



Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

MDVA Veteran Suicide Prevention Program



Agency Profile

Mission

Serving Minnesota Veterans, their dependents and survivors by connecting them with the federal and state care and benefits they have earned.

What We Do

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs runs Minnesota's five State Veterans Homes and assists Minnesota's 304,000 Veterans and their dependents in securing available benefits and services.



Agency Presenters

Larry Herke, Commissioner, Minnesota Dept. of Veterans Affairs (MDVA)

Paula Newinski, Healthcare Division Quality Director, MDVA

Kristi Charles, Veteran Suicide Prevention Coordinator, MDVA

Krysta Stanenas, Veteran Suicide Prevention Liaison, MDVA



Problem Statement

How do we reduce Veteran suicide by 20% NLT 2025 while ultimately ending Veteran suicide by 2035?

“Suicide is preventable”

National Strategy (VA)



BLUF - Two Critical Elements

1. Providing Veterans with a sense of purpose
2. Veterans must feel connected to other people



Facts - Death by Suicide

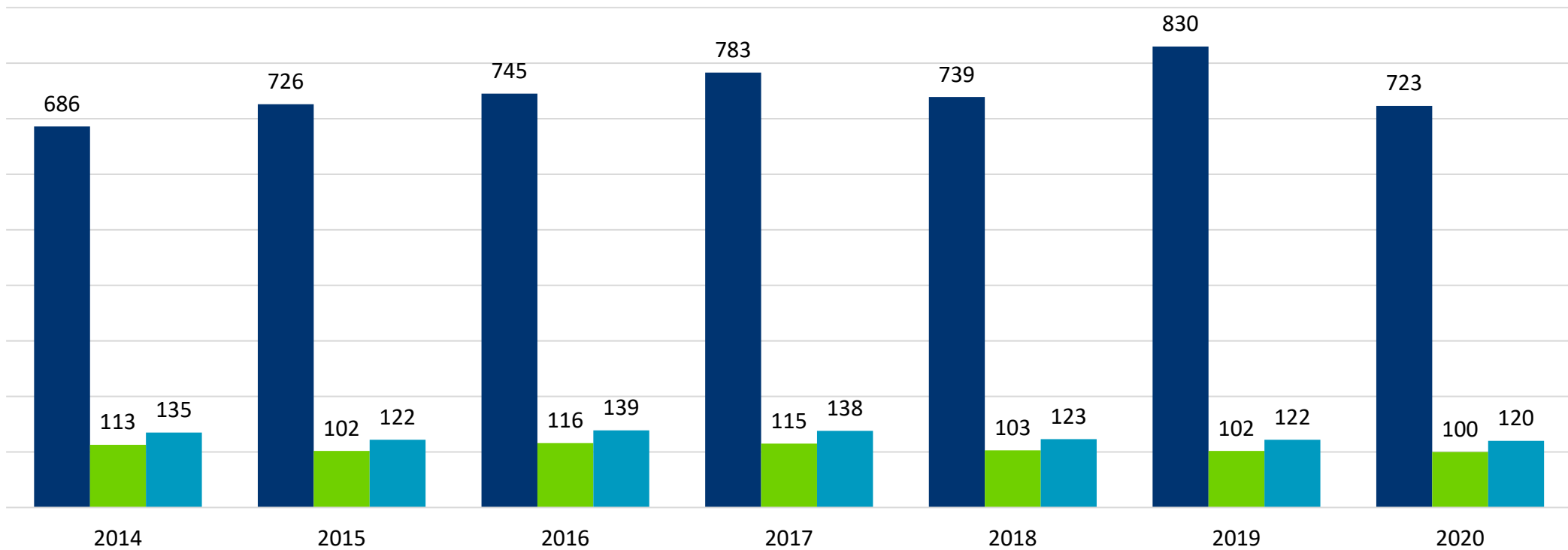
Year	State	MN Veteran	MN Veteran Suicides
2014	686	113	16.5%
2015	726	102	14%
2016	745	116	15.6%
2017	783	115	14.7%
2018	739	103	13.9%
2019	830	102	12.3%
2020	723	100	13.8%



