

Date Approved: 2-28-2023
Presiding Officer: Ann Woolum

Hancock County ADAMHS Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 24, 2023

Meeting Time: 3:30 p.m. – 5:05 p.m.

Meeting Location: Blanchard Valley Center – 1700 East Sandusky Street

Recorder: Cheryl Preston

Board Member Attendance:

	Ann Woolum, Board Chair (phone)		Brandon Daniels	x	Rosalie King
x	Jim Darrach, Vice Chair		Mary Beth Dillon	x	Cheryl Lentz
x	Melanie Aldobaiki	x	John Drymon	x	Greg Meyers
	Dave Beach	x	Rick Eakin	x	Susan Pancake
x	Susan Bunn	x	Josh Eberle	x	Mark Rimelspach
x	Seth Butler	x	Rachael Helms	x	Jim Stahl

Guests Attending:

x	Precia Stuby	x	Rob Verhoff	x	Jennifer Loera
x	Jennifer Swartzlander	x	Zach Thomas		
x	Cheryl Preston	x	Chris Biltz		
x	Deb Twining	x	Michelle McGraw		

In the absence of Board Chair, Ann Woolum, Jim Darrach, Board Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

Jim introduced Chris Biltz, Prevention Supervisor to present an overview of prevention services that are provided by Family Resource Center. Chris shared the continuum of care for prevention from promotion; prevention; treatment; to recovery. He explained the 3-Tier Model of prevention: 1. universal prevention is for the vast majority using universal prevention tools. 2. selective prevention has additional programming for youth “at risk” such as youth in foster care. 3. Indicated prevention is based on need and is behavior specific. Chris touched on Youth Thrive and the 5 protective factors: resilience, connections, adolescent development, support, and social emotional competence. In the schools, the prevention team is building on social and emotional learning: self-awareness, social awareness, relationship skills just to name a few. Chris shared additional curriculum and age-appropriate educational tools the prevention team uses such as Dinosaur School. Services outside of the school day include groups, summer programs, and universal screening that helps detect the needs that kids may be hiding and helps build connection and get them into support. Chris shared that his prevention team of 11 consists of prevention educators, early childhood mental health specialists, a transitional youth specialist and adult prevention specialist, Amber Wolfrom. Lastly, he shared that the adult prevention strategy is to present to existing partners, meet with business leadership and expand to the faith-based community. Amber Wolfrom is trained in several adult prevention models including problem gambling, prime for life and farm stress (rural self-care).

Questions and discussion ensued following the presentation Precia thanked Chris and reminded Board members that these evidence-based services are funded by the Board.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Jim referenced the Coalition on Addiction data; the neonatal abstinence syndrome numbers dropped about half (15) compared to 31 in 2021. Suicide rates doubled (5 in 2021 and 10 in 2022). Overdose fatalities are up - with 18 confirmed and 9 still pending.

FOCUS Chair Meeting Report of January 10, 2023 – Agency updates, Lead grant updates, and occupancy updates were all discussed at the meeting.

Board Office Ad Hoc Committee – Cheryl will send an evaluation question to determine which Board members would like to serve on an Ad Hoc Committee for the Board's office building. Jennifer will be lead staff and ideally 1 member per Board committee would serve in this capacity to meet and explore options to renovate the current office space, build new, or purchase/renovate an existing building. The building that housed One Amazing Place was investigated but would be challenging due to stairs; however, at this point all options are still on the table.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Follow-up items from the November Board meeting: We are beginning to receive data from the CHESS link that will be included on the quarterly scorecard.; 10 screenings have been reported. Precia noted that her performance review was completed; however not all Board members participated. The book recommendations from the previous month were purchased and are available to borrow.

Rosalie King recommended another book for Board members to consider reading: *My Grandmother's Hands* by Resmaa Menaken.

State of the State Financial Position – Rob presented an overview of the 4-year (FY '20 – FY '23) historical forecasts and Board available funds from July to December. He explained that the projected amount at the end of July is based on the budget the Board approves in June; the increase from July to December is based on confirmed revenue and expenses. He explained the Board available funds, including Board reserves at 3% of projected revenue. Precia noted the importance of Board available funds related to investments, the state departments commitment to crisis infrastructure, and the Board's most expensive investment - The Steady Path. While this project is a good candidate for a continuation grant it will not cover all the expenses; the Board should be prepared to keep this project afloat.

Annually Board members are given a copy of the Board Member Eligibility and Ethical Conduct Policy; Precia reviewed the policy, highlighting criteria to serve on the Board as well as ethical conduct that must be followed to serve on the Board.

Precia updated the Board on the approval from the attorney of the Student Intern Policy; that approval was not received until after the Governance Committee met. Staff is in the process of completing the paperwork to hire the two current interns as temporary part-time employees.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A \$500 donation was received from the Gary and Brenda Steed Fund (The Community Foundation). This is an annual donation and is not earmarked for a certain purpose.

2. Notification that Liana Gott accepted the offer as Executive Director of NAMI Hancock County.
3. A thank you letter was received from the Findlay Hancock County Chamber of Commerce for the Board's membership. Zach serves on the Chamber Advisory Board.
4. Notice was received from the United Way regarding the discontinuation of the extra food benefits in March that were put in place due to the public health emergency. Precia explained that SNAP recipients will have a significant reduction of food benefits. The United Way has taken the lead with community agencies to prep for the higher need.
5. Notice was received that William White is featuring "A Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care Case Study: Hancock County" on the front page of his blog.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- To approve the November 22, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes
- To approve the Program Committee Meeting Report of January 11, 2023
- To approve the Governance Committee Meeting Report of January 18, 2023
- To approve the Finance Committee Meeting Report of January 18, 2023, and the Agency Financial Pictures

It was noted that the FRC Contingency plan was received. They have 34 open positions (agency wide) that are not generating revenue. They are working to fill the positions.

Jim Stahl moved to accept all items on the consent agenda. John Drymon seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS BROUGHT FROM COMMITTEE

- To approve the Health Officer Policy. **Jim Darrach called for a vote. No questions; no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion passed.**
- To eliminate the use of a per diem for out of state travel on the Board Travel Reimbursement Policy, retroactive to January 1, 2023. It was noted that in November of 2022, using a per diem was approved, however, after feedback from the Auditor that it is considered income, the Policy was taken back to the Committee to be repealed. **Jim Darrach called for a vote. No questions; no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion passed.**
- To approve the November and December 2022 Board financial statements. **Jim Darrach called for a vote. No questions; no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

ACTION ITEMS BROUGHT TO THE BOARD

- To approve the Community Plan. The Plan is the Board's contract with the state department. The Program Committee reviewed the priorities, and it was reviewed by the Board Chair and Vice Chair. **John Drymon moved to approve the Community Plan as presented. Jim Stahl seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.**

INFORMATION REPORTS

- Opioid and Addictions Task Force Chair Meeting Report of December 12, 2022
- Community Partnership Meeting Report of January 17, 2023
- ROSC Leadership Report of January 24, 2023

AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

POSITIVE ACTION

Precia shared that during the Medical Committee meeting the manager of Blanchard Valley Hospital Emergency Department (ED), Natalie Phoenix, shared that by April they will be ready to implement induction of suboxone from the emergency room, with follow-up provided by local agencies. Precia shared that this will be a huge advantage for our community; the next step would be getting it implemented in the jail.

