

Welcome

Suicide Prevention Coalition
Erie County

08.13.2025



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 all !! These roles are essential for keeping us organized and ensuring that key information is shared after our meetings. Appreciate everyone's support – especially **Marissa**, who always steps up to take notes!!

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.



1. Who opened in 1870 as a public bathing beach – established by a German immigrant, who built a bathhouse and beer garden on the beach – city's rise as tourist destination?

Cedar Point

2. Sandusky is home to the fictional seller of brake pads Callahan Auto Parts. What classic film just celebrated their 30th anniversary this past weekend?

Tommy Boy

3. What invention led to Sandusky claiming the title of 'color capital of the world'?

American Crayon Company

Raising Awareness in Erie County

Several factors contribute to suicide risk in Erie County and similar communities:

- **Access to firearms:** Over 58% of suicide deaths in Ohio involved firearms.
- **Drug poisoning:** Suicide deaths by drug overdose increased by 11%
- **Mental health challenges:** Depression, anxiety, and substance abuse are prevalent, especially among youth and veterans.
- **Social isolation:** Particularly in rural areas, isolation and lack of community support are significant risk factors.

Suicide deaths in Erie County increased from 72 in 2023 to 94 in 2024, with males accounting for 79% of those deaths, and about two-thirds occurring in individuals aged 40 and older.

About half of these deaths occurred in individuals aged 50 and older, and two-thirds were in people aged 40 and older.

According to the 2021 Erie County Youth Community Health Assessment, among high school students:

- 18% seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year
- 8% attempted suicide

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.



Wendy Criswell



Wendy started a nonprofit after losing her husband to suicide. [What if; Hope | Suicide survivor financial assistance | 580 South Co Road 278, Clyde, OH, USA](#)

We appreciate your dedication and courage!

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



As part of our deliverables for the Prevention Action Alliance Grant, we will be conducting a survey after every meeting to stay attuned to the perspectives of our coalition members and the evolving needs of our community. Your input is invaluable in helping us strengthen and enhance our initiative. Please take a few moments to complete the survey before our next coalition meeting in October – your voice matters!!

Suicide Prevention Coalition Survey

Any question(s) please reach out to Carrie Kennedy with Bayshore Counseling

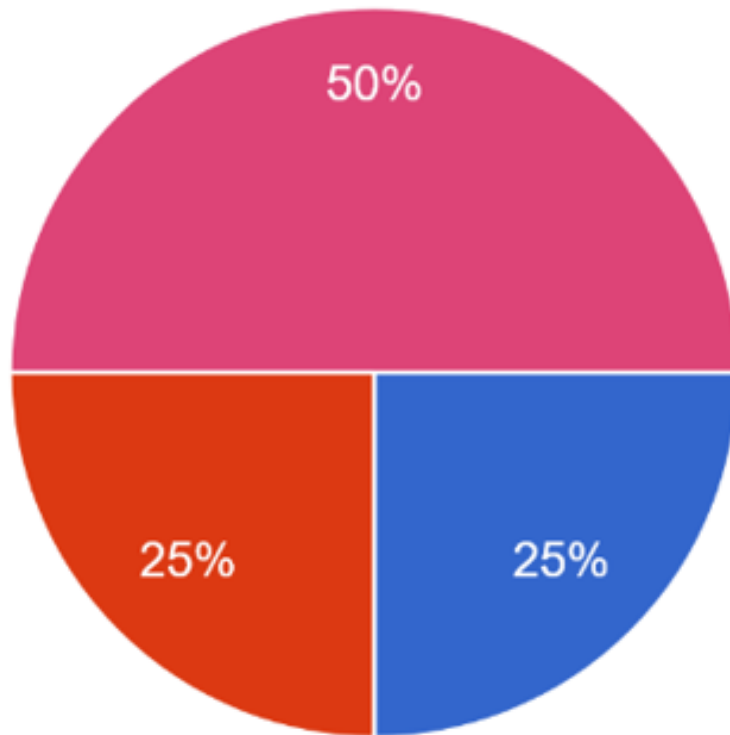
Suicide Prevention Coalition Survey



Thank you to those who took the time to complete the survey!

Your feedback is greatly appreciated in helping us enhance our efforts and shape future initiatives. Every voice matters, and we are excited to keep improving with your input in mind. Stay tuned for what's next!

