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Voices of Save

Suicide Awareness Voices of Education®

The mission of SAVE is to prevent suicide through public awareness and education, eliminate stigma, and serve as a resource for those touched by suicide.

New Executive Director Takes the Helm

By Dave Morton

Sometimes Murphy's Law is suspended for a while, and everything that can go right does go right. This was the case with finding the right person for the vacant position of executive director at the SAVE organization.

Dan Reidenberg was installed as SAVE's new executive director Oct. 4, bringing passion and more than 15 years of experience in direct services, administration, management and supervision in the social services field.

"I want to create a preeminent, suicide-prevention organization and provide resources, referrals, and advocacy for survivors," Reidenberg says. "We need to help those suffering from depression--and possibly contemplating suicide, and help the surviving family members when it does occur."

The new exec speaks from experience: He has had a long-standing, personal friendship with one of the founding members of SAVE, Adina Wroblewski, who herself was a suicide

survivor. In addition to collaborating with her, he has worked with SAVE's former executive director Jackie Casey and founder Al Kluesner on various SAVE workshops and events. "I have a deep fondness for SAVE, and a long history with the organization," Reidenberg says.

Reidenberg graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1988 with a degree in psychology and minor in child psychology. After completing training at the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center and the Minnesota Security Hospital, he received his doctor of clinical psychology degree in 1994 from the Minnesota School of Professional Psychology. The American Psychotherapy Association awarded him "Certified



Dan Reidenberg
Psy.D., FAPA

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New Law Targets Suicide Prevention

President Bush recently signed into law a bill authorizing \$82 million in grants aimed at preventing suicide among young people.

The Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act is named for the son of Oregon Republican Sen. Gordon Smith, who championed the legislation as a tribute to his 21-year-old son, who died by suicide last year. The senator, his wife

Sharon, daughter Brittany and son Morgan attended the signing ceremony at the White House.

The law authorizes \$82 million over three years to provide grants to states, Indian tribes, colleges and universities to develop youth suicide prevention and intervention programs. It emphasizes screening programs that identify mental illness in children as young as sixth-

graders, and provides referrals for community-based treatment and training for child care professionals.

"SAVE is extremely pleased that the federal government is behind the effort of preventing suicide," says Dan Reidenberg, SAVE's new executive director. "We are grateful to the various suicide prevention organizations that helped make this bill a reality."