Precia shared that the Suicide Prevention group meeting was full of energy, ideas, and concern. Mark Rimelspach agreed to get information regarding gun safety in relationship to suicide to local gun shop owners.

FOLLOW-UP NEEDED:

Cheryl will email the Prevention Services PowerPoint presentation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by John Drymon to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the personnel evaluation of Precia Stuby. Jim Stahl seconded the motion. Motion carried. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously.

John Drymon made a motion to close Executive Session. Jim Stahl seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rosalie King made a motion to grant Precia Stuby a 3.5% increase retroactive to January 1, 2023. Greg Meyers seconded. Motion carried.

The next Board meeting will be February 28, 2023.

Jim Stahl made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Josh Eberle seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Program Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Date: February 8, 2023

Meeting Time: 4:04 p.m. – 5:38 p.m.

Meeting Location: BOARD OFFICE

Recorder: Jennifer Swartzlander and Precia Stuby

Committee Members Attending:

X	Brandon Daniels, Committee Chair	X	Susan Pancake, Committee Vice Chair
	Cheryl Lentz	X	Rosalie King
X	Susan Bunn	X	Rachael Helms
X	Dave Beach		

Board Members Attending:

X	Ann Woolum, Board Chair	X	Jim Darrach, Board Vice Chair
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Invited Staff Attending:

X	Precia Stuby		Zach Thomas	X	Jennifer Swartzlander
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Items Discussed:

- Review of FY'23 Second Quarter Draft Scorecard** - Jennifer reviewed the second quarter scorecard, NAMI, and Focus Report Cards, and the PowerBi report from the PartnerSolutions Reporting system. In relationship to Managed Care, Precia shared that changes are not going well with OhioRISE or the modernization efforts of the Department of Medicaid.
- OhioGuidestone Request – Project Protect** – Historically, OhioGuidestone had requested funding for an adult sexual offender treatment program. They want to move the funding from the adult sexual offender program to an evidence-based youth sexual offender program. (Currently there is no certified program available in Hancock County.) They have an internal learning community to support staff training for the youth sexual offender program.
- 120-day Notice Letters for FY'24 Contracts** –The Committee reviewed draft letters. Precia reminded the Committee that Boards are required by law to provide the agencies 120-day notice letters to inform them of the Board's plan to continue to contract with them. The letter thanks them for the prior contract, indicates a plan to contract again, and states there are no substantial changes planned in their contract for the next fiscal year.
- OneOhio Foundation Update** – Precia provided a OneOhio PowerPoint to the Committee. It is anticipated that the funding would be released starting in October of 2023. Commissioner Pepple is Hancock County representative on the Regional Board. The representative from our region to the state Foundation Board is the ADAMHS Board Director from Seneca, Sandusky, Wyandot, and Ottawa Counties. This is a possible revenue stream that our Board, and local agencies, can access in the future.

5. **FY '24 Allocations Grid** – The allocation calendar outlines the allocation process between now and July 1st. There will be only one additional meeting on June 7th to get the allocation process completed. There were no identified changes.
6. **SAMHSA Homelessness Grant** – Precia reminded the Committee about the increased number of homeless people in our downtown area. Mayor Muryn put a committee together run by Rob Martin to address this. Subcommittees were formed to address the proposed solutions: increasing the low stock of low-income and available housing; awareness and education; and the development of low barrier housing. Low Barrier Housing targets individuals who are homeless and not engaging in treatment. Low Barrier Housing does not require an individual to be sober to be there, there are minimal rules, meals, and a place to sleep. Intensive outreach is also a component. City Mission is willing to operate the service and Family Resource Center is willing to provide the treatment. Brandeis would be the evaluator. Meelee identified and is willing to write a SAMHSA grant in the amount of \$500,000 for 5 years to fund the initiative. In order to accomplish this, the City Mission would have to move their family housing out of Mission to make the second floor Low Barrier Housing. Hope House indicated they do not have the capacity to be the lead on the grant. ADAMHS is willing to consider, and the Committee discussed it. Following the discussion, the Committee was in agreement with the Board serving as the applicant organization. There was a request to have Rob Martin and Kathryn Bausman present a program at the February Board on the work of the Unhoused Committee and a deeper description of Low Barrier Housing.

Action Items:

1. Susan Pancake motioned to allow OGS to switch their sexual offender treatment funding from adult programming to youth programming. Susan Bunn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (This does not impact the amount of funding awarded to the agency - it just shifts it from adult programming to youth programming.)
2. Rosalie King motioned to approve the 120-day notice letters as written and to send them to the contract agencies. Susan Pancake seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

To Do:

1. The Committee recommended having another article in the paper on CHESS.
2. Board staff will ask the treatment agencies if they ask clients whom they were referred by. If so, see if they could include CHESS as an option.
3. Jennifer will have Board staff send out Reducing Lethal Means training to the Board.
4. Board staff will try to secure Rob Martin and Kathryn Bausman to do a program at the February Board meeting on the homeless issue and the Low Barrier Shelter.
5. Board staff will pursue the SAMHSA grant with the assistance of Meelee from Brandeis.

Governance Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Date: February 18, 2023

Meeting Time: 8:00 a.m. – 9:02 a.m.

Meeting Location: Board Office, 438 Carnahan Avenue

Recorder: Precia Stuby

Committee Members Attending:

x	John Drymon, Committee Chair	x	Jim Stahl
x	Mary Beth Dillon, Committee Vice Chair	x	Seth Butler
x	Melanie Aldobaiki		

Board Members Attending:

x	Ann Woolum, Board Chair	x	Jim Darrach, Board Vice Chair
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Invited Staff Attending:

x	Precia Stuby		
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Items Discussed:

1. Board Meeting Evaluation Results for January 2023 - Concern was expressed regarding the number of Board members who did not complete the performance evaluation of the Executive Director. Precia was asked to provide a handout related to Board Responsibilities for the Board meeting.
2. Provider Satisfaction Survey Results – There were some concerns expressed related to data collection. Precia shared that reporting requirements are negotiated each year. Precia will share the results at the next Agency Director's meeting to see if there are any recommendations for improvement.
3. Capital Committee Update – The Committee discussed the newly formed Capital Committee and the anticipated reporting structure. The Capital Committee will serve as an Ad Hoc Committee and report up through the Governance Committee. Jennifer Swartzlander will serve as staff support. An update will be provided at each Governance Committee meeting. Ad Hoc Committee reports will be shared with the full Board via Board packets.
4. FY'24 Allocations Timeline Draft – The Committee reviewed the draft and had no recommended changes.
5. FY'24 -'25 State Budget Proposal/March 29th Legislative Day – Precia shared the that the Governor's proposed budget includes the establishment of a new state department: Department of Children and Youth. Precia indicated the Family First Council is reviewing the language to determine if there is local support for this change. The Legislative Day is being done in collaboration with

NAMI Ohio and the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation. Zach will be coordinating a team from Hancock County to attend the event.