Veteran Suicide Prevention

Deaths by Suicide

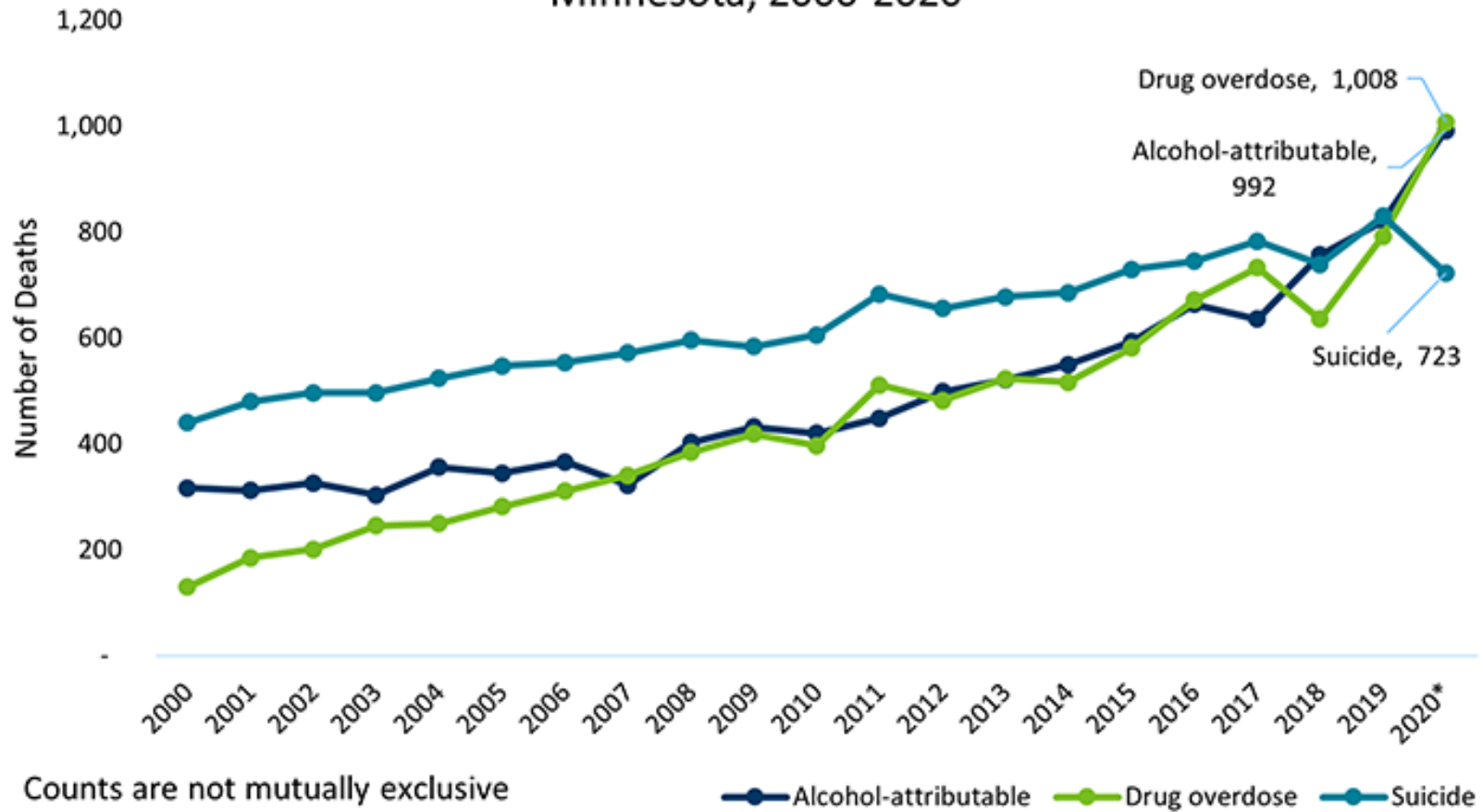
■ State ■ MN Veteran ■ Operation Deep Dive Projection





MN Preventable Death Data

Preventable Deaths of Substance Use and Suicide
Minnesota, 2000-2020



Counts are not mutually exclusive
*2020 figures are preliminary.



