

Wani Wacin Team
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Council Chambers



Wani Wacin, "I Want to Live"
Suicide Prevention Team
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe

The Wani Wacin team of Lower Brule has been successful in bringing together prevention skills and artistic creativity to address suicide in our community. Due to the combined efforts of multiple programs and concerned community members, the Lower Brule service area has not had a death by suicide since October 2017.

A multi-system approach, cross-training and providing continuous training opportunities for team members are the factors which we believe increases the likelihood of success. Our team members have been trained in Mental Health First Aid, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills (ASIST), Question/Persuade Refer/Treat (QPRT) and Zero Suicide. By taking pieces of all these models and at times modifying them to fit the unique needs of our community, we have developed an effective intervention/postvention protocol.

This message was brought to life through the artistic hand of Lower Brule member, Mark Powers. The positive message presented in Lakota language accompanied by the symbolic art, resonates with community members.

Thanks to support provided through the Partnership for Success grant, LB students were given the opportunity to become Natural Helpers. This allows for prevention efforts provided by peers within the highest risk age group within and outside the school setting.

Another important factor is partnering with key stakeholders in the area who share the same vision of a Zero Suicide community. Sanford Healthcare-Chamberlain, SD Urban Indian Health and Capital Area Counseling provide support and are considered to be a critical component of our team effort.

If you would like more information about Wani Wacin or would like to order t-shirts, please contact ellendurkin@lowerbrule.net or tonyaderdall@gmail.com



Mark Powers, Kul Wicasa Artist