6. FY'24 Board Appointments – The Committee reviewed upcoming Board appointments for FY'24. Cheryl will be contacting Board members with an expiring term who are eligible to serve a second term to determine their interest in continuing to serve. There are two Board members with terms expiring that will no longer be eligible to serve. Both are state department appointments. If possible, the Committee would like to recruit an attorney and a person with financial expertise.

Action Items: None

To Do List:

1. Precia will provide Board members with an overview of Board Responsibilities.
2. Precia will share the results of the Provider Satisfaction Survey at the next Agency Director's meeting.
3. Zach will coordinate attendance at the Legislative Day and set up meetings with our elected officials.
4. Cheryl will contact Board members with expiring terms, eligible to continue to serve to determine their interest in continuing to serve.

Finance Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Date: February 15, 2023

Meeting Time: 3:33 p.m. – 4:35 p.m.

Meeting Location: Board Office, 438 Carnahan Avenue

Recorder: Rob Verhoff

Committee Members Attending:

X	Greg Meyers, Comm. Chair	X	Josh Eberle, Comm. Vice-Chair		Rick Eakin
X	Mark Rimelspach				

Invited Board Leadership Attending:

X	Ann Woolum, Board Chair	X	Jim Darrach, Board Vice Chair
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Invited Staff Attending:

X	Precia Stuby	X	Rob Verhoff	X	Deb Twining
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Guests Attending:

X	John Bindas				
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Items Discussed:

1. Review of Account Fund Balance and Board Financial Statements for January 2023. No issues identified.
2. Agency Financial Report – December 2022 reports were reviewed.
3. Family Resource Center Contingency Plan/Request – John Bindas reported Family Resource Center is having short-term cash flow issues due to capacity issues driven by staff shortages; reimbursement delays caused by multiple state Medicaid system changes; and timing issues due to reimbursement criteria of the Carlin construction project. Family Resource Center is requesting changing the performance grants to a quarterly payment from a reimbursement payment for the 3rd and 4th quarters of FY 2023. The grants would be reconciled at the end of the fiscal year.
4. Update on Board Insurance Coverage – UIS Insurance sent quotes for three levels of Cyber Defense coverage for the Board.
5. FY '24 Allocations Timeline Draft – No issues identified.

Action Items:

1. A motion was made by Josh Eberle and seconded by Mark Rimelspach to approve the January 2023 Board Financial Statements as presented. Motion carried.
2. A motion was made by Mark Rimelspach and seconded by Josh Eberle to approve changing the Family Resource Center performance grants to a quarterly payment for the 3rd and 4th quarters of FY '23. Motion carried.

3. A motion was made by Mark Rimelspach and seconded by Josh Eberle to accept the UIS Insurance Quote #1 (\$500K Cyber Defense Limit and \$25K deductible) with an annual premium reduction of \$1,488. Motion carried.
4. A motion was made by Josh Eberle and seconded by Mark Rimelspach to approve the FY'24 Allocations Timeline. Motion Carried.

To Do List:

1. Board staff will contact Lizzy Essinger of the Hancock Regional Planning Commission about the availability of a Hancock County indirect cost rate available for the Board to use.
2. Board committee will review the Board's cyber defense limit with UIS Insurance at its September committee meeting.
3. Following submission of an invoice, Board staff will process a check for Family Resource Center and hold it until the Board approves the motion for a quarterly payment for agency grants.

**Hancock County
Community Coalition on Addiction**

Committee Chairs – Report

Meeting Date: February 13, 2023

Meeting Time: 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Meeting Location: ADAMHS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Ratified 12/12/22

1. Support people with substance use disorder *and* their loved ones.
2. Support accessibility and reduce barriers to services.
3. Implement best prevention strategies that impact people with highest risk.
4. Reduce stigma.

Committee Members

>	Debra Parker <i>Chair</i> The University of Findlay	>	Mark Miller <i>Community Awareness</i> Ohio Third District Court of Appeals	>	Carla Benjamin <i>Community Awareness</i> Welcome to a New Life
>	Stefan Adams <i>Community Awareness (Education)</i> Findlay City Schools	>	Rick Van Mooy <i>Community Awareness (Education)</i> Hancock County Schools	>	Michael Pepple <i>Legislative</i> Hancock County Commissioner
>	Dr. William Kose <i>Medical</i> Blanchard Valley Health System		Gary Bright <i>Medical</i> Hancock Public Health	>	Jamie Decker <i>Peers</i> Hancock Public Health

Invited Guests/Staff/ADAMHS Board

>	Zach Thomas	>	Precia Stuby	>	Jennifer Swartzlander
	Ann Woolum <i>ADAMHS Chair</i>	>	Jim Darrach <i>ADAMHS Vice-Chair</i>	>	Mark Rimelspach <i>ADAMHS</i>
>	Jodi Firsdon <i>Community Partnership Chair</i>		Paige Craft <i>ADAMHS Intern</i>		Shannon Morselli <i>ADAMHS Intern</i>

Committee Priorities:

- 1) Guide, monitor, and evaluate work of each Committee using Evaluation Scorecard (build effective metrics into scorecard)
- 2) Ensure alignment of Coalition with ADAMHS, Findlay Strategic Plan, CHIP; provide report of progress with identified metrics
- 3) Determine necessary governing structure and operating procedures
- 4) Ensure coalition process best-practices are maintained

Discussion:

1. **Community Leaders' Meeting (1.26.23).** Minutes from the Community Leaders' Meeting were shared with the Committee Chairs. The intention of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for leadership to share their perspective related to the current addiction crisis affecting the community (such a gathering has not taken place since the start of the Coalition in 2010). Information gathered from the meeting will be used to inform the continued development of strategies and initiatives of the Coalition. Included in this discussion with the Committee Chairs was the recent Health Equities Report (HER) from Hancock Public Health. The HER identified two specific census tracts in Findlay (9.01, 9.02) that have the greatest number of health disparities (e.g. poverty, food assistance, access to health care). There was significant discussion about how to address these disparities, particularly with a coordinated community response to target specific social services within this area. What is most critical to this discussion is the importance of engaging and empowering the people who live in these census tracts to develop appropriate, meaningful, and outcomes-driven solutions. Further discussion yielded additional areas of focus for the Coalition: Youth engagement and the use of high and low technology to expand prevention messaging.
2. **Draft Score Card.** A draft score card was shared with the Committee Chairs for review. The Score Card will serve as a reporting/accountability mechanism for the Logic Model/Strategic Plan. It was

**Hancock County
Community Coalition on Addiction**

recommended that the importance of promoting ways to support pro-social engagement be added as a goal of the Community Awareness Committee.

