

Safety plan - This is enhanced from Barbara Stanley and Gregory K. Brown's template.

Name: _____ Date: _____

In order to feel well enough every day I need to.... (Examples include: taking my meds, moving my body, being with loved ones, sleeping ___ hours, etc. Try to think of at least 5 things). If you have not done these things today or recently, now is a good time to start.

How do I know a crisis may be developing? Think of warning body sensations, feelings, moods, thoughts, images, situations, behaviors, etc. Try to think of at least 5 signs.

What are internal caring, coping and surviving strategies that I can do alone? Think of thoughts, activities, techniques, memories, etc. that help to either distract from the struggle or generate new feelings or perspective. Think of at least 5 and practice them, or at least walk through the idea of them in your head, as you write them down.

People I can call on, things I can do, places I can go for distraction:

Name: _____ Contact: _____

Places: _____

Activities: _____

Personal support I can call on or go to to ask for help:

Name: _____ Contact: _____

Places: _____

What can I ask them for:

Professional support I can call on or go to to ask for help:

Name: _____ Contact: _____

Name: _____ Contact: _____

Name: _____ Contact: _____

Name: _____ Contact: _____

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800.273.8255 ; Allegheny County's Resolve Crisis Line 888.796.8226; Other hotline: _____

Places: _____

How will I make my environment safe? (For example: putting objects that I could use to hurt myself in someone else's care; leaving my house, etc.)

What are my protective factors? What keeps me alive? (For example: those dreams I have, my furbaby, my friends, etc. Sometimes these feel inspiring and sometimes they are just obligations.)

Anything else I know is important for me to remember in times of crisis:

Everything Is Awful and I'm Not Okay: questions to ask before giving up

Are you hydrated?

If not, have a glass of water.

Have you eaten in the past three hours?

If not, get some food — something with protein, not just simple carbs. Perhaps some nuts or hummus?

Have you showered in the past day?

If not, take a shower right now.

Have you stretched your legs in the past day?

If not, do so right now. If you don't have the energy for a run or trip to the gym, just walk around the block, then keep walking as long as you please. If the weather's crap, drive to a big box store (e.g. Target) and go on a brisk walk through the aisles you normally skip.

Have you said something nice to someone in the past day?

Do so, whether online or in person. Make it genuine; wait until you see something really wonderful about someone, and tell them about it.

Have you moved your body to music in the past day?

If not, jog for the length of an EDM song at your favorite tempo, or just dance around the room for the length of an upbeat song.

Have you cuddled a living being in the past two days?

If not, do so. Don't be afraid to ask for hugs from friends or friends' pets. Most of them will enjoy the cuddles too; you're not imposing on them.

Have you seen a therapist in the past few days?

If not, hang on until your next therapy visit and talk through things then.

Have you changed any of your medications in the past couple of weeks, including skipped doses or a change in generic prescription brand?

That may be screwing with your head. Give things a few days, then talk to your doctor if it doesn't settle down.

If daytime: are you dressed?

If not, put on clean clothes that aren't pajamas. Give yourself permission to wear something special, whether it's a funny t-shirt or a pretty dress.

If nighttime: are you sleepy and fatigued but resisting going to sleep?

Put on pajamas, make yourself cozy in bed with a teddy bear and the sound of falling rain, and close your eyes for fifteen minutes — no electronic screens allowed. If you're still awake after that, you can get up again; no pressure.

Do you feel ineffective?

Pause right now and get something small completed, whether it's responding to an e-mail, loading up the dishwasher, or packing your gym bag for your next trip. Good job!

Do you feel unattractive?

Take a goddamn selfie. Your friends will remind you how great you look, and you'll help fight society's restrictions on what beauty can look like.

Do you feel paralyzed by indecision?

Give yourself ten minutes to sit back and figure out a game plan for the day. If a particular decision or problem is still being a roadblock, simply set it aside for now, and pick something else that seems doable. Right now, the important part is to break through that stasis, even if it means doing something trivial.

Have you over-exerted yourself lately — physically, emotionally, socially, or intellectually?

That can take a toll that lingers for days. Give yourself a break in that area, whether it's physical rest, taking time alone, or relaxing with some silly entertainment.

Have you waited a week?

Sometimes our perception of life is skewed, and we can't even tell that we're not thinking clearly, and there's no obvious external cause. It happens. Keep yourself going for a full week, whatever it takes, and see if you still feel the same way then.

You've made it this far, and you will make it through. **You are stronger than you think.**