

Welcome

Suicide Prevention
Coalition –
Erie County

06.11.2025





Mission Statement

To decrease suicide attempts and deaths in Erie County through collaboration, advocacy, education, training, and evaluation.

Vision Statement

Build a future where mental health is prioritized, and every life is cherished.



VIBE VIRTUOSO

Will watch the tone of the conversation and speak up when things get off track. Throughout the discussion, asks themselves "What would our clients think about this?"

How does what we are hearing serve our clients interests?



Calls out any violations of the meeting rules.



Thank you to those who attended – this was a group effort 😊

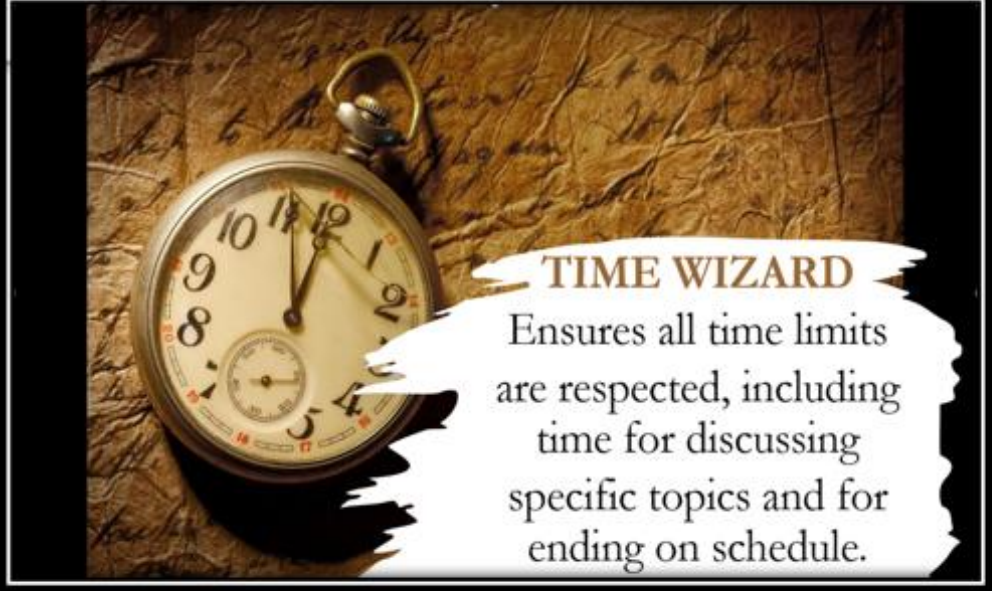
Your participation is Appreciated!

Meeting Magician

Note-Taker for meeting minutes to be shared for future reference.

Responsible for confirming and stating the decision so it can be documented before the meeting ends.

Keeps track of all the promises made during the meetings as a list of action items or tasks.

TIME WIZARD

Ensures all time limits are respected, including time for discussing specific topics and for ending on schedule.

If you could teleport to any summer destination right now – real or imaginary – where would you go and what’s the first thing you’d do there?”



Raising Awareness in Erie County

To understand the urgency of raising awareness, consider this:

In Erie County, about **15 people out of every 100,000** die by suicide each year. That might sound like a small number, but it's **higher than the national average** – and it means that our own family members, friends, and neighbors may be struggling in silence.

Men are nearly **four times more likely** to die by suicide than women.

Suicide rates tend to be **highest among middle-aged adults (ages 45-64) and older adults (65+)**, though rates among young and young adults (ages 15-24) have also been rising in recent years.

High school students are reporting **increasing** levels of depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts.

College-aged **youth (18-24)** face elevated risks due to **stressors** like independence, academic pressure, and identity development.

Each of us carry stories shaped by love, loss, and resilience.

Today, we are grateful to welcome a dedicated coalition member to share a part of her story with us.