3. **Database Metrics.** A listing of the current database metrics was reviewed by the Committee Chairs. Committee Chairs are asked to consider additional data points that might be helpful to the work of the Coalition.
4. **Progress and Next Steps on Committee Priorities.** The Committee Chairs discussed priorities 3) and 4) (listed above). See Action Items below for next steps.

ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

1. ADAMHS Staff to review current governing structure of the Coalition and provide a draft best-practices document for review at the next Committee Chairs meeting.
2. Community Awareness Committee to continue discussion on youth engagement at its 2.17.23 meeting.
3. Coalition to work collaboratively with other community partners to address disparate census tract areas identified in HER.

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, April 17, 2023

9:00-10:30 a.m.

ADAMHS

The Community Partnership believes that if substance use prevention and mental health promotion strategies are implemented, then the overall health and quality of life in Hancock County will be improved.

Council Meeting Report

Date: February 21, 2023 - 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Location: ADAMHS Office

Representatives (Attendees in **BOLD**)

SECTOR	REPRESENTATIVE
BUSINESS	
CIVIC/VOLUNTEER GROUP	Kim Hiett (50 North) , Brenna Griteman (United Way)
GOVERNMENT AGENCY	Shawn Carpenter (Juvenile Court)
HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL	Gary Bright (HPH) , Jenn Reese (BVHS)
LAW ENFORCEMENT	Brian White (FPD)
MEDIA	Mary Jane Yarris (Retired) , Cheryl Miller (Hancock Public Health)
OTHER ORGANIZATION	Triena Miller (JFS) , Erin Mitchell (Lutheran Social Services), Claire Osborne (FOCUS)
PARENT	Sharona Bishop (Hancock Public Health)
RELIGIOUS/FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION	Debra Pees-Arce (St. Andrew's UMC)
RECOVERY PEER	Abbie Acord (Peer Support Advisory Board)
SCHOOL	Stefan Adams (FCS) , Jodi Firsdon, Chair (UF) , Angie Toland (ESC)
YOUNG ADULT 18-25	
YOUTH	Hope Salyers
YOUTH SERVING ORGANIZATION	Stacy Shaw (CMC) , Chris Biltz (FRC) , Abby Blanchard (FRC)
BOARD/COALITION	Ann Woolum (ADAMHS Vice-Chair), Jim Darrach (ADAMHS Vice-Chair) , Debra Partker (UF), Mark Rimelspach (ADAMHS)
STAFF	Zach Thomas , Steve Dillon , Jennifer Swartzlander
GUESTS	Hope Roth (Intern) , Jadean Frost (Intern)

FY23 HCCP Focus – Connection.

FY23 HCCP Goal – Create healthy behaviors, individuals, and communities.

FY23 HCCP Prevention Priorities – Delay onset; protect the brain; protective and promotive factors; support the family; deliver services in the community.

Strategic Imperatives 2023-2028

- Creating Connections between Youth and Trusted Adults
- Promotion of Positive, Healthy, Alternative Activities
- Understanding of Adolescent Brain Development
- Data Collection

DISCUSSION:

1. Approval of January 2023 Meeting Report; Budget Review; Findlay PRIDE Sponsorship.

- Gary Bright – Motion to approve January 2023 Meeting Report. Claire Osborne – Second. Motion passed.
- Current budget report was presented for review. Partnership Initiatives balance, \$25,008.80; Coalition on Addiction balance, \$10,913.02; Problem Gambling balance, \$15,315.00.
- Gary Bright – Motion to approve sponsorship for LGBTQ+ Spectrum of Findlay Pride 2023 event (June 2023) in the amount of \$2,000.00. Claire Osborne – Second. Motion Passed.

2. Nomination and Selection of Vice-Chair.

- a. Claire Osborne – Motion to accept the nomination of Stacy Shaw as Vice-Chair for the remainder of FY23. Sharona Bishop - Second. Motion passed.
- b. Mary Jane Yarris – Motion to approve Stacy Shaw as Vice-Chair for the remainder of FY23. Clair Osborne – Second. Motion passed.

3. Coordinator's Report and Updates.

- a. Discussion with Fresh Encounters (Great Scot). Great Scot has held mental health promotion days in the past and has plans to continue and expand community-based support. A conversation with NAMI Ohio and Fresh Encounters is being considered in an effort to brainstorm additional ways for Fresh Encounters to support mental health.
- b. Drug-Free Communities Grant. Based on the limited amount of funding available, the scope of work associated with a federal grant, and the focus of prevention initiatives of the Community Partnership, it has been decided to not apply for a Drug-Free Communities Grant.
- c. Mid-Year reports of the FY23 Prevention & Wellness Grant Program awardees have been received. Due to leadership changes, LGBTQ+ Spectrum of Findlay has not started its project funded through the grant, however, does anticipate the project to be completed by the end of the FY23. FY24 Prevention & Wellness Grant Program has been launched, applications are due March 1, 2023.
- d. Suicide Prevention. The latest report of the Suicide Prevention Workgroup was shared with the Council.
- e. Alcohol Awareness. Amber Wolfrom will be providing a community-based Alcohol Awareness 101 training in April.
- f. Healthy Kids Day (YMCA/UF) will take place April 14, 2023.
- g. Sheriff Heldman will hold his annual community awareness event on March 30, 2023.

4. Celebrations, Challenges, Concerns.

- a. Claire Osborne shared that she will be leaving FOCUS the end of March.
- b. Stacy Shaw shared that registration of open for Children's Mentoring Connection Bowling for Kids event April 22 & 23, 2023.

5. Youth Engagement; Discussion from Coalition on Addiction Committee Chairs Meeting (2.13.23).

Conversation, discussion, and brainstorming regarding the development of youth engagement opportunities continues to expand across all coalition committees. The Partnership Council continued this discussion, within the context of its current Logic Model/Strategic Plan goals. The most salient discussion point centered on ensuring that youth voice is centered in any of these discussions, so that youth are providing expert knowledge about their experiences and what is most helpful to them. The Partnership Council has made a commitment to establish a process of gathering key informant information through focus groups at The LOFT, Findlay City Schools, Findlay Digital Academy, Job and Family Services, and Juvenile Court.

6. Hancock County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)/Health Equities Report (HER). A summary of the CHIP strategies was shared with Partnership Council. In the CHIP, the operationalization of Youth Thrive across all youth serving organizations was included as a strategy. The HER summary report was also shared with the Partnership Council, which emphasized significant disparities that exist between census tracts in Hancock County. This report will be used to help target specific strategies to address disparities.