What is your role in the coalition?
8 responses



- Community Member
- Mental Health Professional
- Educator
- Law Enforcement
- Healthcare Provider
- Faith-Based Leader
- Other

If other was marked, please describe your role below:4 responses

Director of child and family serving organization

work with Erie County Farm Bureau

NAMI Erie - providing Education, Advocacy & Support

Behavioral Health Professional/Provider (Mental Health & Substance Abuse)

How long have you been a member of this coalition?7 responses

1 year

since spring 2025

3 months

1 Year

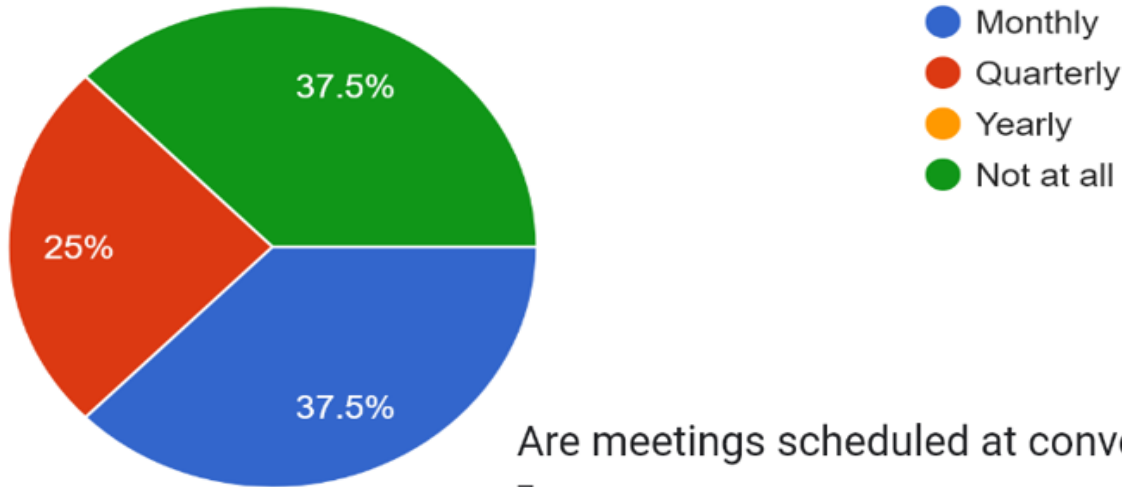
since the start

Since the startup!

Couple months

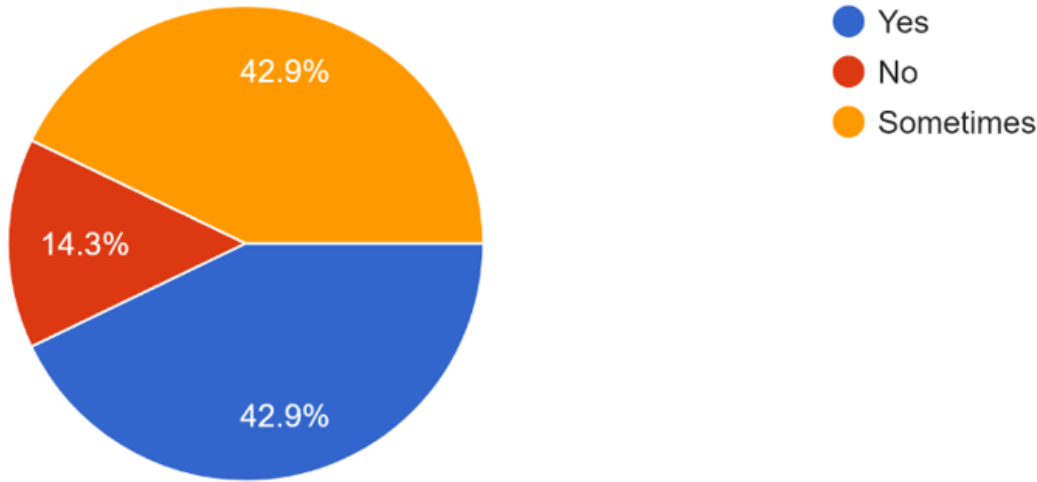
How often do you attend meetings?

8 responses



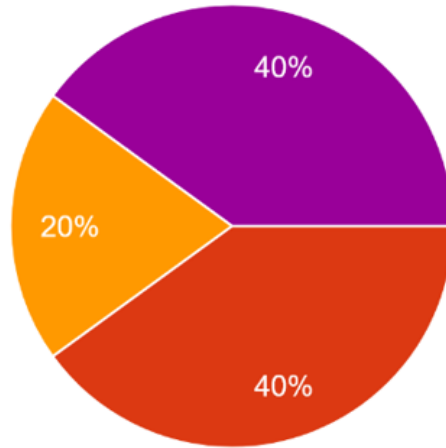
Are meetings scheduled at convenient times?

7 responses



How engaging was the meeting today?