Whether you're a survivor of a suicide attempt or someone who has lost a loved one, your voice matters. You are not alone, - and your story can be a light for someone else.





We're excited to announce that Meghan Erney will be sharing her story this August. She is at a training for Mental Health First Aid to become a trainer – a testament to her commitment to supporting others.

We appreciate her dedication and courage!

Sharing our stories is a powerful way to break stigma, build connection, and inspire hope.

Session One Deliverable –
Vision Statement:

**Building a future where mental health is
prioritized, and every life is cherished.**



SESSION TWO DELIVERABLE - SURVEY

Suicide Prevention Coalition Survey

Carrie Kennedy, Lead

Deliverable Three:

Membership
Gap Analysis,
Complete
Inclusivity
Checklist, and
Create a
Membership
Recruitment
Plan.

Prevention
Action Alliance
Lifetime Prevention | Lifetime Wellness

Community Engagement and Representation Framework

Purpose: To ensure that all community sectors are meaningfully represented and engaged in suicide prevention efforts, this framework identifies participation gaps and outlines strategies to enhance outreach, access, and support.

Membership Representation Analysis: This section identifies current engagement levels across key community sectors and highlights areas for deeper outreach.

Community Sector	Current Engagement	Identified Gaps	Planned Outreach
Men	Low	Emotional stigma	Man’s Therapy Campaign
Farmers	Low	Geographic access	Rural outreach initiative
Faith-Based	Growing	Interfaith diversity	Faith-Based Initiative
Veterans	Moderate	Peer support gaps	Veteran peer networks
Youth	Growing	Rural youth	School partnership
Seniors	Low	Isolation risks	Senior wellness education
Businesses	Growing	Small business inclusion	Workplace mental health
Mental Health	Strong	Service navigation	Resource Mapping
Substance Use Recovery	Moderate	Stigma barriers	Recovery ally training
Law Enforcement	Growing	Trauma-informed care	Crisis intervention training
Survivors & Families	Growing	Long-term support	Survivor-led advisory panels

Engagement Principles

This checklist ensures that all initiatives are aligned with principles of broad community representation and access:

- ☐ Are we engaging across age groups (youth, adults, seniors)?
- ☐ Are rural and urban populations both represented?
- ☐ Are we including individuals with lived experience (survivors, families)?
- ☐ Are we collaborating with trusted community institutions (faith, schools, businesses)?
- ☐ Are we addressing cultural and gender-specific needs (e.g., men's mental health)?
- ☐ Are we reaching historically underserved or isolated groups (veterans, farmers)?
- ☐ Are we integrating behavioral, mental health, and substance use perspectives?
- ☐ Are we building sustainable peer and professional support networks?

Summary

This framework supports a holistic, community-rooted approach to suicide prevention. By identifying representation gaps and aligning initiatives with inclusive engagement principles, we ensure that every voice is heard, and every life is valued.

As part of our ongoing strategy, we are continuously networking with community partners, stakeholders, and underrepresented groups to raise awareness and strengthen participation.

This proactive outreach is central to our recruitment plan, ensuring that our coalition reflects the full diversity and needs of the community we serve.

Session Four Deliverables: Review, revise or **create coalition branding components**, create a Communication Plan, and create new or tweak existing mission and vision statements.

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graph LR; A[CREATE] --- B[COALITION BRANDING]; B --- C[COMPONENTS]
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CREATE

COALITION
BRANDING

COMPONENTS

Brainstorming Ideas.....

Symbol: Green Butterfly –
representing transformation, healing
and hope.

Accent: Purple ribbon –
a strong nod to suicide prevention
awareness

Background: the dark green with
sparkles for a sense of calm and
inspiration



Deliverable Five: SWOT



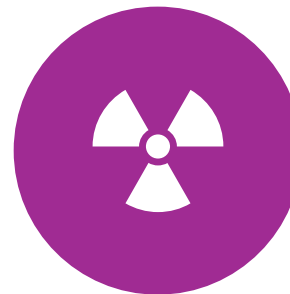
S – Strengths: What are we doing well? What resources or advantages do we have?