7. Score Card Draft. A draft score card was shared with the Partnership Council for review. The Score Card will serve as a reporting/accountability mechanism for the Logic Model/Strategic Plan.

FOR NEXT MEETING:

1. Establish Marijuana/Vaping workgroup (in conjunction with the Legislative Committee of the Coalition on Addiction).
2. Jennifer Swartzlander will present on the Ohio Problem Gambling Conference.
3. Chris Biltz will be present on FRC prevention services and OHYES Survey.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 9:00-10:30 a.m., ADAMHS Office

Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards

The National Center for Nonprofit Boards has issued a paper on "Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards" to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the board as a corporate or collective entity and to summarize individual board members' responsibilities. In addition, five assumptions are listed at the end of this article to reduce the many questions surrounding effective board leadership.

The ten board responsibilities which follow, along with the individual board member's responsibilities, strive to set criteria by which boards may periodically review their performance and ensure a measure of accountability.

1. Determine the Organization's Mission and Purpose

The board's fundamental responsibility is to satisfy itself that everyone connected directly or indirectly with the organization understands its reasons for existing. This usually takes the form of a written mission statement. In addition to ensuring that the organization has a modern statement of what it is, represents, and does, the board should periodically review the statement's adequacy, accuracy, and viability.

A widely distributed statement of mission and purpose should clearly express the organization's goals, means, and primary constituents served. Further, it should explain what makes the organization distinctive and special and present a compelling reason for individuals, foundations and corporations to support it financially.

An adequate statement of mission and purpose should serve as a guide to organizational planning, board and staff decision-making, volunteer initiatives, and setting priorities among competing demands for scarce resources. It sets the state for developing fund raising strategies and strategic planning as well as the board's many other responsibilities.

2. Select the Executive Director

This responsibility undoubtedly has the greatest impact on the organization's development and effectiveness. While this function may also be shared with others who have a stake in the outcome, the final decision is the board's to make.

A carefully considered search process is essential, but a prerequisite of effective executive performance is the board's recognition of its duty to provide the type of working environment that will enable the top staff executive to succeed. Prior to a search process, the board should review the organization's major strengths and needs; establish specific priorities for the next period of executive leadership; articulate the particular characteristics, skills, and style it seeks in its new executive; establish clear objectives and clarify expectations for at least the first year of his/her service; provide an adequate compensation package and other employment terms; and clarify its own

functions as distinct from those of the executive and staff, including the executive's own exclusive responsibility to select and supervise a management team without board interference.

Finally, the board should prepare a comprehensive job description that includes a response to this fundamental question: *Who is the organization's chief executive? Is it the chief staff officer (by whatever title), or is it the top elected volunteer officer (by whatever title)?* Or is it some vague and perilous combination of both?

3. Support the Executive and Review His/Her Performance

Nowhere else can the chief executive seek the kind of moral and substantive support he/she consistently needs except from his/her board. Although this responsibility is often manifested through the board's top elected officer, it remains a board function. Some boards have found it useful to assign this responsibility to its executive committee. This helps, but the board as a whole should be satisfied that the chief executive:

- Receives frequent and constructive feedback;
- Is introduced to other community leaders and organizations;
- Is invited to important social functions;
- Is complimented for exceptional initiatives;
- Is encouraged to take professional and personal leave for renewal;
- Is assisted when members overstep prerogatives or misunderstands their roles;
- Feels that the board is aware of and sensitive to family situations and needs; and
- Feels that his/her performance is being assessed in relation to the board's performance.

With regard to informal and formal performance reviews, the board and executive should agree on purposes and processes. This delicate business is helped immeasurably if annual goals and objective are mutually discussed and agreed on; they become the primary criteria for review through informal and candid discussion.

4. Ensure Effective Organizational Planning

The conventional wisdom is that boards should insist that comprehensive organizations planning is done and done well. So far, so good; but the perplexing questions for board and staff are: 1) who should do it; and 2) how can busy volunteer board members be meaningfully involved in the process? Opinions differ on how these questions should be answered, but there is wide agreement on at least these principles:

- Board members must be involved extensively in the planning process if they and the board are to assume proper ownership of the plan and otherwise help to implement many of the plan's goals and objectives including the acquisition of new resources.

- Their role is essentially one of asking good questions, expecting good answers, and serving as resources in areas of personal and professional expertise.
- The board's committee structure offers particularly helpful opportunities to engage board members in certain areas to be addressed in the plan. Functional areas not obviously tied to board standing committees could be made part of the executive committee or full board agendas.
- The board should formally and enthusiastically approve the plan following an extended period of consultation and opportunity for revision. While some long range forecasts can be made, it is probably best not to cover more than a three-year period. Annual progress reports by the executive will keep the staff accountable and the board aware of progress on priorities.
- When there is professional staff, the conduct and coordination of planning is best entrusted to it. We should not expect volunteer board members to be full-time authorities on programmatic, financial and managerial issues or to commit to more and longer meetings. The organization's executive and staff must share at least as much enthusiasm and ownership as does the board, and perhaps even more because they bear the primary responsibility for implementing it.
- This is not at all to minimize the board's vital involvement in the planning process, however. Because the board members are, or should be, free of vested interest and are responsible for considering issues and rendering judgments for the organization as a whole, and because they must ultimately assess the quality of the goals and objectives resulting from the process, they should be involved extensively in it.

Planning occurs at various levels within an organization depending on its size and complexity, the attitudes of the executive, staff and board concerning its relative importance, and many other circumstances. Planning can be operational (day to day), short term (ad hoc to meet a specific priority), annual (operational), or long range or strategic (comprehensive and very forward looking). It is the board that should insist on the latter or its seldom gets done, but we should remember that all planning is more art than science. Depending on the special circumstances, mission and purposes of the organizations, the most long-range or strategic plans will include a combination of these elements.

- Statement of mission and purposes;
- Assumption about the future (likely internal and external circumstances);
- Current programs and services;
- New programs and services;
- Membership development and retention strategies (if apropos);
- Staffing (current and projected);

- Board of directors (size, method of selection, committee structure, other bylaws provisions);
- Financial projections (income and expenditures);
- Fund raising strategies;
- Public relations;
- Appendices (current and proposed staff organization charts, financial trends for the preceding three to five years and projections for the next three years, trend data on clients and constituents served, etc.).

6. Ensure Adequate Resources

An organization is only as effective as it has resources to meet its purposes. Providing adequate resources is, first and foremost, a board responsibility. Many organizations confuse the executive role with the board's responsibility on this score, particularly when the staff includes a director of development or fund raiser.