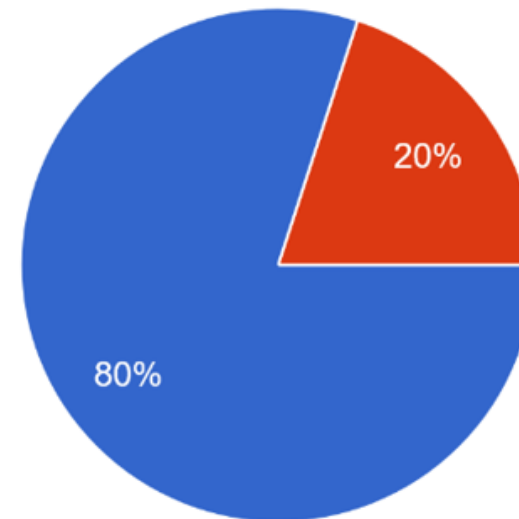
5 responses



- Extremely engaging
- Very engaging
- Moderately engaging
- Slightly engaging
- Not engaging at all

Do you feel our meeting stayed on task today?

5 responses

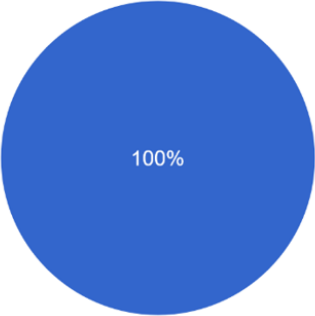


- Yes
- No



Do you feel our mission aligns with your organization's goals?

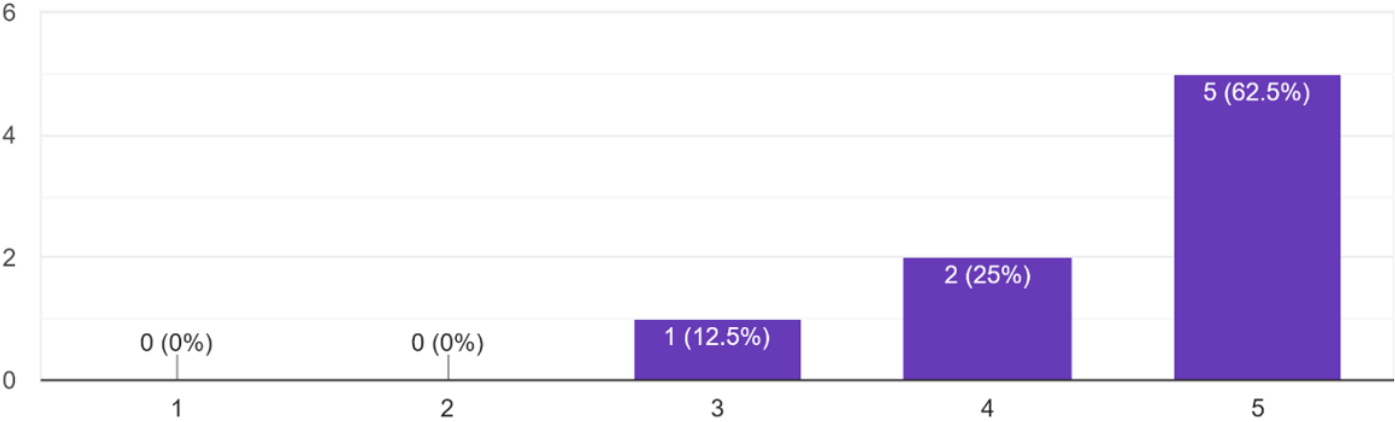
8 responses



- Yes
- No
- Not sure

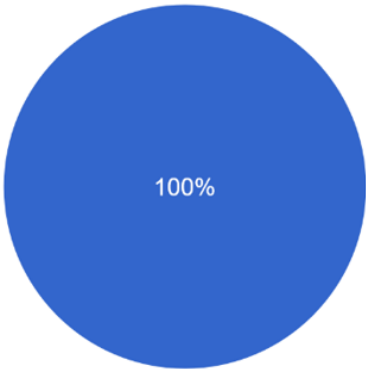
On a scale of 1-5, how clear is our coalition's mission and vision to you?

8 responses



Do you feel your input is valued during meetings?

