



ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024



**SUICIDE PREVENTION
COALITION**

POWERED BY  **GROWTH WORKS**





WE ARE a Suicide Prevention Coalition comprised of representatives from nine school districts and two hospitals.

OUR MISSION is to eliminate adolescent suicide in our member communities.



*September 8, 2023 Suicide Prevention Coalition members.
Also pictured, Jennifer Frush from New Hope Center for Grief Support.*

COALITION MEMBERS INCLUDE:

- Northville Public Schools
- Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
- Livonia Public Schools
- Wayne-Westland Community Schools
- South Redford School District
- Redford Union Schools
- Garden City Public Schools
- Clarenceville School District
- Taylor School District
- Corewell Health
- Trinity Health

In order to solidify a sustainable organizational structure, a Steering Team was formed including a district level decision-making administrator and a building level mental health practitioner from each school district.

The Steering Team meets monthly, sets direction and makes decisions for the Coalition. Working committees, established by the Steering Team, meet between Steering Team meetings and report back to the Steering Team.





COALITION WORK, 2021-PRESENT

1. Student in Crisis Screener

2023–2024 focus: Identified a common screener for students in crisis throughout the coalition districts.

2. Student and Staff Suicide Prevention Training QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer)

Since 2021: The Coalition has trained over 5,500 adults in participating districts. Many Coalition districts started training high school students in the QPR suicide prevention protocol.

3. Data

The Coalition is establishing a data collection system that can effectively collect specific data from all Coalition districts. The aggregate data helps measure the effectiveness of our programs as well as garner the funding/grants that support our ongoing work.

4. Research and Recommendations

The Coalition has had several subcommittees charged with the task of researching possible solutions for common issues and concerns. Our work begins by evaluating research-based best practices, followed by a recommendation so that the Coalition can arrive at a consensus.

5. Coalition District Mutual Support

The Coalition steering committee members have created a network of support which has been critical for districts dealing with difficult student mental health issues. They share best practices and experience for the benefit of other team members as well as sharing awareness and access to area resources.

10%

of high school students **attempted suicide** at least once in the past year

CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) 2022

22%

of high school students **seriously contemplated** suicide during the past year

CDC YRBS 2022

COALITION WORK, 2024-2025 AND BEYOND

1. Supporting Students and Families in Acute Crisis

Coalition districts will work to create supportive systems to be more proactive, meet family needs, and transition students back to school following an acute crisis.

2. Student Voice and Leadership

To reach our goal of reducing student suicides to zero, it is vital to engage student leadership and student voice. We will create a student leadership team across the Coalition to build school cultures that support mental health.

3. Student Peer-to-Peer Support Program

The Coalition identified three evidence-based mental health awareness and suicide prevention programs: *Hope Squad*, *Be Nice*, and *Sources of Strength*. Coalition districts will select one program to begin implementation in each high school and/or middle school.

Evidence shows that such programs can elevate mental health awareness and expand resources for staff, students, and families, fostering:

- A positive and supportive school climate
- Enhanced wellbeing and strengthened resilience
- Empowered help-seeking and healthy coping strategies
- A deeper sense of belonging
- Reduced behavioral referrals and instances of bullying
- Tighter-knit school community

Together, we will create a safer and more supportive environment for our students, families, and overall school communities.

STATEWIDE RECOGNITION FOR THE COALITION

The work of the Coalition was recognized by the Michigan Hospital Association by awarding Trinity Health Livonia Hospital with the prestigious [2023 Ludwig Award](#).

2ND

leading cause of death for children ages 10-14 in the US

CDC 2022

42.5%

high school students felt **sad/hopeless** almost every day for at least two weeks in a row during the past year

CDC YRBS 2022



GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Coalition's coordinator, Brian Galdes, has been appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to sit on the State of Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Participated in planning legislative town hall events
- The Coalition is represented on the Governor's State Suicide Prevention Commission.
- Participated in many Coalition mental health and school community events.
- Organized a legislative tour and discussion of Trinity Health Emergency Room facilities focusing on adolescent crisis care.
- Organized and facilitated legislative tour and discussion at local high schools.
- Presented to the Conference of Western Wayne, composed of the top elected officials from each of the communities represented in the Coalition.
- Presented to each of the School Boards represented in the Coalition.
- Presented to several City Councils and Township Boards.
- Participated in several media events

SUICIDE RISK

transcends
every
racial, ethnic,
gender, and
economic
demographic

CDC 2021



March 1, 2024 Staff members from Trinity Health Livonia Hospital, Growth Works; State Senator Mary Cavanagh, Speaker Pro Tempore Laurie Pohutsky, and Representative Matt Koleszar.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

The Coalition provided professional development for adolescent mental health professionals from Coalition districts. Mini conference events were held at Trinity Health Livonia and one annual fall conference was held at Thurston High School in South Redford School District.

Event	Date	Topic	Presenter(s)	Attendance
Mini-Conference @ Trinity Health Livonia Hospital	January 19–20 2023	Safety Planning	Kelly Mays, Hegira Health	124
Mini-Conference @ Trinity Health Livonia Hospital	March 14–15 2023	Let's Talk About It	Kate Hardy & Sam McCollough, Six Feet Over	106
Second Annual Fall Conference @ Thurston High School	November 7 2023	Disrupting The Narrative of Youth Suicide & Mental Health	Keynotes: Dr. Jonathan Singer, Loyola University; Tarah Hipple-Thomas, SOAR Trauma; Eric Hipple, mental health advocate	371
Mini-Conference @ Trinity Health Livonia Hospital	January 18–19 2024	Transitioning Back to School Following Acute Crisis	Laura Condit & MaryAnn Duchene, Trinity Health Livonia Hospital	114
Mini-Conference @ Trinity Health Livonia Hospital	Feb 22 & March 15 2024	Releasing Guilt & Shame to Reveal Your Inner Changemaker	Megan Fuciarelli, US2 Consulting	93
Third Annual Fall Conference @ Thurston High School	November 5 2024	Empowering Providers: Crisis, Resilience, and Mental Health	Keynotes: Robert Fink, Ph.D. and Matthew Swartz, LMSW	n/a

GRANTS AND PARTNERS SUPPORTING OUR WORK



Partners for programming, advocacy, and facilities; student leadership for peer-to-peer programming in each district.



Mental health conference and lecture series for school mental health professionals.



Leadership and peer-to-peer programming for each district.



Donating use of their facilities.



Lecture series for school mental health professionals.





271 S. Main St. | Plymouth, MI 48170 | 313-690-8859

BRIAN GALDES

Suicide Prevention Coordinator
brian.galdes@gwcares.org

ALICE REINKE

Administrative Assistant, Suicide Prevention
alice.reinke@gwcares.org

