



Project SAFE CRCA to Host “Project SAFE Community Conversation” a Town Hall style of meeting at Prairie High School

April 20, 2018 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Event to focus on local mental health services, suicide awareness and education/prevention.

Every year, 1 million adults report making a suicide attempt, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Worldwide, 800,000 people die due to suicide every year, according to the World Health Organization.

A town hall style community conversation will be held in Cedar Rapids on Friday, April 20, 2018, from 6:30-8:00PM. Panel discussion and the resource table to open at 5:30pm, in the Prairie High School Study Hall Room. A panel of local experts will be on hand to answer specific questions and concerns from the audience. Panelists include Sean Walsh, former University of Iowa football player who has recently shared his story surrounding depression. Local experts Dr. Allyson Wheaton, Drew Martel, Brandon Farr, Colleen Grote, Brad VanGorkom and Prairie High School students Jaeden Peterson and Jenna White will round out the panel. In addition, a local resource vendor trade show will feature over fifteen local agencies and resources on site who will provide additional information on mental health, suicide awareness and prevention.

The event is sponsored by a newly formed organization, Project SAFE of the Cedar River Corridor Area, which serves to provide suicide awareness and education to the Corridor area. Mike Farr, Founder of Project SAFE formed the organization in memory of his son, Garrett R. Farr, who lost his battle to depression last year. Farr states, Project SAFE’s mission is, “We are saving lives, ONE LIFE at a TIME” “This event is to help others become aware of all of the resources available in the Cedar Rapids Area. I personally was not aware of all of the resources available. I hope that we can help others, so that they will not have to experience the great loss that my family has experienced!”

The Community Town Hall is open to everyone, and all are welcome. No preregistration is required. The event provides a safe environment where students and parents can gain a deeper understanding of the causes, warning signs and coping strategies regarding teen depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation. For more information, visit Project SAFE CRCA on Facebook.