It is perfectly appropriate to consider the top executive as the chief fund raiser, but the board determines what is really possible to achieve. The performance of the board, executive, and director of development is intimately linked to the board's membership and its ability to open doors, influence potentially large donors, and otherwise monitor and guide fund raising initiatives. Effective fund raising is one measure of the board's capabilities, commitment and influence. Every board member should inventory his/her connections with potentially helpful givers and the board should accept responsibility in his area

Providing an annual gift by board members is increasingly accepted, although sometimes reluctantly. Their personal and collective example is very important. In addition to being able to report 100 percent participation to potential and past supporters, board members are better fund raisers when they know they have done their part. The amount of personal giving by board members is less important than the extent of their participations.

Aggregate board members' giving should be reported as a separate category in fund raising reports. The aggregate giving for the same period in the preceding year should also be provided. The annual goal each year should be to exceed the preceding year's total.

The expectation of personal board member giving is a relatively new one for many boards and board members, and it has created a certain awkwardness for everyone, especially the executive. It is important to ensure, therefore, that only board members personally solicit one another and that we dispel the myth that giving time to an organization is equivalent to giving money (both are important and everyone is capable of giving something). All prospective board members should understand that an annual gift is one of the board's expectations.

The board should periodically consider and approve a fund raising rationale and plan a case statement. This is a written statement of need that extends in more detail what is presented in the organization's statement of mission and purposes. Whether funds are being sought for a special project or program or more unrestricted purposes, the organization needs to develop a current game plan. The case should clearly answer the questions of why the organization needs money and how it will be used.

Finally, the board should guard against a natural tendency for it to behave as if its development or fund raising committee alone bears the responsibility for initiatives in this area. Again, fund raising is a full board function; the appropriate standing committee is simply the board's agent to help coordinate the work of the board's members, executive and any fund raising staff.

7. Manage Resources Effectively

An important part of serving the public trust is protecting accumulated assets and ensuring that current income is managed properly. Because organizations are incorporated and granted tax-exempt status by state and federal laws to fulfill a public need, the board's obligations go well beyond its organization's members, constituents or clients.

There are some universal truths applicable to every nonprofit organization, beginning with legal responsibility. Regardless of what board members are called, they are in essence the trustees in the literal and legal sense of the term. No matter how the organization is structured or the degree of authority delegated to staff, committees, or affiliates, the board and therefore the individual trustees are ultimately accountable.

Whether it is a service agency or a cause-oriented membership association, the board has the principal responsibility for fulfillment of the organization's mission and the legal/fiduciary accountability for its operations. There have been several legal cases where board members were held legally accountable, largely because they had failed to exercise reasonable oversight and objectivity. The law, however, is fair as long as the board members' attention to responsibility is reasonable. Joseph Weber, former head of the Greater New York Fund, pointed out in Managing the Board of Director that this does not mean that a director needs to fear liability for every corporate loss or mishap that may occur. On the contrary, a director is generally protected from liability for errors of judgment as long as he/she acts responsibly and in good faith, and with the basic interests of the corporation as the foremost objective.

Boards traditionally exercise this responsibility by helping to develop and approve the annual budget. Indeed, this annual rite is probably one of the board's most significant policy decisions because it sets in motion a host of programmatic, personnel and other priorities. This responsibility should not be delegated to the board's executive or finance committee.

The board can only monitor the budget's implementation if it has clear, intelligible, accurate and timely financial reports. All board members should receive quarterly balance sheets with a consolidated accounting of all assets and current liabilities. Monthly finance reports should be provided to the treasurer and members of the finance or executive committees; in the absence of such committees, all board members should receive them. Board members should not shy away from suggesting improvement in the formats and presentations of financial report.

The board should insist on an annual audit by an independent certified public accountant or accounting firm. The audit function should not be performed by a volunteer board member. It is also good practice for an audit subcommittee of the board's finance committee or a separate audit standing committee, if the board is of sufficient size to accommodate it, to meet with the auditor at least subsequent to the audit process and before the audit is in final form. Finally, all board members should receive the audit report prior to the meeting at which it is discussed.

8. Determine and Monitor the Organization's Programs and Services

The board's fundamental role begins with the question of whether current and proposed programs and services are consistent with the organization's stated mission and purposes. Given limited resources and unlimited demands on them, the board must decide among competing priorities. Financial and programmatic decisions should not be made independently.

What the organization does for its members, constituents or clients determines its significance as a social institution. Yet, there is nearly universal complaint by board members that their meeting agendas are dominated by finance and fund raising issues. Every board must find a sensible division of labor among its members to ensure that programs and services are demonstrably consistent with the organization's mission and purposes and are of high quality. This minimally argues for an appropriately named standing committee.

The board should have a good sense of its monitoring and oversight role by seeking a balance between the board's responsibility to ensure quality, cost-effective programs and services, and the staff's responsibility to creatively initiate and conduct them.

It is in meeting this particular responsibility that board and staff roles often become confused, particularly when board members also volunteer extensively to conduct and manage programs. Candor, openness and explicit job descriptions go a long way toward negotiating an accommodation satisfactory to everyone.

9. Enhance the Organization's Public Image

The board serves as a link between the organization's staff or volunteers and its members, constituents or clients. But government leaders, the media, and current and potential funding sources call for an ambitious and effective public relations program to

ensure a healthy public image for the organization. Clearly outlined achievements, contributions to the public good, and explanations for how gifts, grants and other revenue sources are allocated, are all part of the process. Written annual reports, timely and informative press releases, consistent communication initiatives with community and government leaders, and timely speeches by appropriate board members to civic and community groups are important elements of a comprehensive public relation strategy.

One of the most important decisions to be made by the executive and the board's top elected leaders is who should be the organization's spokesperson. This decision is normally situational, but there are advantages to having an especially articulate board chairperson or volunteer president who can serve this important function. Volunteer leaders who convey their commitment and dedication through advocacy and a willingness, on behalf of their boards, to get out in front of their executive and staff on the thorny issues, command more public attention and respect because they do not receive remuneration.

Boards, however, should guard against the occasionally overzealous board member who may take inappropriate and unilateral initiatives without clearance. The board's elected leaders should ensure that the board appropriately disciplines itself. No board member should represent himself/herself as speaking for the board or organization unless specifically authorized to do so.

10. Serve as a Court of Appeal

One of the marks of an effective managed and governed organization is its ability to avoid having its board arbitrate personnel issues except in the rarest of circumstances. Solid personnel policies and procedures, grievance protocols and especially clear understanding about the executive's responsibility for hiring, developing and releasing staff help to ensure appropriateness in this area. Nevertheless, the time may come when the executive's judgment will be challenged. The wise executive know when to consult with the board and to ask for its judgment involving disputes not otherwise manageable within the executive's prerogatives.

11. Assess its Own Performance

John W. Nason in The Nature of Trusteeship strongly urges boards to conduct substantive review of their own performance. This is the most contemporary of board responsibilities, one that is being taken very seriously in not-for-profit organizations.

Every three to five years, the board and its executive should stand back from their usual preoccupations and reflect on how the board is meeting its responsibilities. This process should include a look at how its membership composition, membership selection process, organization or structure and overall performance can be strengthened.

