



**Four County Suicide Prevention Coalition
2024 – 2025 Strategic Plan
Defiance, Fulton, Henry and Williams Counties**

*“Preventing Suicide Through
Education and Awareness”*

Mission: The mission of the Four County Suicide Prevention Coalition is to increase awareness, decrease stigma, and increase people’s ability to seek help aimed at suicide prevention.

Motto: *“Preventing Suicide Through Education and Awareness”*

Vision Statement: The Four County Suicide Prevention Coalition will work to develop and maintain strong collaborative relationships among community partners, in order to provide and promote education and awareness efforts aimed at preventing suicide.

Vision of Success

- Depression is viewed as a serious illness and suicide is viewed as a significant public health problem.
- There is a collaborative effort across community systems, aimed at reducing suicide deaths in our communities.
- Individuals experiencing mental illness or thoughts of suicide have access to timely and effective treatment.
- The general public can identify signs and symptoms of depression and suicide risk, and understand how to connect those in need to services.
- The stigma surrounding depression and suicide is eliminated and no longer a barrier to accessing treatment for those in need.
- A postvention program is in place to respond to those newly bereaved by suicide.



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Strategy 1: Increase awareness of suicide as a significant public health problem.

Goal	Action Steps	Target	Progress
<p>1. Provide community-wide awareness regarding suicide data, risk factors, signs, symptoms, and resources related to depression and suicide.</p>	<p>A) Provide suicide awareness presentations and materials to four county area faith communities, law enforcement/first responders, civic organizations, and other targeted groups within in Defiance, Fulton, Henry and Williams counties.</p> <p>B) Identify and target new groups relating to at-risk populations (i.e. employers, factories, veterans, healthcare workers, funeral homes, seniors, LGBTQ+, college students) for resources, information, and programming.</p> <p>C) Provide <u>Yellow Ribbon Campaign</u> to four county area schools and community organizations.</p>	<p>A) Provide eight community-based awareness presentations through 2025.</p> <p>B) Establish connections with at least 2 new groups to provide information and increase awareness through 2025.</p> <p>C) Through 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% of schools will participate. • 4 community organizations will participate. 	



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	<p>D) Provide awareness campaign aimed to parents and other adults about youth mental health, including myths and facts and talking to youth.</p> <p>E) Continue public awareness campaigns through independent actions and partnerships to increase awareness of the signs and symptoms of suicide, decrease stigma, and promote the coalition’s motto, <i>“Preventing Suicide Through Education and Awareness.”</i></p> <p>F) Establish public awareness campaigns to increase community’s knowledge of crisis resources, including Crisis Text Line and new 988 suicide hotline number.</p> <p>G) Utilize available data to assess for needs through the four counties.</p>	<p>D) Provide 2 awareness campaigns on social media through 2023.</p> <p>E) Through 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 billboards (1 per county) through partnerships with 4YourMentalHealth and the Four County ADAMHS Board. <p>F) Promote Crisis Text Line/Suicide Hotline through 4 collaborative events (1 per county) as well as social media and other community outreaches.</p> <p>G) Complete the Four County Area Suicide Report annually through 2025.</p>	
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Strategy 2: Prevent deaths by suicide

Goals	Action Steps	Target	Progress
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<p>1. Provide education to the community on the prevalence and signs of depression, suicide, and other mental health challenges, and how to identify mental health emergencies and appropriate interventions.</p>	<p>A) Provide evidence-based prevention programming, including Signs of Suicide, Mental Health First Aid, and Crisis Intervention Training.</p> <p>B) Identify high-risk populations and create focused campaign/education.</p>	<p>A) Continue to provide within the 4 County Area through 2025.</p> <p>B) Create a committee to create</p>	
<p>2. Provide suicide prevention and intervention education to professionals who serve the four county communities.</p>	<p>A) Educate area primary care physicians and their staff on the importance of regular depression and suicide risk screenings through the use of the PHQ2 and the PHQ9 for adults, the ASQ screening tool for youth and adolescents, available resources within the mental health system, and how to access those resources on behalf of patients.</p> <p>B) Educate the community on coalition and area efforts in suicide prevention and resources available.</p> <p>C) Identify additional training opportunities to increase education and outreach.</p>	<p>A) Conduct <i>Lunch and Learn</i> presentations to Fulton and Williams County PCPs through 2025.</p> <p>B) Provide prevention breakfast event annually through 2025.</p> <p>C) Identify at least 2 new opportunities for training and education through 2025.</p>	
<p>3. Reduce access to lethal means.</p>	<p>A) Partner with area firearms representatives to distribute information on suicide risk factors, warning signs, and safety precautions among firearm owners.</p>	<p>A) Partner with at least 1 firearm representative Four County area through 2025.</p>	



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	<p>B) Educate the community about firearm and suicide data and promote secure storage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with Lifeside Ohio initiative <p>B) Provide at least 2 communication initiatives (i.e. social media, newspaper, billboard) through 2025.</p>	
<p>4. Prevent contagion suicide deaths.</p>	<p>A) Partner with local law enforcement and the medical community to provide postvention services to those newly bereaved by suicide.</p> <p>B) Refresh materials and provide education on safe reporting and responding to a death by suicide.</p>	<p>A) Through 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the LOSS Team, responding to 90% of all deaths by suicide in Defiance, Fulton, Henry and Williams counties. • Maintain an active support group for survivors <p>B) Create/update materials and distribute to community sectors (i.e. schools, businesses, media,).</p>	

Strategy 3: Build and Strengthen Coalition



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Goals	Action Steps	Target	Progress
<p>1. Strengthen the collaborative effort across community systems.</p>	<p>A) Work to insure a balanced representation of the four county communities, with active collaborative partners.</p> <p>B) Create an orientation for new members to inform new members of coalition’s history, mission, and goals, as well as establishing new members’ purpose and goal for joining the coalition</p> <p>C) Maximize coalition’s focus and increase member engagement, transitioning from report-out meetings to active/constructive meetings.</p>	<p>A) Through 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify gaps and recruit a minimum of 4 new members from under-represented sectors/areas. • Recruit a minimum of 1 student representative. <p>B) Establish orientation process by end of 2025.</p> <p>C) Establish 3 committees within the coalition (i.e. social engagement, communication, data-planning committees) by end of 2025.</p>	
<p>2. Utilize marketing to communicate the coalition mission.</p>	<p>A) Improve community recognition of the Four County Suicide Prevention Coalition and its mission of suicide prevention, by gaining support from community partners.</p>	<p>A) Through 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the coalition’s presence and engagement on social media. • Increase the coalition’s presence at community events. 	



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate community involvement, feedback, and interaction (i.e. social media polls). 	
3. Utilize data in driving coalition efforts.	A) Continue assessing community needs and identify gaps.	A) Through 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Community Readiness Assessment in all 4 Counties. • Complete a gap analysis. • Provide annual report. 	