

FALL EDITION
SEPTEMBER 2025

PIVOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

Opioid & Suicide Prevention Quarterly Newsletter

Highlighting prevention efforts for Chemung, Livingston, Ontario, Schuyler,
Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates County.

Volume 2, Issue 3

CHEMUNG

DRUG FREE COMMUNITY COALITION OF CHEMUNG COUNTY (DFCC)

DFCC continues to provide opportunities at meetings for others to share what they are doing. This is a great way not only to learn, but also to explore possible partnerships. Pat Breux joined the DFCC coalition's August meeting to provide a presentation about the work being done with **Chemung's Suicide Prevention Coalition**. She explained *Walk A Mile In My Shoes*, which is a community event where those whose lives have been affected by suicide. Every May, approximately 1,500 residents of Chemung County, Steuben County, and Pennsylvania attend the event to convey a message of hope and raise money for local prevention efforts. The group is currently working on a strategic plan with the goal of having a safer community where everyone knows how, where, and when to get help if someone is in need.

The DFCC continues to **post regularly on social media**. **September posts will center around Suicide Awareness**. For October, there will be posts for mental health awareness, trunk or treat event information, and World Mental Health Day. An International Overdose Awareness Day event took place on Sunday, August 31st at the Transformation Center. CASA-Trinity tabled there to raise awareness and build partnerships.

The DFCC is getting ready for **Take Back Day on October 25, 2025**. Work will be done to promote the event and Red Ribbon week, which falls in the same time period, to **advertise the importance of proper medication disposal**.

The **Chemung Futures** workgroup has looked at current issues, needs, and concerns. Opportunities in each of the four categories of work already being done, Prevention Education, RX/OTC Safety, Pathways to Success, and Youth Engagement, have been discussed. The team has looked at data from the scorecard, the CLYDE Youth Survey from 2023, and Chemung County data from 211. The workgroup meets once per month, and all are welcome!



By Kathy Wille
Pivotal Public Health Partnership
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LIVINGSTON

LIVINGSTON COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

Livingston Suicide Prevention Task Force/GVHP, in partnership with Casa Trinity, held the 11th Annual Suicide and Overdose Candlelight Vigil on September 11 at 6:30 pm in Al Lorenz Park to coincide with National Overdose Awareness Day and Suicide Prevention Month in September. **Over 90 attendees participated in person, as well as many who viewed the livestream.** A collaborative journal project, a collaborative art piece, a selection of an ornament for the tree, a candle, and tree lighting, local musicians, and speakers filled the night with hope.

The Task Force will once again participate in packing **Hunter safety bags** that will be distributed in September. The bags include lock kits, resources, tick kits, and much more.

The Task Force has been busy all summer and into September tabling at different events, including the *Avon Corn Festival, Lima Crossroads, Livonia Autumn in the Village, and West Sparta Old Fashioned Days*. The Task Force also tabled at *Geneseo, Dansville, and Livonia schools* for their Elementary and Middle/HS Back to School Kick off, as well as Fall Family night. The Task Force has a spreadsheet that keeps track of events and needed volunteers, and kits with supplies that are ready to go for tabling events. and tracking sheets for supplies! **The Task Force has reached over 900 people with their tabling efforts so far this year!**

The Step by Step Survivors Support group meets once a month for those impacted by suicide, overdose, or sudden loss. Summer activities included rock painting for remembrance and hope. September's activity included flower pot painting. Letters have been sent to funeral homes and churches to let them know of the services provided.

Credible Mind magnets continue to be distributed widely, and there has been an increase in activity on the platform; **the total number of users, registered users, and total sessions has increased in the past few months!**



[WEBSITE LINK](#)

SENECA

SENECA COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION OPIOID OVERDOSE TASK FORCE

The Suicide Prevention Task Force and the Opioid Overdose Task Force partnered with CAAFL and the Waterloo Rotary to host a *Painting the Picture to Wellness* event on August 25, 2025. The free family event included a color run, face painting, an activity with the Artist's Lounge, banner painting, music, and free pizza for the kids. The evening helped to spread the message of health and wellness to both kids and adults! Prior to the event, there was a **screening of *Harold and the Purple Crayon***, offered to the community, a story of grit and resilience.