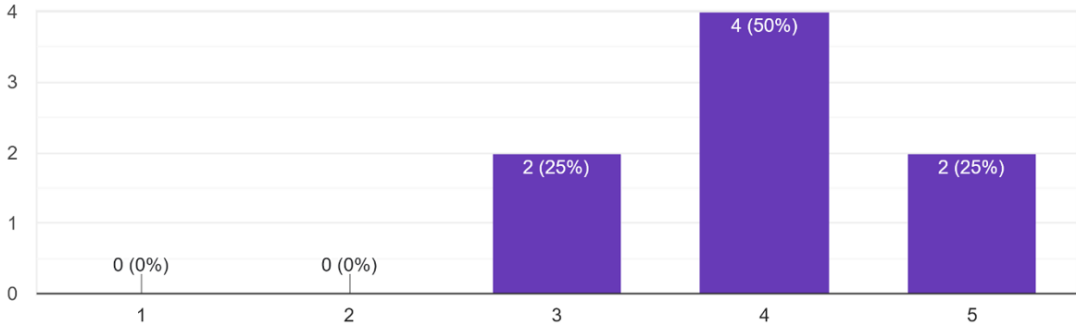
7 responses



- Yes
- No
- Sometimes

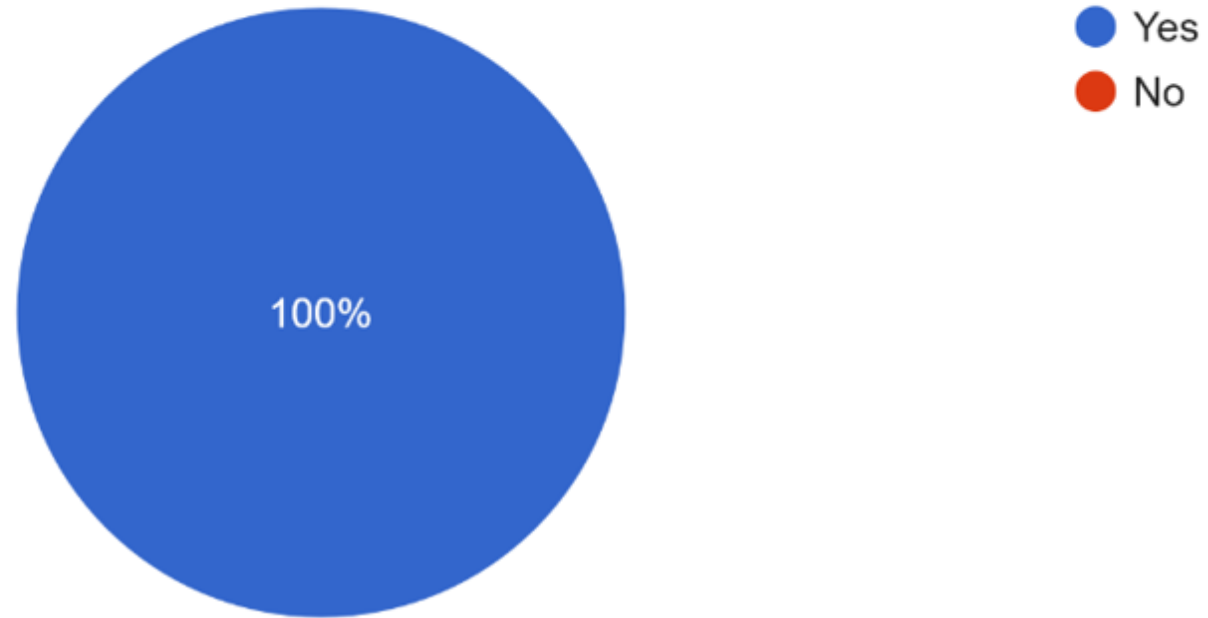
How effective is communication within the coalition?

8 responses



Do you feel we are aligned in our short- and long-term goals?

7 responses



What action steps did you take away from the meeting?³ responses

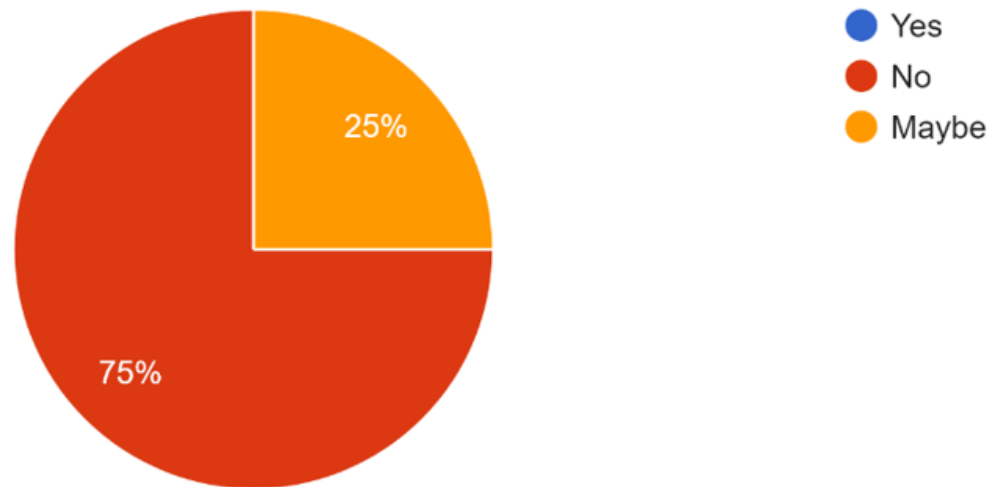
I built a contact through the meeting that I later ordered gun locks from to distribute to any partner agencies or families in need of one

Need to find ways to get the members more active.

