



POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy
Center News and Events

Featured News

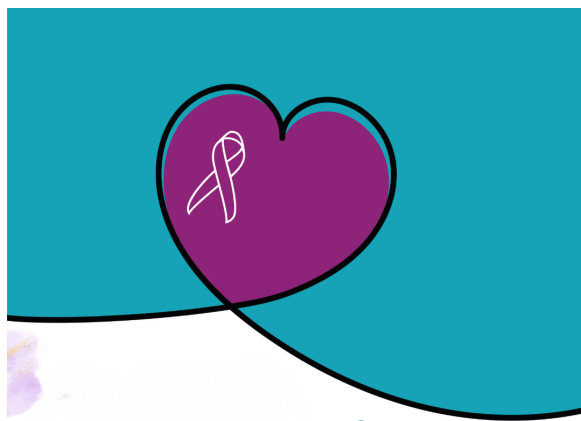
Suicide Prevention Efforts Distribute Means Security Devices to Help Save Lives

A statewide initiative led by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is over halfway through a four-year CDC cooperative agreement. The effort is led by Dr. Denise Bulling with key contributions from Dr. Stacey Hoffman and Quinn Lewandowski. Project partners include DHHS Injury Prevention, the Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition, and all six Regional Behavioral Health Authorities. It aims to reduce suicide among adult men through coordinated, evidence-based strategies grounded in data.



Studies found that adult men have the highest suicide rates in Nebraska and 58% of their deaths involve a firearm. In response, NUPPC launched a statewide campaign promoting temporary, voluntary secure storage of firearms during difficult times. The Center is working with Nebraska's Regional Behavioral Health Authorities to educate the public and distribute lethal means safety devices (including lock boxes and medication disposal pouches) to individuals around the state. To date, 13,295 safety devices have been distributed. [Learn more about means security.](#)

**September is National Suicide
Prevention Awareness Month**



Know the **warning signs of suicide risk** in young people and adults.



September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, a dedicated time to raise awareness, reduce the stigma surrounding mental health, and share vital resources. Learn about suicide prevention at the [**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\) website**](#). If you or someone you know is in crisis, call or text the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline for free 24/7 support.

Visit the [**Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition**](#) for state-specific resources, toolkits, and community involvement or to learn about the "Nebraska Needs You" initiative. To learn about warning signs of suicide, access community resources, and find behavioral health contacts in your area for youth, families, and schools, visit [**Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention**](#).

Events



E.N. Thompson Forum America at 250: A World History of the American Revolution

Historian Sarah M.S. Pearsall

In-person event

Sept. 22, 2026

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. (CT)

Sheldon Museum of Art

Join the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues, Sheldon Museum of Art, and the Department of History for a conversation with Sarah M.S. Pearsall, Professor of History at Johns Hopkins University, about her new book, *Freedom Round the Globe: A World History of the American Revolution* (Knopf Doubleday, 2026). Pearsall offers a fresh perspective on the American Revolution, exploring not only how the revolution shaped the wider world, but how people and events across the globe helped shape the revolution itself. Dr. Margaret Jacobs, Charles Mach Professor of History at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will moderate the conversation. This event is free and open to the public.

Register for Sarah Pearsall's Talk



Building Organizational Resilience

Stacey Hoffman & Kurt Mantonya

Virtual: Via Zoom

Sept. 30, 2026

12 p.m. (CT) / 11 a.m. (MT)

Organizational resilience involves more than having a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP); it

refers to the ability of an organization to remain flexible when encountering challenges. In this webinar, participants will learn about the concept of organizational resilience and why it is an essential part of supporting the public health workforce. Presenters will define the four areas, or pillars, supporting organizational resilience and will share tools for each pillar, incorporating the opportunity for interaction with some tools. Finally, presenters will share how participants can access the organizational resilience assessment and begin the journey to strengthening their organization's resilience.

Register for Building Organizational Resilience



Great Plains ATAP Fall Training Event

Attend in-person or via Zoom

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel

333 S. 13th St. Lincoln, NE 68508

Oct. 8, 2026: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (CT)

Oct. 9, 2026: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. (CT)

Explore the complexities of assessing and managing threats through multi-disciplinary collaboration. This year's theme, Assessing and

Managing Threat Across Disciplines, will highlight current research, emerging practices, and cross-sector approaches that strengthen prevention, communication, and coordinated response efforts. [Reserve a Hotel Room.](#)

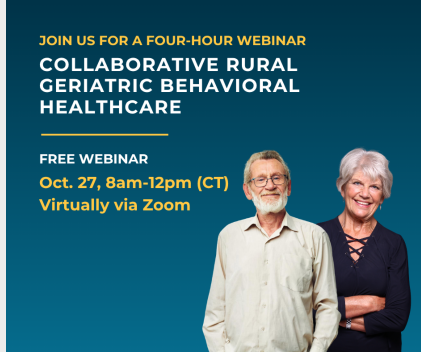
Register for GPATAP Fall Training Event

Collaborative Rural Geriatric Behavioral Healthcare

Speakers: Renee Ruhkamp, Margaret Lorimor, Mary Dishman, Brandi Wagner, and Joel Stephens

Virtual: Via Zoom

Oct. 27, 2026



8 a.m. to 12 p.m. noon (CT)
for behavioral healthcare and medical professionals

This 4-hour interdisciplinary webinar designed to upskill both behavioral healthcare professionals (psychiatrist, psychologists, LIMHP, LMHP, etc.) and medical professionals (physicians, NPs, PAs, RNs, etc.) serving older adults in rural Nebraska. The session opens by establishing a

shared collaborative care framework, then layers in evidence-based geriatric behavioral health content with practical, immediately implementable tools — bridging the silos between primary care and behavioral health to advance true collaborative care.

Register for Rural Geriatric BH Training

Center News

We Are Hiring a Research Coordinator



The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (NUPPC) is currently seeking a **Research Coordinator** to join our interdisciplinary team of researchers to assist with data collection, report writing, and applied research impacting local, state, and federal policies. Review of applications will begin **September 29, 2026**. [Submit a Research Coordinator application today.](#)

Operations Manager Joins UNL Leadership Academy



Congratulations to NUPPC operations manager Valerie Swartz-Hansen on being one of twenty-five staff members selected for the relaunched Staff Academy at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The academy aims to build leadership skills among university staff and recently held its first session focused on change management. [Read more about the Leadership Academy.](#)