W – Weaknesses: What are our internal challenges or limitations?



O – Opportunities: What external chances for growth or improvement can we take advantage of?



T – Threats: What external factors could negatively impact our work?

S T R E N G T H S

- Cooperation between different sectors of industries in the area
- Training opportunities based on coalitions activities -Mental Health Trainings (QPR)
- Strong community coalition
- Partners who share their personal stories
- Multiple focuses
- Grant award

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- Sporadic participation and attendance at coalition meetings
- Communication of events to the community
- Could partner more with existing coalitions (Minority Health Taskforce, Creating Healthy Communities , Peer Support Orgs- SARCC, Youth Move)

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- Attendance at events hosted
- Website and awareness
- Prep amount of time for community events – start planning sooner
- Engage more people by rotating locations or time of meetings
- Include zoom or audio options for blended attendance
- Create brochure once have branding and tag line created and approved by members

T H R E A T S

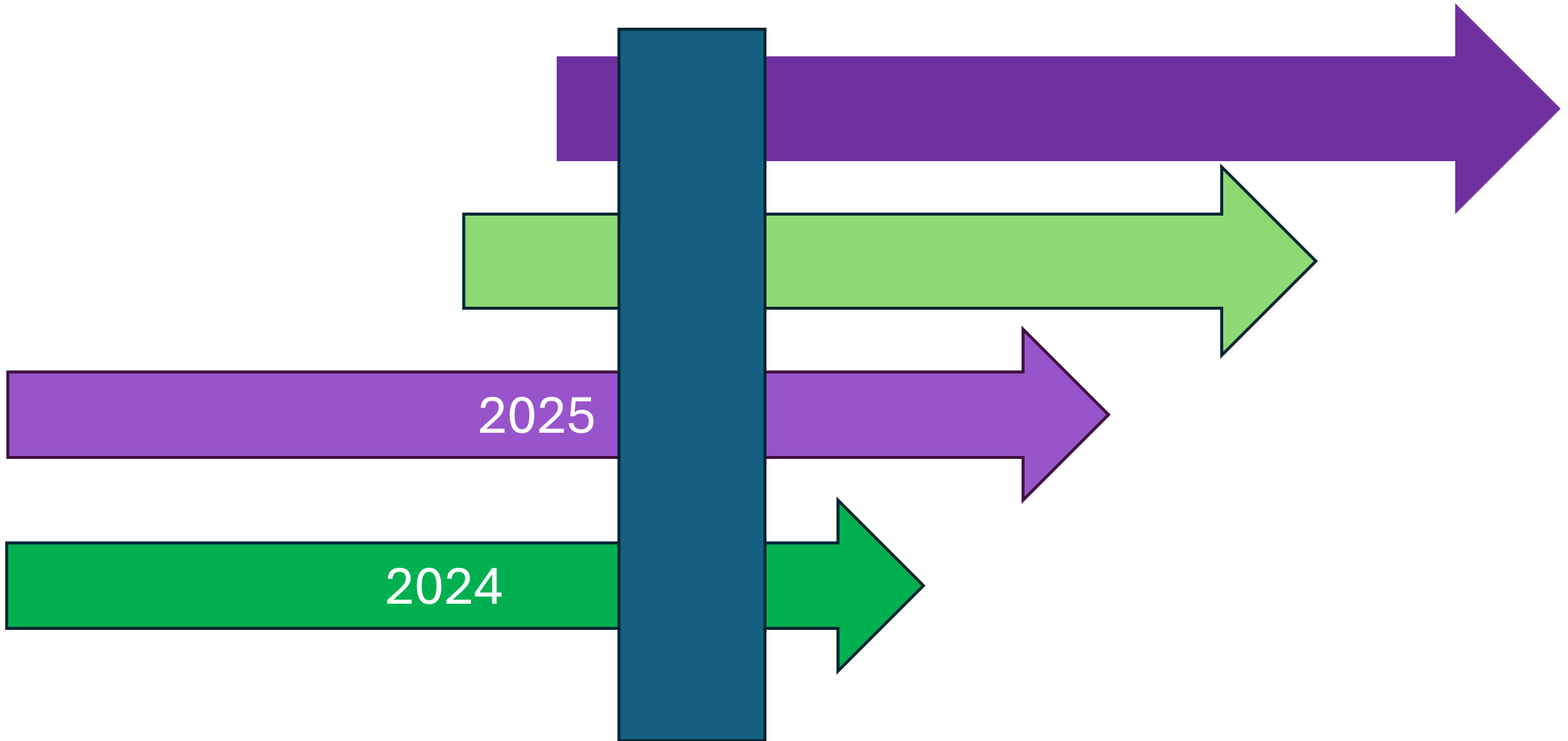
- Disengagement of the members
- Political conflict, multiple mental health businesses competing
- Other coalitions that are similar that compete against each other
- Multiple focuses
- Funding opportunities