The coalition assembled over 300 Hunter Safety bags in July and distributed them across the County to Town Hall Clerk offices. This is the first time the coalition has participated in this event (see photo). Each free bag contains a gun lock and firearm/suicide prevention material as well as a tick removal kit, and information about Lyme disease, poisonous plants, lead poisoning, venison donation program, and county food pantries, as well as cards promoting ROC veterans and Credible Mind.

The group took a look at the **CLYDE Youth survey results** and further defined extra questions for the survey. The survey, which has traditionally been given to students in grades 6-12 in February, will now be given in October starting in October 2025.

There will be a **Youth Summit taking place on October 20, 2025, at Hobart & William Smith College**. Approximately 80 kids (20 from each Seneca county school) will participate in this event, which will include a keynote speaker and collaborative projects for the kids.

The **Vending machines** at the *House of Concern* in Waterloo and *Carquest* in Ovid are used frequently, and supplies (fentanyl and xylazine test strips, Narcan, and condoms) are replaced regularly.

Drug Take Back Day will take place in 3 locations on Oct 25 offering free gun locks and **collecting expired Narcan, which will be passed along to a program that sends to low and no access communities across the United States.**

Find out more [HERE](#).



[WEBSITE LINK](#)

STEUBEN

STEUBEN PREVENTION COALITION: OPIOID COMMITTEE

The Steuben Opioid Committee put together a workgroup in June to **write a letter to superintendents in Steuben County schools expressing the importance of providing Narcan training to all staff in their schools** and offering to partner with schools in accordance with the Board of Education's policy that is in place on implementing opioid overdose prevention measures. **The letter, as well as an Opioid infographic of Adolescent Opioid Use in Steuben County and a Narcan Fact sheet,** were sent out to **all superintendents** in Steuben County in mid-August.

The committee continues to work on **environmental scans to assess what gas stations, convenience stores, truck stops, and vape shops are selling**, as well as taking a look at **what they are advertising-** beer, vapes, CBD, Kratom, and if they are requiring IDs.

The **Vending machine** in Addison has been getting a good amount of use. There are currently **87 wall boxes** in the county. Supplies are readily replenished in vending machines and wall boxes.

Narcan trainings are offered at tabling events throughout the county as well as to businesses and community groups. The Committee has a **new sandwich board** to help attract people to come to our table at events for on-the-spot Narcan training. (See photo).

Upcoming events in Steuben County include the **Speaker Jam series** on September 18 from 3-7 pm. (Walk-up Narcan training will be provided), **Drug Take Back Day** on October 25, 2025, from 10 AM - 2 PM, and **Trunk or Treat** on October 25, 2025, in Pulteney Park.

The coalition has **two new billboard ads for Fall of 2025**; one titled "**Fentanyl Kills:** (showing a lethal dose of fentanyl), the other titled "**Substance Use can Happen to Anyone.**" (see in photos).



[WEBSITE LINK](#)

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SCHUYLER

SUICIDE AWARENESS FOR EVERYONE (S.A.F.E.)

In September, for **Suicide Awareness month**, **SAFE and Schuyler Public Health sent out a press release asking the community to join in recognizing National Suicide Prevention month and spreading the message that everyone can play a role. The #BeThe1To campaign offers a 5-step approach to follow if you know someone who may be having thoughts of suicide. Find more about the #Bethe1To campaign and the 5-step program [HERE](#). Toolkits from SAMHSA for suicide awareness month and 988 information were shared on social media.**

SAFE will take part in the **Falls Harvest Festival again this year on October 4, 2025, tabling with resources for the community.**

The HOPE garden, located in Watkins Glen and established by SAFE, honors those who have experienced loss to suicide. Many county departments and community organizations maintain the garden throughout the year.

A SAFE Coalition member delivered Adult Mental Health First Aid Training to Schuyler County staff in June and July and to the Sheriff's department in September.