A candid and anonymous written survey of board members' perceptions in advance of a workshop or retreat can pave the way for consensus on priorities. A qualified third-party facilitator can bring experience, objectivity, credibility and perspective along with some innocence to the process. An overnight stay away from the organization's boardroom combined with opportunities to socialize can build camaraderie and trust among board members and between the board and the executive.

Conclusion

Of course, there are other board responsibilities. Assuring compliance with local, state and federal laws and regulations; questioning unreasonable governmental intrusion; adhering to the highest ethical and moral standards of organization behavior; and selecting its own successors are but a few that deserve mention.

Boards are learning to balance their nearly limitless organizational powers with self-restraint, to delegate authority where possible and sensible without abdicating their considerable responsibilities, and to channel board members enthusiasm and commitment into appropriate behaviors. As the nation's nonprofit, voluntary organizations continue to evolve and develop more programs to strengthen their governance, the nonprofit sector will surely strengthen its already significant contributions to American society.

Assumptions:

1. *Board and board member responsibilities are fundamentally the same for all organizations* (although nearly everyone feels that his or her organization is unique and special).
2. *How boards and board members actually fulfill their responsibilities will vary as a function of many factors.* These may include whether the agency is membership or non-membership based, whether its budget and staff levels are modest or substantial, and whether it is newly formed or has a long history of growth and development.
3. *There is no generic model* of board size or composition or organization that has proven itself to be viable in all circumstances. On the other hand, a body of knowledge has evolved that argues for certain structures, policies, and practices that consistently work better than others.
4. *All organization undergo a metamorphosis* over time that calls for periodic review, fine tuning, and sometimes major overhaul of their governance structure. Organizational performance, like human performance, is cyclical in effectiveness and in need of renewal as it evolves over time.
5. *Board members begin to reach their optimal levels of performance* when they exercise their responsibilities primarily by asking good and timely questions rather than by 'running' programs or implementing their own policies. It is when mutual expectations are agreed upon that issues and responsibilities are clearly defined and board/staff relationships are what they should be.

Suggested Resources

Ingram, Richard T. *Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards*. Washington, D.C.: National Center for Nonprofit boards

O'Connell, Brian. *The Board Member's Book*. New York, NY: The Foundation Center, 1985.

American Society of Association Executives. *Fundamentals of Association Management: The Volunteer*. Washington, D.C.: American Society of Association Executive, 1982.

Chapman, Terry, Lai, Mary and Steinbock, Elmer. *Am I Covered for...? A Guide to Insurance for Non-Profit Organizations*. San Jose, CA: Consortium for Human Services, 1984.

Opportunities for Improving Suicide Prevention in 2023

Introduction

Ohio's mental health care system saw improvements in 2022, including:

- The initial introduction of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline
- Implementation of the Zero Suicide framework into health centers
- Increased awareness and partnerships among health care providers
- An exciting data report through a suicide syndromic system that shares data on suicide attempts in emergency rooms across Ohio on a weekly basis

However, with these improvements, there still is much more that needs to be done. In March 2022, Governor Mike DeWine challenged Ohio to build the system of care for mental health and, as he stated, "Despite good intentions, tragically, that promise was never kept – not nationally, nor in Ohio – and the community system was never fully built."

As we begin 2023, the post-COVID impacts are being felt with preliminary numbers for suicides increasing in 2021 and early 2022. The number of those who are at risk is also increasing. To prevent further loss and in order to heal our communities, 2023 must be the year that we work together to create a system of care that provides better outcomes and support for individuals who are struggling with suicidal ideation and families who have loved ones who are suicidal or have been lost to suicide.

By prioritizing the key components listed in this report, we can work together to reverse recent trends for one of the most preventable means of death – suicide.

1. 988 Funding

988 was created to be the national crisis line for individuals and was implemented successfully in Ohio in July 2022. This call and text line, which is staffed by trained crisis professionals, cannot only save countless lives, but can also save thousands of visits to emergency rooms by deescalating a situation where a person is experiencing a mental health crisis. In fact, recent studies show that approximately 80% of calls can be handled via 988 without the person needing emergency services. The issue, however, is the funding mechanism that should be utilized to assure competent support for 988 is currently not in existence.

The DeWine Administration allocated funding for the initial infrastructure of 988, however, this funding ends in June, 2022 and **we must find a long-term funding stream to support this life-saving and cost-saving entry into crisis care for those in their most vulnerable moments.**

The Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation will be supporting efforts to ensure sustainable funding for 988. Whether through a specified fund and allocated funding allotment in the State of Ohio budget process or applying a small fee to cell phone statements, we are committed to providing this opportunity to make sure that every Ohioan has access to quality care to prevent suicide.

2. Ohio Budget

The issues of mental health wellness and suicide prevention are crucial to creating a productive workforce, healthy families, and healthy neighborhoods. With five people lost to suicide every day in Ohio, these losses traumatize families and communities, so to prioritize funding for mental health and suicide prevention in the 2024-2025 is key to ensuring that our neighborhoods are productive and healthy. Investments in services such as 988, crisis care, student wellness, mental health treatment, and housing can pay big dividends for the health of our State and the current and future workforce to meet demands for individuals working in all industries.

Funding mental health treatment and prevention programs goes further than just improving quality of life – it can also increase Ohio's opportunity to improve economic growth. According to a 2018 study by researchers at Penn State University, poor mental health ranks as one of the costliest forms of sickness for U.S. workers and may sap billions of dollars from the country's income growth. In an analysis of economic and demographic data from 2008 to 2014, the researchers found that a single extra poor mental health day in a month was associated with a 1.84 percent drop in the per capita real income growth rate, resulting in \$53 billion less total income each year. The researchers suggest that investing in mental health resources may be one way of lowering the economic costs of poor mental health, particularly in harder-hit rural counties.

3. Entry to Crisis Care

A primary question that OSPF receives from families is what can be done for a loved one who is experiencing a mental health crisis. Currently, the most common options are to go to a hospital emergency room or to dispatch a law enforcement officer.

Instituting crisis services is an integral component of addressing mental illness and suicide in communities in Ohio. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, optimum outcomes can be obtained with states instituting three entryways into care for someone experiencing a mental health crisis. These are:

1. Regional Crisis/988 Call Center: Regional 24/7 clinically staffed call center that offers quality coordination of crisis care in real-time;
2. Crisis Mobile Team Response: Mobile crisis teams available to reach any person in the service area in his or her home, workplace, or any other community-based location of the individual in crisis in a timely manner; and
3. Crisis Receiving and Stabilization Facilities: Facilities providing short-term (under 24 hours) observation and crisis stabilization services to all referrals in a home-like, non-hospital environment.

By investing in these crisis-care strategies, we not only improve the opportunities for longterm mental health wellness, we also save the valuable time of law enforcement officers to attend to public safety issues and emergency room staff to attend to physical health emergencies.

