using “I” statements, communicate concern about specific and observable behavior:

For Example: “I have noticed that you have been drinking more than usual.”

Listen and communicate empathy, thinking about how the person may feel:

For Example: “Work sounds really overwhelming right now.”

Asking About Thoughts of Suicide

It is critical to directly ask: “Are you thinking about suicide?”

For Example: “Sometimes when someone feels trapped, like there is no way out of a situation, they begin having thoughts about suicide. I really care about you and want to support you; are you thinking about suicide?”

If they say yes, ask if they have a plan, materials, and timeline.

Asking will NOT plant the idea in someone’s mind.

Resources

If you or someone you know is in a crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or text “4HOPE” to the Crisis Text Line at 741-741

To learn more and to participate in a local training on how to help someone who may be considering suicide, visit the Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition’s website at www.franklincountyspc.org

-Franklin County Hotline: 614-221-5445

-Alcohol, Drug, & Mental Health Board of Franklin County: adamhfranklin.org/find-help/suicide-prevention


Source: American Academy of Suicidology