The coalition brainstormed ideas for **recruitment and worked to recognize where there may be missed representation.** If interested in joining SAFE, please check out the website link below.



ONTARIO

ONTARIO COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION

Ontario County provided **ASIST training** in September. The training is being offered to new employees in Ontario County as well.

The coalition tabled at the ASFP **Suicide Prevention Walk** in Geneva on September 14, 2025.

The coalition discussed the recent **Evalumetrics survey** that was given to 6-12 graders in Ontario County. The coalition discussed the possibility of moving to more of a mental health rebranding with a wellness focus.



SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION COALITION OF ONTARIO COUNTY

The Ontario County Prevention Coalition, in partnership with the Ontario County Sheriff, will take part in the **DEA National Drug Take-Back day on Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 10 AM- 1 PM.** The event will take place in Victor and works to remove drugs from the community.

October 23-31 is **Red Ribbon week**, which is the longest-running drug prevention program in the nation. **Toolkits will be sent to the schools that include prevention messaging.** The coalition is looking to table at the mall for their Trunk and Treat event, giving out Red Ribbon materials and candy for the kids. A press release and proclamation will accompany this work.

The Evalumetrics Youth Survey was given in March/April in most schools across the counties. Data from the survey will be used to direct the coalition to determine program need.

Jerry Bennett from the FLX PRC gave a presentation on the **Kaizen survey**, which is a survey to help coalitions move in a certain direction. The results point to opportunities and areas to improve.



YATES

YATES PREVENTION COALITION

The YPC has worked diligently to restructure and organize over the past several months. A Steering committee was established, and other committees (Suicide Prevention, Substance use prevention, and Outreach Implementation have gained new members). All committees are working on developing a strategic plan and outlining objectives and goals.

The suicide prevention committee is working on the Lock and Talk program. A logo was created, and a letter was shared with rod and gun clubs and hunter-affiliated clubs to offer a partnership with this community safety effort to provide gun locks, training, and spread the awareness of safety options. With data from the Poison Center showing that there is a high number of children less than 6 years of age exposed to cannabis products, the coalition aims to promote awareness of medication dropbox locations throughout the county. Hunter safety packets have been assembled and distributed throughout the county, which contain a postcard with a QR code that sends you to the PH homepage, which links to a number of resources, including gun safety, lead exposure, poison prevention, Tick bite prevention, and venison donation information.

QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) training will be held for all coalition members at their September meeting.

The coalition will be participating in the Out of Darkness Walk on October 5, 2025, at Keuka College (see photo).



WAYNE COUNTY OPIOID TASK FORCE

The Task Force has new resources! **The Credible Mind Platform, in partnership with Public Health, was launched in July!** The platform provides a wealth of mental well-being resources available in the community. The platform is also available in Spanish. Reports from the platform will help to determine the specific needs of the community.

PH has also partnered with Dobbins Drugs to have information about free Narcan and distribution on prescription pharmacy bags that community members receive when they pick up prescriptions.

The Recreation and Social Activity workgroup is working on ideas to resolve the challenges that Wayne County residents face when it comes to recreational opportunities for those in Recovery. Transportation is often an issue. They brainstormed ideas of how to develop a program that would allow them to use some of the fitness centers and gyms in the area.

All Wayne County EMS workers have been trained in **Adult Mental Health First Aid.**

WAYNE COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION

Wayne County has a **resource guide** that provides all the services and resources in the area. Check out the guide [HERE](#)

Wayne County Suicide Prevention Coalition has a new website. Check it out [HERE](#). It is filled with resources and information.

Several agencies gave presentations to the coalition to share what they do and how they serve the community. Guests included:

Craig Hunt from Wayne County Public Health gave a **tour of the Credible Mind website**, which provides a vast array of mental health resources, including over 100 topics, assessments, learning lab, and activities.

