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SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION of ERIE COUNTY



By ADAMHS Aug 23, 2024 3:00 PM



On May 1, 2024 the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Erie County (ADAMHS) held an important meeting regarding the reinitiation of the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Erie County. Those in attendance were from local businesses, healthcare, human resources, law enforcement, mental health agencies, schools, and survivors.

Guest speaker, Daniel Bennett, Director of Coalitions and Strategic Initiatives at the Suicide Prevention Foundation and the Ambassador for the Life Side Ohio Campaign, shared his experiences and knowledge of direct suicide prevention outreach. The ADAMHS Board presented local loss data, myths about suicide, and supported the reasons why creating and building a strong community partnership is fundamental to the success of a comprehensive community-based suicide prevention effort.

Following the initiative meeting, on May 15, partners interested in data and facts came together to form the Coalition's Strategic Workgroup. They reached consensus in establishing a purpose and structure of the coalition, discussed what resources already existed in the community, determined the mission, and identified short-term, intermediate, and long-term goals.

On June 5, the Workgroup presented to the Coalition Partners data-driven information - "Understanding the Purpose". The topics included: **Public Education** (NAMI): suicide is rising in the school-aged population what is being done and what can be done

(Bayshore Counseling): research has found that 46% of people who die by suicide had a known mental health condition; **College Age** (BGSU Firelands): a Healthy Minds Study (2023) results of 385 participants revealed that 15% had seriously thought about attempting suicide and 8% did make a plan for attempting suicide; **Detox Suicide Prevention Strategies** (Erie Co Health Dept): every person requesting admission to detox is screened for the risk of suicide; **Risk/Protective Factors** (Bayshore Counseling): families unclear of resources in the area, housing and lack of support/Sources of Strength, programs in school for youth, mentoring and agencies that assist families with basic needs.

The Coalition's Mission: **To decrease suicide attempts and deaths in Erie County through collaboration, advocacy, education, training, and evaluation.**

If you would like to play a vital role in mobilizing others in the county to recognize that suicide can be prevented, please visit the ADAMHS Board Website www.adamhserie.org - [Suicide Prevention](#) for more information and upcoming events or call (419) 627-1908 ext2832.

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

You are not alone. Call immediately.

24/7 crisis support at 9-8-8.

