

News Advisory

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Sharon Smith, Physicians Brief Congress on Teen Suicide Risks and Prevention

National Adoption of Mental Health Checkups as Part of Routine Health Care for Teens Urged

Sharon Smith, the wife of former U.S. Senator Gordon Smith, and mother of Garrett Lee Smith, who committed suicide at the age of 21, will be joined by physicians treating adolescents in Colorado, Nevada and Ohio to urge the national adoption of mental health checkups for teens. Mental health checkups have the potential to reduce the current rates of teen suicide and school dropouts, substance abuse and crime related to undiagnosed mental health problems in youth.

Where: SC-4, U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, D.C.

Date: Thursday, March 19, 2009

Time: 10:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

The briefing is sponsored by the TeenScreen National Center for Mental Health Checkups at Columbia University and its CheckUpNow Coalition partners:

The Jed Foundation

Active Minds

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)

Families USA

Mental Health America

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

The Suicide Prevention Action Network USA (SPAN USA).

Laurie Flynn, executive director of the TeenScreen National Center for Mental Health Checkups, will lead the briefing and a Q & A session on behalf of the coalition.

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