"When Things Go Wrong"

Checklist

- ✓ **Pause and Assess the Situation**
Is it the weather, missing materials?
- ✓ **Ensure Safety First**
Is anyone at risk or uncomfortable?
- ✓ **Communicate Clearly**
Notify attendees/partners of changes
- ✓ **Adapt & Improvise**
Out of handouts? Collect emails
Bad weather? Indoors, reschedule, or virtual options.
- ✓ **Document and Debrief**
Note what happened, gather feedback

Our Initiatives...



Mental Health Awareness Event

TOGETHER, WE CAN RAISE AWARENESS



Thank You for Supporting Our Mental Health Awareness Event

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of the Suicide Prevention Coalition, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in and attended the Mental Health Awareness Event on Sunday, May 18, 2025.

Your presence, energy, and commitment to mental wellness made the event a meaningful and impactful experience. Whether you were a volunteer, community partner, or attendee your contribution helped create a space of hope, healing, and connection.

We are especially grateful to the following organizations who generously donated raffle gifts: ADAMHS Board of Erie County, Berardi's Restaurant Huron, Erie Shore Network, Kalahari Resorts, NAMI of Erie County, and S.A.R.C.C. Your contributions brought joy and excitement to the day. A special thank you as well to Cedar Point for providing the delicious ice cream that everyone enjoyed on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

Together, we raised awareness, shared resources, and strengthened our community's resolve to support one another. Events like this remind us that we are not alone—and that by standing together, we can break the stigma surrounding mental health and save lives.

Thank you for being part of this important movement. We look forward to continuing this journey with you.

With gratitude,

The Suicide Prevention Coalition of Erie County



\$25 Amazon Gift Card – donated by Erie Shore Network – Meghan Erney

\$25 Applebee's Gift Card – donated by NAMI – Michelle Gayton

\$20 Berardi's Huron Gift Card – MacKenzie Buck

\$25 Cinemark Gift Card – donated by NAMI – Brianna Howell

\$25 Petco Gift Card - donated Erie Shore Network- Sharon Woodburn

\$25 Target Gift Card – donated by Erie Shore Network – Olivianna S.

Canvas Bag – donated by SARCC – Diane Taylor

Gift Basket – donated by Kalahari Gift Basket – Kristy Cross

SMORES Gift Basket – donated by NAMI – Iryna Arsenault



CONGRATULATIONS, Carrie!

You've been awarded a \$3,000 stipend to participate in the Training of the Trainer program! Well deserved!

The Training of the Trainer Program is a specialized initiative designed to build leadership and capacity within Ohio's community coalitions.

