

*I would like the following information shared at the hearing today. I have worked in the Crisis area for the past 12 years and am in full support of the 988 system as it saves lives.*

*Please feel free to share the story below from my first hand experience providing outpatient services. I have what is open access on my calendar each Thursday for walk in appointments. I have the following stories a few months back I have had three more persons referred to me directly from the 988 number and I have met with them, in two hours or less, and connected them to services. Two more adolescents, and an adult. The adult I share the following story:*

***This person was in her mid 30's homeless, living out of a motel, using chemicals, lost her job and feeling suicidal. She came in for an open access appointment, via telehealth through the 988 system within two hours. I assessed for safety, she was not safe leaving the building. I called the Mobile Crisis team while on line with her in the appointment, I arranged for them to pick her up within an hour, when we would finish, and transport her to the Crisis Unit, screen for drugs and alcohol. She completed her assessment to connect to services, UA was + and she spent a night at detox, then transferred to Crisis Stabilization and entered the inpatient chemical health program, connected to a therapist ARMHS and peer support to assist in housing, sober network support and ongoing care.***

*My original story shared below:*

*I hope you both are doing well, I have a story I just need to share with you both about the 988 Crisis call system. I am working for another Mental Health Center in Minnesota doing tele-health in their outpatient program. I have open access time in my schedule for whoever needs help a few mornings a week and Thursday afternoons. **Here is my story to share!***

***I checked my schedule at 1:00 pm and noticed an appointment for a comp/eval from 2:00 to 3:30. (Required to assess need and access services). This appointment was not on my schedule at noon. I dialed in and there was an adolescent about 17 and her mom on the screen. I got through the demographics and then prior to jumping into the eval, I asked "what brings you here today, and the purpose of our meeting." Mom literally said " I called the 988 number for crisis as my daughter has thoughts of suicide. When asked when she called she said, about 2 hours ago." She called the 988 #, talked to the local CRT and was added to the open access slot in my schedule and assessed within 3 hours." I have to say I was excited to hear this from them, the system works! She was assessed for safety, determined she was okay to return home for now and was smiling and engaged in conversation at the end of the assessment. She is agreeable to therapy and support services.***

***It was so satisfying to have this experience! Please share with whom you want, I just wanted to pass it on!***

***Janis Allen  
MSW, LICSW  
Outpatient Therapist***