N/A

Would you like to report on these action steps in the next meeting?

4 responses



What do you think are the coalition's most significant achievements so far? 6 responses

QPR training

Saving one life at a time and breaking the stigma to talk about suicide.

I haven't been involved long enough to really know, but definitely creating more awareness for resources within the community.

QPR Training & continued Training Efforts

community inclusion and bringing awareness to more in our community

Bringing other agencies in the community together.

How has the coalition impacted the community? 6 responses

I am not sure yet

positively

Providing awareness, resources and support for those struggling with suicidal ideations.

Increasing Engagement & spreading awareness throughout the Community (Events, Resources/Speakers at Coalition Meetings, Training Opportunities, etc.)

bringing more awareness about suicide and education on how to prevent it

By showing we are all in it for the same cause

What additional resources or support do you think the coalition needs? 2 responses

Youth perspective

not sure

Do you have any additional comments? 2 responses

no

We are new here and are just getting started. We look forward to becoming more involved and are grateful to be invited to the table:)

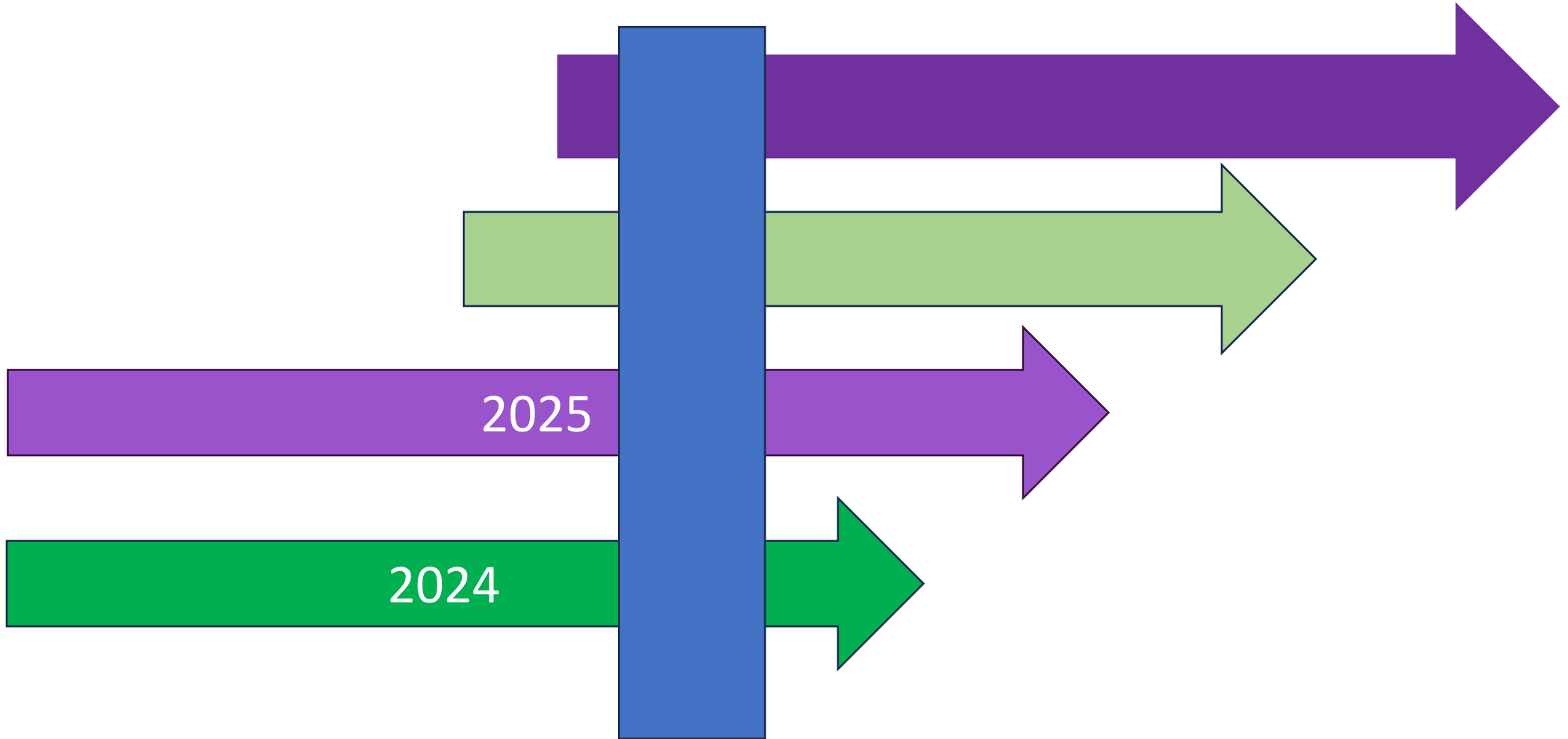


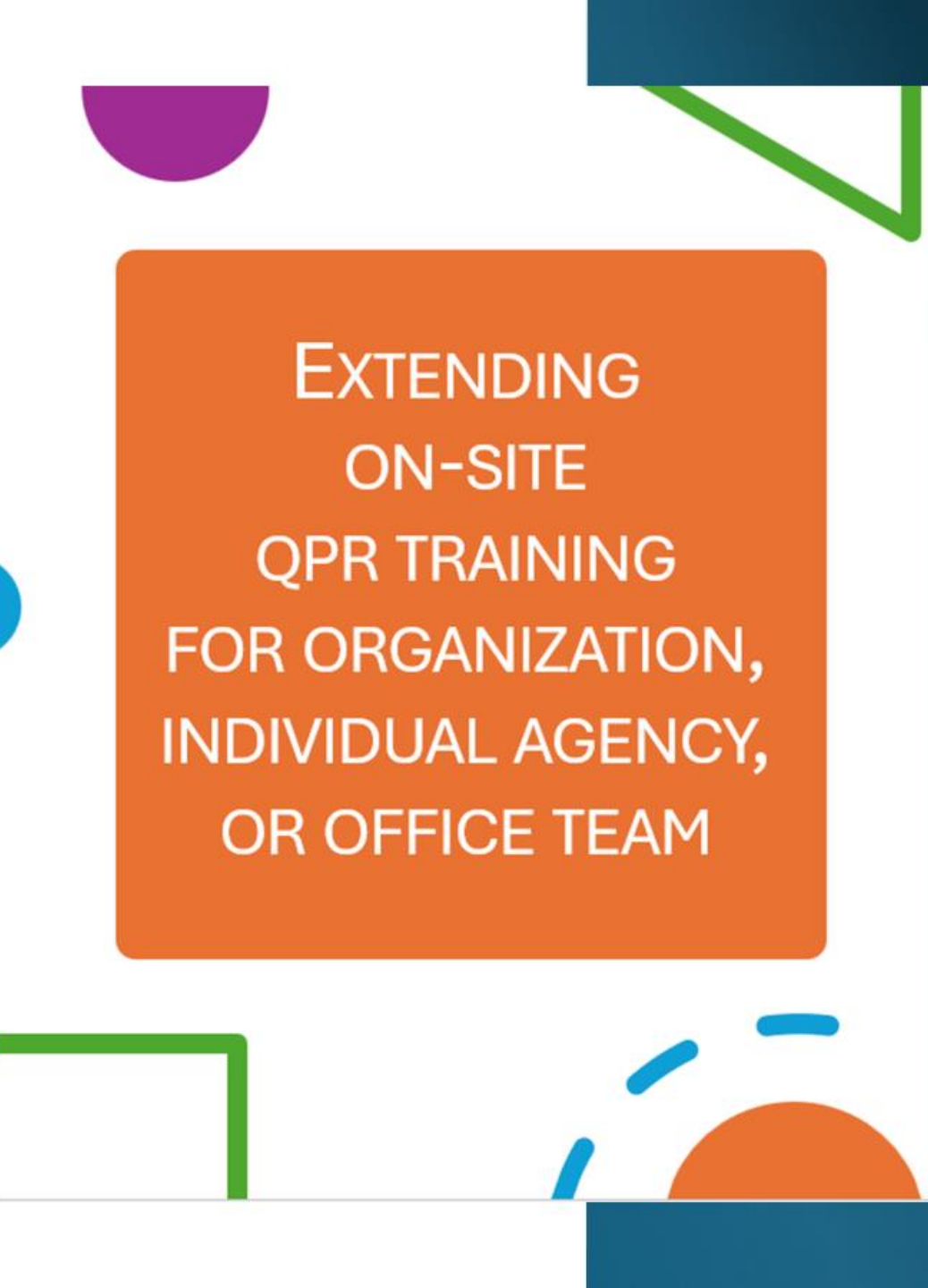
Community Engagement and Representation Framework

We need your help in making these initiatives successful. Please reach out to one of the Lead-Partner to let them know if you can help; and if you would like to take the lead on one of these initiatives.