- Gain advanced skills in facilitation, coaching, and leadership



Ohio Coalition Institute
Coach Position Description:
Community Readiness - Tri Ethnic Model



*Wendy was unable to attend – we
will reschedule for August.*

Guest Speaker:
Founder &
President,
Wendy
Criswell



**EXTENDING
ON-SITE
QPR TRAINING
FOR ORGANIZATION,
INDIVIDUAL AGENCY,
OR OFFICE TEAM**

The training will be led by Firelands Health: Sheena Lutz and Karen Russell.

If any agency and/or organization is interested in hosting an on-site QPR Training session for their employees, please reach out to one of the Strategic Workgroup members.

This training can be incredibly valuable for suicide prevention and mental health awareness.

Ohio Farmer's mental health #gotyourback campaign on how to be supportive of the farmers/mental health: gotyourbackohio.org)

Agriculture is the number one industry in Ohio. We know our Erie County farmers give so much of themselves to keep the industry strong. We also know so many factors in farming are out of a farmer's control, and that can be stressful. Wondering if the weather will cooperate, long hours working alone – it can all affect the well-being of the farm family.



[podcast with the survey results](#)
with Dr. Dee Jepsen
The Ohio State University
Ohio Agricultural Alliance.

go.osu.edu/FarmStress

FarmStateofMind.com

Amanda Denes-Diedrick, Organization Director
Erie County Farm Bureau



Man's Therapy is an engaging online resource that provides stress management tips for working aged men.

“Each man is on their own journey of well-being, trying to navigate their own issue and opportunities. Man's Therapy takes a comprehensive, upstream approach and meets men where they are.”

“Man's Therapy Campaign”

Evidence-based effort to reduce male suicide www.mantherapy.org

The Suicide Prevention Coalition of Erie County
is recognizing June as Men's Mental Health Awareness Month
by launching the Man's Therapy Campaign.

Faith-Based-Initiative

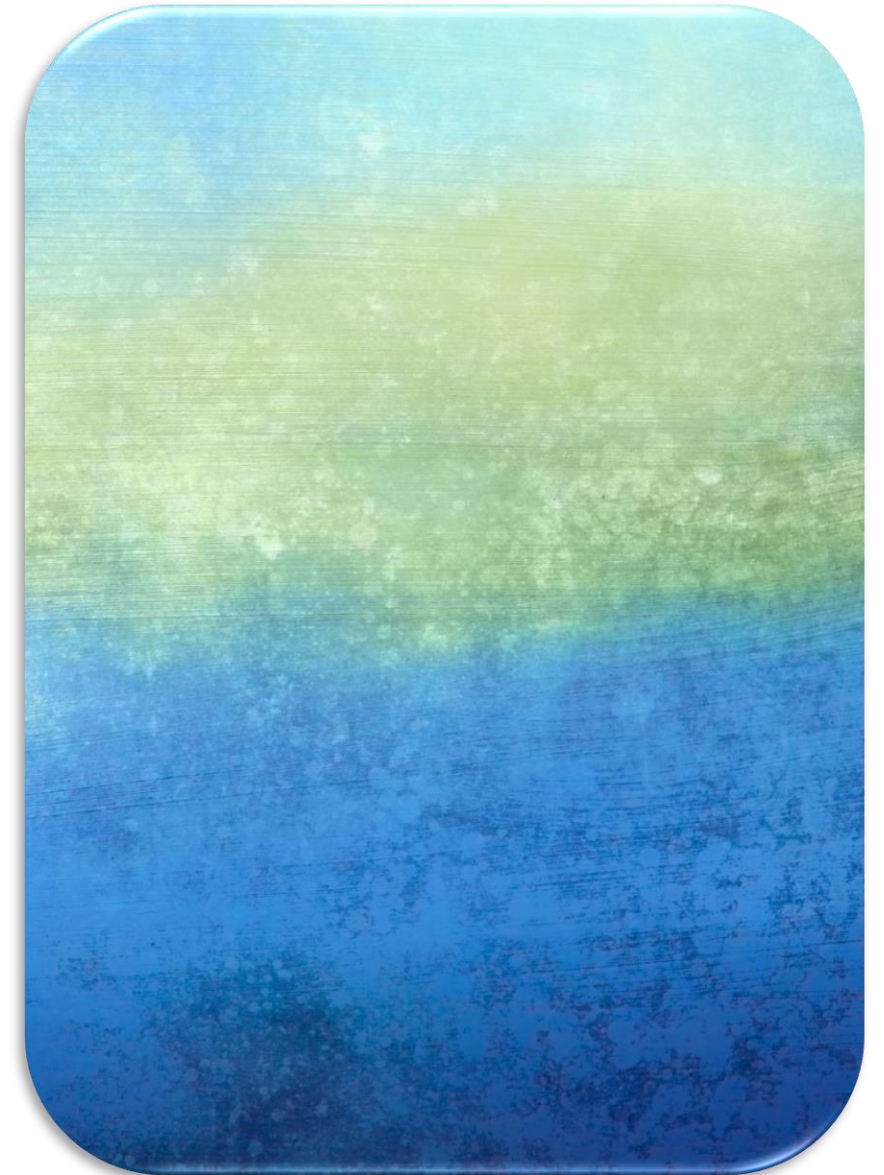
Led by:



