



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13, 2022

What is 988 and Crisis Lifeline and will other Crisis Services be in Place?

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is coming to Minnesota. And there is a tremendous need, given that:

- 758 Minnesotans died by suicide in 2020.
- Suicide was the second leading cause of death for Minnesotans ages 10 – 34 in 2020.
- Over 39,000 Minnesotans contacted the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline in 2021.
- Locally, the Crisis Line and Referral Services takes approximately 6,400 calls a year.

Behind each of these data points, there are people, families, and communities who have been impacted. Yet, in the face of these urgent realities, there is hope for building on our current Crisis System in Minnesota but across the country.

On July 16, 2022, the United States will transition to begin using the 988 dialing code. 988 will be the new three-digit number for call (multiple languages), text, or chat (English only) that connects people to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, where compassionate, accessible care and support are available for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress. The chat feature will be available through the [Lifeline's website](#). People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

Our current resources locally will also still be available; these include the Crisis Line Referral Service, Crisis Text Line and the Warmline. The Crisis Line and Referral Service, Crisis Text Line and 988 all have access to our Mobile Crisis Team that can meet with you at your home or in the community.

So which service do you call and when? The goal of this system is if you struggling with your mental health that you can reach out to any of these services for support.

- 988 – is the National Suicide Prevention Line (Lifeline) which began in 2005, it has served as an invaluable resource, helping thousands of people overcome suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress every day. With the transition to 988, these life-saving services will be even easier to reach. 988 will be answered by regional call center. They will also be able to link you with our local Mobile Crisis Team if that is needed.

Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

- Crisis Line Resource and Referral – began locally in 1988 available 24 hours/7 days a week by calling 1-800-462-5525. They provide service to Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena counties. They also are able to link you with the Mobile Crisis Team if needed.
- Crisis Text Line – is available 24 hours/7 days a week by texting MN to 741741.
- Warmline – if you are struggling with your mental health but aren't experiencing a mental health crisis or emergency, reach out to the Warmline. Open 7 days a week, 5 pm – 9 am by calling 1-844-739-6369

To prepare for the transition to 988, Crow Wing County has been actively working with the Minnesota Department of Health, Department of Human Services and community organizations to provide guidance and resources. While this is an exciting time, the crisis care system with 988 at its core will not be built overnight which is why we will continue to have known local resources available as well so people will continue to be supported in their time of need.

-End-

Tami Lueck
Adult Services Manager
Office of Community Services
204 Laurel Street
Brainerd, MN 56401

Office: (218) 824-1186
Email: tami.lueck@crowwing.us
www.crowwing.us