Community Sector	Identified Gaps	Planned Outreach	Coalition Partner - Lead
Men	Emotional Stigma	Man's Therapy Campaign	Jarvis Cole-Caston , JCole@greatersandusky.com Michael Erney , Michael.erney81@gmail.com
Farmers	Geographic Access	Rural outreach initiative	Amanda Denes-Diedrick , adenes@ofbf.org
Faith-Based	Interfaith Diversity	Faith-Based Initiative	NAMI -Erie , nami.in.erie@gmail.com
Veterans	Peer Support Gaps	Veteran peer networks	Brian Hudzik , brian.hudzik@va.gov
Youth	Rural Youth	School partnership	Carrie Kennedy , ckennedy@bayshorecs.org
Seniors	Isolation Risks	Senior wellness education	
Businesses	Small Business Inclusion	Workplace Mental Health	
Mental Health	Service Navigation	Resource Mapping	ADAMHS Board , diane@adamhserie.org
Substance Use Recovery	Stigma Barriers	Recovery Ally Training	
Law Enforcement	Trauma-Informed Care	Crisis Intervention Training	
Survivors & Families	Long-term support	Survivor-Led Advisory Panels	

Our Initiatives...





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

The Training is led by Firelands Health.

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



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

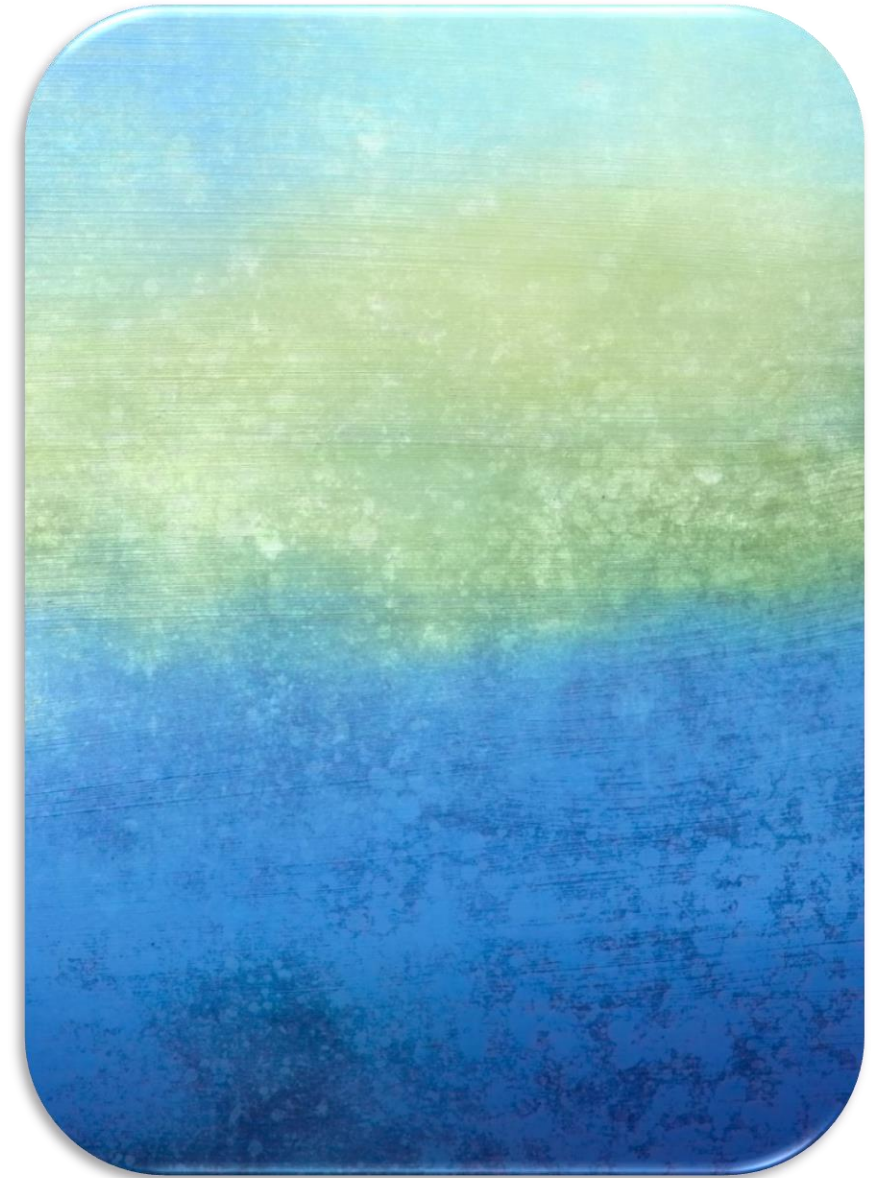
**The Suicide Prevention Coalition of Erie County
recognized June as Men's Mental Health Awareness Month
by launching the Man's Therapy Campaign.**

Faith-Based-Initiative

Led by:



Erie County
Ohio



Caitlyn and Meghan Erney have taken the lead to get our Website and our Facebook page up and running.