Julie Hammond

Abigail Echavarri

Julie Bath



Exciting
News-Our
Website is
Coming Soon!

■
**WEBSITE
IS UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**



2ND ANNUAL ALYJAH "AJ" BORES MEMORIAL MILE

RUN

& WALK

OPEN TO ALL AGES-NO
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

T-SHIRT
PREORDER LINK



RAFFLE
& PRIZES

**SATURDAY
JUNE 21**

RACE START 2 PM
FABENS PARK HURON, OHIO



Although Meghan was unable to attend the coalition meeting to discuss this event, she wanted to make sure the coalition is informed. Thank you!



1. If anyone would like **gunlocks**, please reach out. We have them stored at the office of Family and Children First Council – contact Melissa at mbayersmith@eriecounty.oh.gov
2. Cheryl will be submitting the **final report for the Prevention Alliance grant**. If you should have any additional comments or feedback, please let her know by Tuesday, June 17, 2025.
3. If anyone has **additional ideas for the Logo/Tagline** please send them to Cheryl at cheryl@adamhserie.org **prior** to the Strategic Workgroup meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, July 9, 2025**.
4. Any **upcoming events** that you would like to include in our coalition meeting announcements – we can add to the agenda or put them in our presentation for you to promote.
5. **June is Men's Mental Health Month** – Please share the Man's Therapy website [Man Therapy® | Men's Mental Health Resources](#)

Erie County Suicide Prevention Coalition

ADAMHS Board of Erie County	Greater Sandusky Partnership
Attitude-N-Effort Coaching	Kalahari Resorts & Conventions
Bayshore Counseling	Local Community Members and Loved Ones
BGSU Firelands	Mercy Health
BrightView Health	NAMI of Erie County
Cedar Point	Ohio Guidestones
Connections Recovery Services	Perkins Local School District
Eats N' Treats/Regan Neidler Foundation	Sandusky Artisans Recovery Center
Erie County Community Foundation	Sandusky City Schools
Erie County Farm Bureau	Serving Our Seniors
Erie County Health Department	United Way
Erie Shore Network	Veteran Affairs
Erie County Coroner's Office	Veteran Services
Erie County Sheriff's Department	Volunteers of America
Family & Children First Council	What If...Hope
Firelands Health	4Ward Project

Thank you!

Thank you, Erie County, for your unwavering dedication to strengthening our community - one where every life is valued and mental health truly matters.

#MentalHealthMatters

#CommunitySupport

#ErieCountyCares

Next Coalition Meeting

Date: August 13, 2025

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Erie County Health Department