Agency Collaboration

- MN Department of Health**
- MN Department of Veterans Affairs
- MN Department of Human Services
- MN Office of Higher Education
- MN National Guard and Reserves
- MN Department of Agriculture
- VISN 23 VA Locations:
 - Minneapolis
 - St. Cloud
 - Fargo
 - Sioux Falls
- County Veterans Service Officers
- Building Healthy Military Communities
- NAMI MN
- MN Ambulance Association
- Regions Hospital
- CentraCare Healthcare
- Veteran Centers
- Lutheran Social Services
- St. Paul Police Department
- MHealth Fairview
- Nystrom & Associates
- Methodist Hospital



MDVA Suicide Prevention Efforts

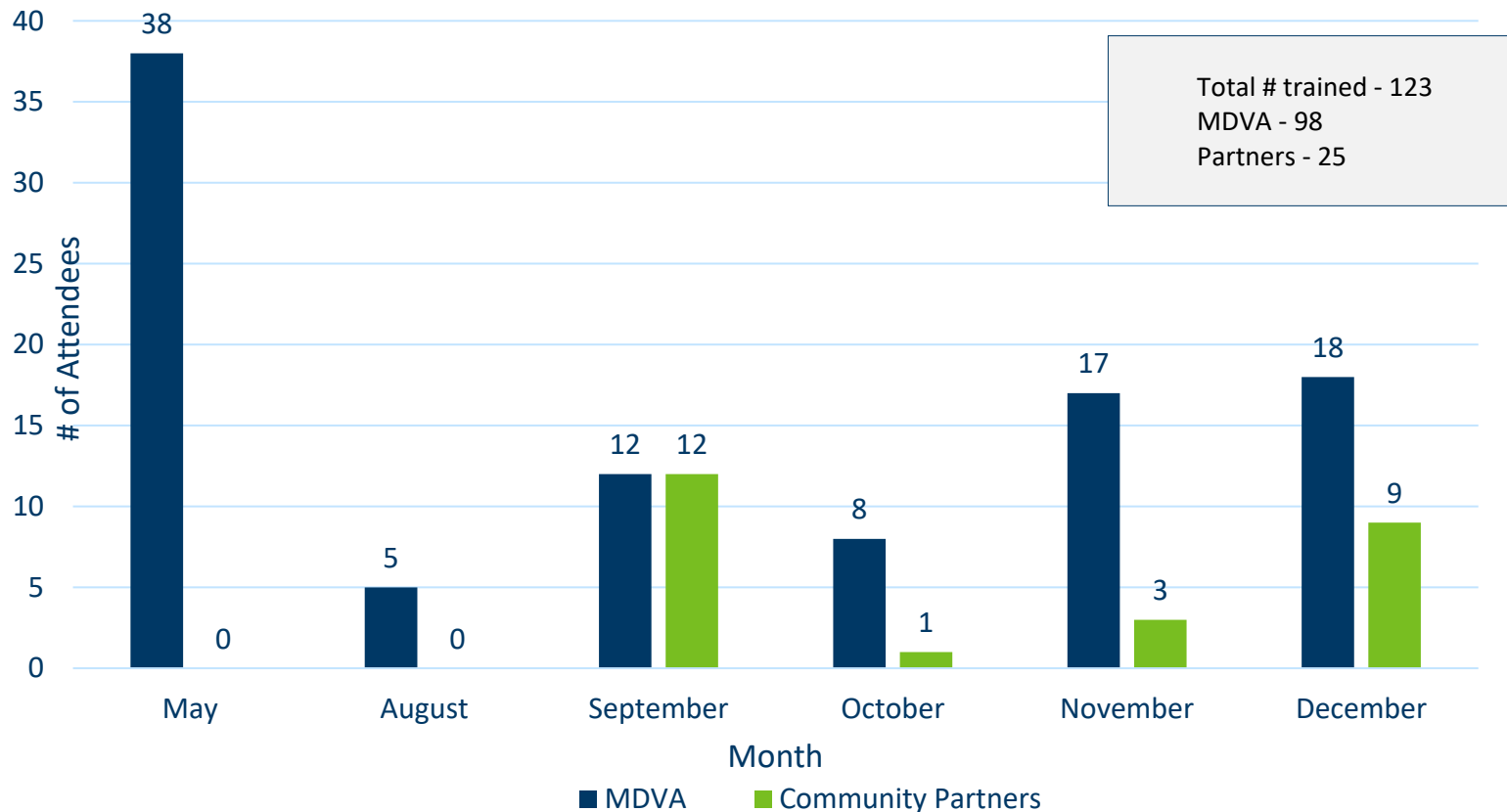
- **2 FT positions: Veteran Suicide Prevention Coordinator and Liaison**
- **Free Psych Armor 15 training sessions**
- **In 2022 MN will have the largest number of Certified Psychological Autopsy investigators in the U.S.**
- **15,000 + gun-locks distributed (collaboration with the VA, CVSO's, and BHMC's, Reserve Bases and MNARNG)**
- **52 community providers received CALM training– counseling on access to lethal means safety**
- **128 MDVA staff, LinkVet, DEED and stakeholders trained in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)**
- **724 social media views of MN Veteran Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day**
- **988 rollout July 2022, MDVA major partner in this effort**
- **TV and radio commercials on lethal means safety and LinkVet coming soon**