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 submitted the **final report for the Prevention Alliance grant**. Thank you to Stephanie, Marissa, and Carrie for your participation for making sure we followed the grant requirements and attending the conference calls.
3. Any **upcoming events** that you would like to include in our coalition meeting announcements please send to email: togetherweheal.ecspc@gmail.com

4. September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month –

Please help us with community engagement at our event scheduled for Sat., Sept. 27th

Please click on the next slide's link to obtain a copy of the flyer to share. Thanks!!

*Walk with purpose –
join us for*

Steps of Hope

September 27, 2025

Walk begins at 10:40 a.m.

(wear green or purple to show your support; no registration needed)

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Gov't Office Bldg. Parking Lot
2900 Columbus Ave, Sandusky** *(next to the fairgrounds)*

Erie County Suicide Prevention Coalition

ADAMHS Board of Erie County	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	Taking Back Ohio
Erie Shore Network	The Chapel
Erie County Coroner's Office	United Way
Erie County Sheriff's Department	Veteran Affairs
Family & Children First Council	Veteran Services
Firelands Health	Volunteers of America
Fresh Hope for Mental Health	What If...Hope
Greater Sandusky Partnership	4Ward Project

Strategic Workgroup Members:

Brian Hudzik (Veterans)

Carrie Kennedy (Bayshore)

Meghan Erney (Bayshore)

Cheryl Huss (ADAMHS Board)

Iryna Arsenault (Kalahari)

Kerri Lone (Kalahari)

Julie Bath (NAMI)

Marissa Moore (Firelands Health)

Stacey Hartley (BGSU Firelands)

Stephanie Salyer (Health Department)

We are inviting coalition members to consider joining our Strategic Workgroup to help us with the upcoming Steps of Hope event scheduled for September 27, 2025. A virtual meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 27 at 1:00 p.m. [Join with Google Meet](https://meet.google.com/jrs-pkxp-jnw) meet.google.com/jrs-pkxp-jnw

This group plays a key role in shaping direction, setting priorities, and driving impactful initiatives. If you are interested in contributing your insights and helping us guide our efforts, we'd love to have you on board.

Please let us know if you'd like to be part of this exciting opportunity by email: TogetherWeHeal.ECSPC@gmail.com

If you need assistance, would like to schedule a QPR, plan a wellness event, or organize an in-service, or if you are simply looking for more information, please reach out to TogetherWeHeal.ECSPC@gmail.com

1. We reviewed our deliverables and survey feedback. Overall coalition continues to grow. The biggest focus will be promoting in the future. We have a lot of eyes on the coalition but will encourage more actual participation.
2. QPR training and feedback. First training was a good turnout. Firelands Health to assist and coordinate with another upcoming training in 2026.
3. Discussed reach in FHS and the schools. Marissa to outreach FHS and ask for best candidate that draws school population considering FHS contracts with every Erie County school.
4. Review of grant applications and community engagement. Cheryl shared we do have unused grant monies for the September 27, 2025, event.
5. Brian Hudzik shared VA update virtually and will plan to provide VA specific resources.

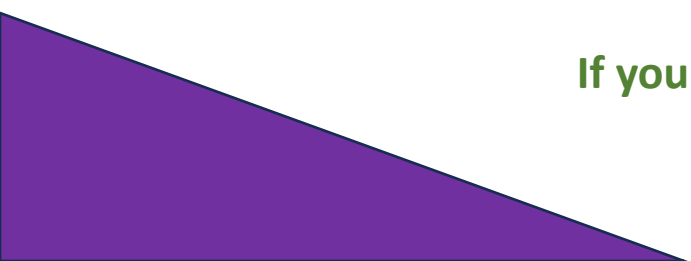
6. Discussion of CIT training and how LE could benefit by being a part of this.
 7. Discussion on possibly engaging office on aging and serving our seniors.
 8. September 27 Steps of Hope Event. Flyer has been made and promoting will start asap. Bayshore staff to create social media page. Plans to post in Sandusky Register and other marketing avenue.
 - We will need staff to provide Mental Health Screenings at the September event.
-

We could use your help with the following initiatives:

1. Networking - Invite others to join our effort to save lives
2. Steps of Hope – Walk With Purpose
3. We've Got Your Back – Support our agricultural community
4. Men's Therapy Campaign – Promote mental health resources for men
5. Faith-Based Initiative – Engage faith communities in wellness & prevention
6. Data & Resources - Help us fill the gaps and stop the stigma

Your Support is Much Appreciated!!

If you can help, please reach out to togetherweheal.ecspc@gmail.com



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 Erie County Suicide Prevention Coalition

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM (EST)

Meeting link: [Erie County Suicide Prevention Coalition | Microsoft Teams | Meetup-Join](#)