4. Post-Suicide Care

Five Ohio families experience a loss of a loved one every day to suicide and the questions and grief surrounding those losses are vast. People coping with this kind of loss often need more support than others, but may get less. There are various explanations for this. Suicide is a difficult subject to contemplate. Survivors may be reluctant to confide that the death was self-inflicted. And when others know the circumstances of the death, they may feel uncertain about how to offer help. Research shows that people who've recently lost someone through suicide are at increased risk for thinking about, planning, or attempting suicide.

Every sector of a community is impacted when a person dies by suicide – with employers, schools, churches, and the general community paralyzed on how to deal with this unfathomable tragedy. **By creating a post-suicide network of care, where individuals and families can find support from the moments after a suicide to longterm support like mental health treatment, we can hasten their ability to begin healing.** Establishing community LOSS teams after a suicide, prioritizing post-suicide grief treatment and counseling, and creating support groups can help loved ones, friends, and community members begin the long and difficult grieving process.



OSPF staff joined state, local, and philanthropic partners from Ohio in touring Arizona crisis services. As the State of Ohio focuses on improved crisis care for individuals and families experiencing a behavioral health crisis, being able to see crisis coordination in action is crucial.

In conclusion, if Ohio invests in and prioritizes suicide prevention and mental health care, not only can better lives be led, but numerous cost savings can be found. 2023 can be the year to truly build a system of care that helps millions of Ohioans and can lower the number of suicides in the Buckeye State.

References

1. Penn State. "Poor mental health days may cost the economy billions of dollars." ScienceDaily, 30 July 2018. www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/07/180730120359.htm. Accessed January 1, 2023.

ABOUT OHIO SUICIDE PREVENTION FOUNDATION

OSPF gives hope to those in crisis, strength to those in the struggle, and comfort to those in grief. OSPF is a non-profit organization that works tirelessly to help all of Ohio's communities reduce the risk of suicide. Our work includes supporting those impacted by suicide, raising awareness of mental health issues, and coordinating community resources and evidence-based prevention strategies across the state.



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OHIO SUICIDE PREVENTION FOUNDATION

Suicide Prevention in the Black Community

Anyone can experience suicidal thoughts – no matter age, race, gender, socioeconomic status, or cultural background – yet some populations are more at risk than others. The Black community is particularly at a higher risk, and the suicide rate has continued to increase when the rate for other populations has declined or remained the same. According to the Ohio Department of Health, from 2019 to 2020, the suicide rate for Black males increased 8 percent and for females, 14 percent.¹

Risk & Protective Factors

Across all racial and ethnic groups, the circumstances that increase suicide risk are:

- Prior suicide attempts
- Substance use
- History of mental illness
- Serious illness like chronic pain
- Legal or financial problems²

For Black individuals, these circumstances are often compounded by factors specific to race, including:

- Stigma within the community
- Racism and discrimination
- Racial bias from medical professionals

Because of these factors, Black individuals who report suicidal thoughts or attempts are less likely to seek or receive psychiatric services when compared to white individuals.³

For Black individuals, the best means to support healing and prevent suicide are effective mental health care, social and emotional support from peers, including family, community, and other social and cultural institutions.⁴ When someone feels like they can openly speak about their experience, they are more likely to find resources and support.

Resources

To find additional resources and support, visit:

Life is Better with You Here:
www.withyouhere.org

The Black Mental Health Corporation:
www.theblackmental-healthcorporation.com

Black Mental Health Ohio:
www.blackmental-healthohio.com

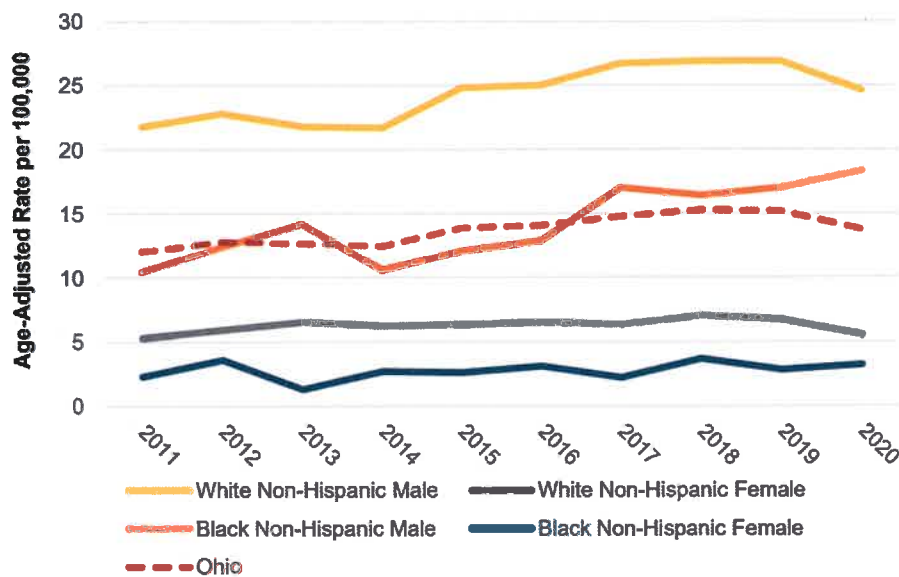
Black Girl Smile:
www.blackgirlsmile.org

African American Male Wellness Agency:
www.aawellness.org

Call BlackLine
1 (800) 604-5841
www.callblackline.com

Text STEVE to 741-741:
www.stevefund.org

Age-Adjusted Rate of Suicide Deaths by Race/Ethnicity and Sex, Ohio, 2011–2020¹



OSPF's Work

To address suicide in the Black community, the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation has launched the Life is Better with You Here campaign, which creates spaces for Black individuals to come together and find support. We've also hosted listening sessions in Akron, Cleveland, Zanesville, Cincinnati, and Columbus to open a dialogue for communities to share about the impact suicide has had on them. We are working with the Health Policy Institute of Ohio to create a report on what we've learned in these sessions that will inform our programming for a larger statewide summit in the summer of 2023.

As we continue to offer support for the most vulnerable populations in our state, OSPF is committed to building partnerships with local governments, faith-based institutions, schools, and neighborhoods to break down barriers and prevent the loss of more lives to suicide.

References

- 1 Ohio Department of Health. "Suicide Demographics and Trends, Ohio, 2020." <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/44fe447c-a4c5-4ac1-a613-ca0690308abe/2020+Suicide+Fact+Sheet>.
- 2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Risk and Protective Factors." <https://www.cdc.gov/suicide/factors/index.html>
- 3 Suicide Prevention and Resource Center. "Risk and Protective Factors: Black Populations." https://sprc.org/sites/default/files/resource-program/Risk%20and%20Protective%20Factors%20Black_0.pdf
- 4 University of Southern California. "Suicide, negative interaction and emotional support among black Americans" <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22534818/>

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