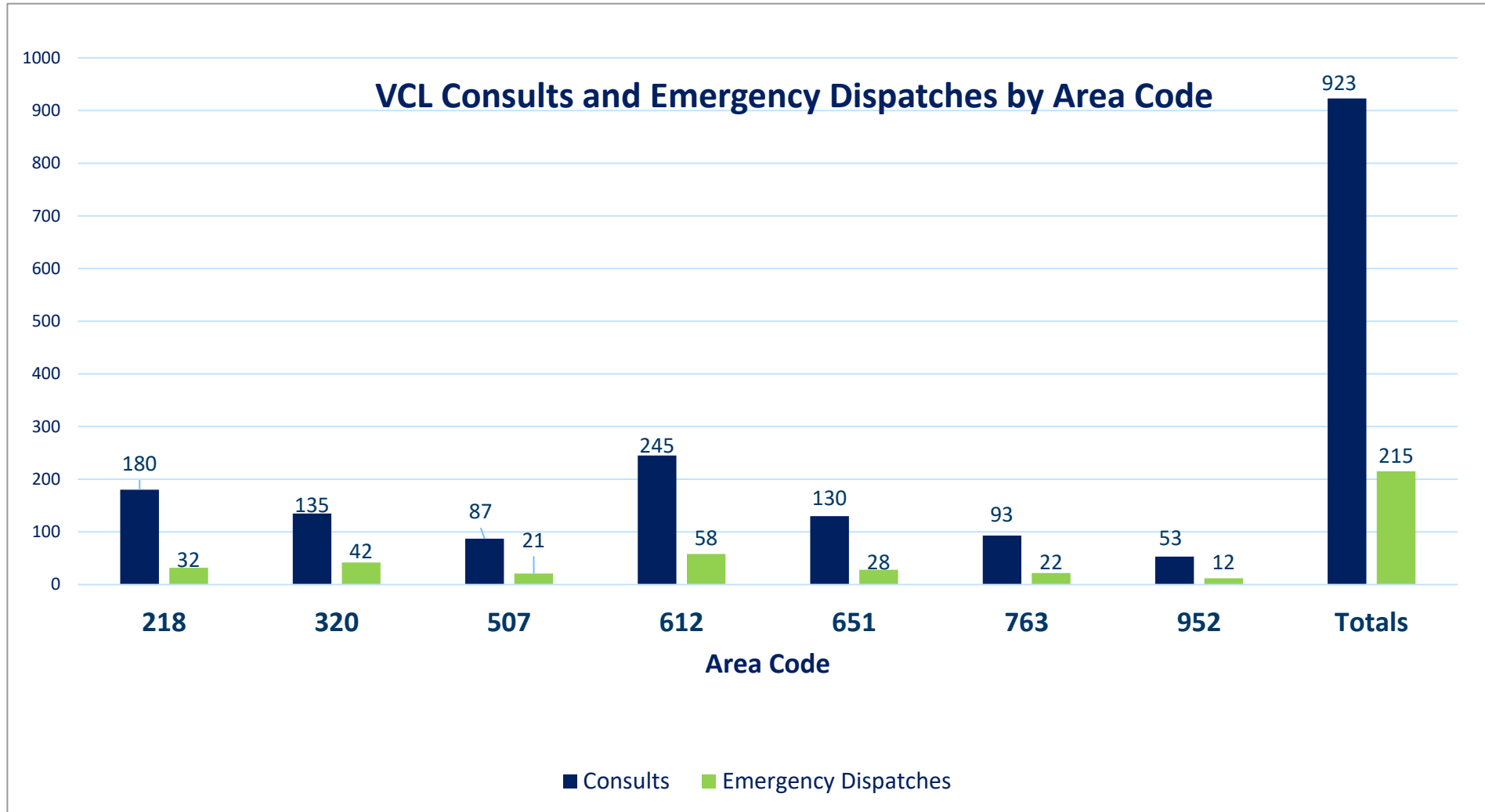
Veteran Suicide Prevention Efforts in MN

