

## HOSTILE TAKEOVER?? YOU DECIDE!

Our Federal Government is going behind the backs of the Hopeline and advertising their shut down. Shockingly, they were doing this before the Hopeline had even received the shut off notice from their phone service provider. How did SAMHSA know the shut off date and time? Who authorized the government to talk with the Hopeline's private service vendors?

Review this press release that SAMHSA was spreading through our nation's mental health community - asking folks to switch to the new government controlled service line.



### 1-800-SUICIDE Hotline Set to Shut Down on Saturday August 12

The nation's largest suicide hotline, 1-800-SUICIDE, is scheduled to go out of service this Saturday, August 12, 2006. There are currently negotiations in progress that may prevent this. However, in the event that these negotiations are not successful, NAMI is issuing this alert to raise public awareness of the alternative for those in need of help.

**The alternative number for those in crisis is 1-800-273-TALK.** This number will put callers in touch with the federally-funded National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, a service that has been in operation since January, 2005. It functions as a central switchboard to immediately connect callers to virtually the same network of certified, local crisis centers accessed by 1-800-SUICIDE. So callers can receive counseling or emergency services, if needed, close to home.

All calls to the 1-800-273-TALK Lifeline are private and confidential. Confidentiality of personal information and of personal disclosures during calls is a high priority for the parties involved in operating the Lifeline.

The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is working with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the entire suicide prevention community to ensure that every call for help during a suicide crisis is answered. Some of the measures being put in place include:

- Ensuring that the entire suicide-prevention community is working the phones and Internet to make sure that all referring agencies know that 1-800-273-TALK is the number to call for suicide intervention.
- Notifying service providers, including directory 411 and 211 operators, that 1-800-SUICIDE is scheduled to go out of service beginning August 12, 2006 and to direct callers to 1-800-273-TALK for help.
- Redirecting callers who call 1-800-SUICIDE to call 1-800-273-TALK through a recording.

As a part of this effort, NAMI will participate in a meeting with SAMHSA and its other partner groups on Friday

afternoon, August 11, and we will issue an update afterwards if there is additional information to share.

**NAMI urges you to help distribute this alert in your community. Together, we can ensure that every call for help is answered.**

Thank you,

Michael J. Fitzpatrick, MSW  
Executive Director  
NAMI