



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

November 13, 2020

ALTSA: NH #2020-085
ALTSA: ALF #2020-056
ALTSA: AFH #2020-061
ALTSA: CCRSS #2020-044
ALTSA: ESF #2020-045
ALTSA: ICF/IID #2020-046
NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

Dear Provider / Superintendent / Administrator:

On October 18, 2020, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 was signed into law. Additionally, on July 16, 2020, the Federal Communications Commission designated 9-8-8 as the three-digit universal telephone number for the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system.

Although this paves the way for improved access to vital crisis services, the 9-8-8 phone number and the necessary infrastructure to support this service, are estimated to be available to the public on or before July 16, 2022. Until the service is available, we encourage providers and residents in need of support to continue calling ***National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255***.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Hoeman, Behavioral Health Policy Program Manager, at (360) 725-3210 or debra.hoeman@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"