

**CE Series**  
**The Impact of Social Isolation on Suicide**  
**Date: July 15, 2020 – 12:00 to 1:00 PM**

**Presenter Bio**

**J. Joy Gero, PsyD, LPC**  
Program Director of General Adult and the Behavioral Health Intensive Care Unit  
UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital  
Program Manager of LGBTQ Health Initiatives, Health Services Division  
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
Pittsburgh, PA

As Program Director, Dr. Gero oversees clinical supervision, develops and delivers in-services, serves on several hospital committees, and develops and implements programming on the units she leads.

As Program Manager, Dr. Gero oversees ongoing development of programs to reduce barriers to care, improve the quality of care, and ensure the safety and satisfaction of patients, members, employees, and families who identify as LGBTQ. In addition, she served as the team lead for a grant from The Beckwith Institute to ensure all inpatient healthcare facilities apply for and meet the recommendations to achieve Leader status in the [Human Rights Campaign Healthcare Equality](#).

Previously Dr. Gero led the Patient Relations department at UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. In that role she acted as a liaison between patients, families, and their clinical teams. She also developed and facilitated leadership learning in the Children’s Leadership Academy and provided consultation to providers and the executive team to better partner with challenging families.

Dr. Gero started her career at UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital in 2007 and was a founding staff member at resolve Crisis Services and Crisis Intervention Trainer at the Crisis Training Institute. Joy earned a doctorate in Counseling Psychology from Carlow University, where she continues to teach in the graduate psychology program.

**Name and Narrative Description of your Presentation**

**The Impact of Social Isolation on Suicide** is an intermediate discussion of thinking through the particular risks during the current experience of populations that are more likely to be isolated at this time. This is based in part on an article published on April 10, 2020 titled: *Suicide Mortality and Coronavirus Disease 2019—A Perfect Storm?*

**Target Audience:** Physicians, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Behavioral Health Therapists, Nurses, Social Workers, Program Leadership

**Please contact Doreen Barkowitz at [barkowitzdh@upmc.edu](mailto:barkowitzdh@upmc.edu) for additional information about the speaker and presentation.**

**Three (3) learning objectives**

By the completion of this session, participants should be able to:

1. Identify risks and protective factors for suicide.
2. Identify complications present when people are cut off from natural and agency supports.
3. Discuss options to modify or address these risk factors.

**Three (3) current (within the past 10 years) *peer-reviewed* publications that support the evidence base for the content of your presentation**

1. Drapeau CW, McIntosh JL . U.S.A. suicide: 2018 official final data. Published 2020. Accessed April 1, 2020. [https://suicidology.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2018datapgsv2\\_Final.pdf](https://suicidology.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2018datapgsv2_Final.pdf)
2. Fleischmann, A., Bertolote, J. M., Wasserman, D., De Leo, D., Bolhari, J., Botega, N. J., De Silva, D., Phillips, M., Vijayakumar, L., Värnik, A., Schlebusch, L., & Thanh, H. T. (2008). Effectiveness of brief intervention and contact for suicide attempters: a randomized controlled trial in five countries. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 86(9), 703–709. <https://doi.org/10.2471/blt.07.046995>
3. Reger, M.A., Stanley, I.H., & Joiner, T.E. (2020). Suicide mortality and coronavirus disease 2019—A perfect storm? *JAMA Psychiatry*. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2020.1060
4. Van Orden, K. A., Witte, T. K., Cukrowicz, K. C., Braithwaite, S. R., Selby, E. A., & Joiner, T. E., Jr (2010). The interpersonal theory of suicide. *Psychological review*, 117(2), 575–600. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0018697>