2021 MHFA Training Program Attendance





Veteran's Crisis Line Call Tracking July-December 2021





MDVA Breakdown of Veteran Suicide Program Funding

Category	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Payroll	\$230,000	\$244,000	\$249,000
Professional/Technical Contracts	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$50,000
Hardware/Software	\$25,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
Training	\$150,000	\$50,000	\$20,000
Marketing	\$295,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Research/Data Mining	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$25,000
Total	\$1,000,000	\$650,000	\$550,000

Support Our Troops Grants

- \$180,000+ Upstream Approaches

Veteran Resilience Project (VRP)

- \$800,000 Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing Therapy and Training Providers



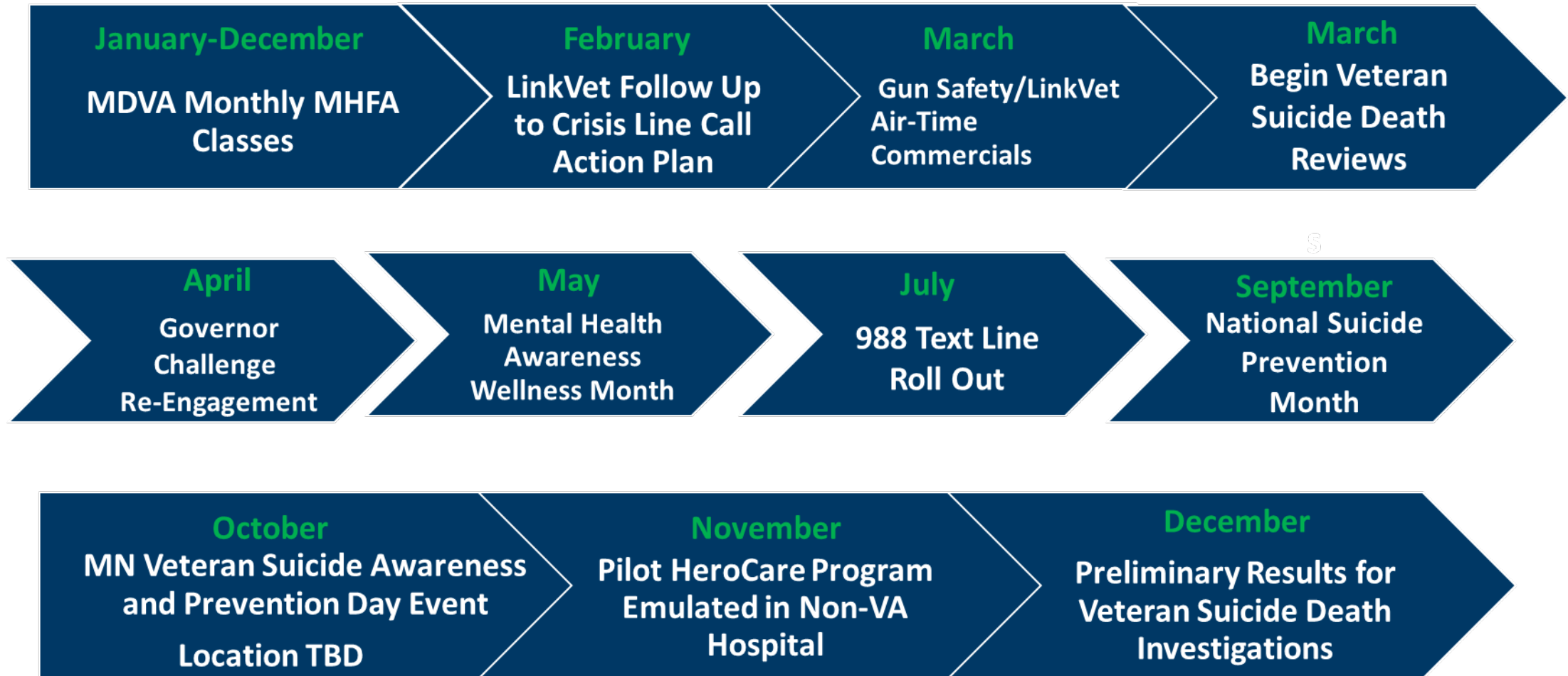


Potential Program Enhancements

- Hero Care Program replication
- Marketing and Public Health Campaigns
- Safe Storage for firearms



2022 Veteran Suicide Prevention Efforts in MN



Questions