The Wayne County Veterans Service Agency explained what they do, why Veterans are at higher risk, and **how they respond by keeping Veterans connected.** Find more information [HERE](#)

Jordan Lunser from Wayne Behavioral Health Network explained a new program, **Trauma-informed care for EMS workers.** The program will **provide mental health drop-in services and information sessions for EMS workers bimonthly.**

Evalumetrics Youth Survey results for Wayne County were shared with the group. Find results [HERE](#).



**COALITION CONTACT
INFORMATION**

- Anthony Hooks, ahooks@casa-trinity.org ,Drug Free Community Coalition of Chemung County
- Ashley Tomassini, ashley@partnershipoc.org , Ontario County Suicide Prevention Coalition & Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Ontario County
- Danielle McCray, dmccray@waynecountyny.gov ,Wayne County Opioid Task Force
- Connie Terry, connie.terry@dor.org ,Steuben Prevention Coalition: Opioid Committee
- Amanda Wiley, awiley@schuylercountyny.gov ,Suicide Awareness For Everyone (S.A.F.E.)
- Karen Burcoff, karen@uwseneca.org Seneca County Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Lynne Mignemi, lmignemi@co.livingston.ny.us ,Livingston County Suicide Prevention Task Force
- Luanne Palme, lpalme@caafll.org ,Yates Prevention Coalition
- Suzanne Catholdi, scatholdi@co.wayne.ny.us ,Wayne County Suicide Prevention Coalition

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What's HAPPENING IN OUR REGION

**Seneca County
Packing Hunter Safety Kits**

Seneca County's Suicide Prevention Coalition got together to prepare Hunter safety bags. This is the first year under the guidance of Ashley Smith that Seneca County has participated in this event. 300 bags, which included tick kits, gun locks, poisonous plant resources, and more, were distributed to town clerks.



**WAYNE COUNTY
NEW RESOURCES!**

Wayne County's Opioid Task Force has two new resources. PH has launched the credible mind platform, and a partnership with a local drug store provides information on Narcan availability. Naloxone Wall boxes house Narcan and fentanyl and zylazine test strips.

CredibleMind
The One-Stop Shop for Mental Wellbeing Resources
A free online platform that brings together expert-rated and vetted videos, podcasts, apps, online programs, books, and articles all in one easy-to-use place.

More than mental health
It's a full wellbeing ecosystem, and specialists can help professionals bring interventions of passion.

credibleMind covers over 100 topics including:

- Stress
- Burnout
- Anxiety
- Sleep
- Depression
- Relationships
- Mindfulness
- Resilience
- Coping with Medical Diagnosis
- Time-Management
- Happiness
- Parenting
- Grief and Loss
- Flourishing
- Substance Use
- Aging

Some assessments you'll find on CredibleMind are:

- How do you feel about your health?
- How do you feel about your mental health?
- What's your emotional health?
- What's your mental health?
- How do you feel about your mental health?
- How do you feel about your mental health?

By signing up, you will have access to: past assessment results to track improvement over time, your favorite resources, and hand-picked credibleMind resources right to your email!

Visit waynemind.com to get started



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What's HAPPENING IN OUR REGION

Seneca County *Painting the Picture to Wellness*

To coincide with National Overdose Awareness Day and Suicide Prevention month in September, **Seneca County's Suicide Prevention Coalition and Opioid Overdose Task Force**, in partnership with the Council on Alcohol and Addictions of the FLX and the Seneca and Waterloo Rotary, held an evening event on August 25 at Oak Island in Waterloo for youth and their families. The evening included a color run, face painting, chalk the walk, banner painting, rock painting, Health Dept Spin Art bike, and Narcan training. The kids received free white Tees to spread the message of health and wellness.





UPSTATE NEW YORK
POISON CENTER

The Upstate New York Poison Center presents:

Partnering for Safety: How the Upstate New York Poison Center Supports Rural Health Professionals

October 21st, 2025 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Presented by:

Amy Hoffman-James, BA
UNYPC Public Health Educator

October 21, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Questions: HoffmAmy@upstate.edu

Participants will:

Describe the role and services of the Upstate New York Poison Center in supporting patient care.

Recognize common poison exposures and risks unique to rural communities, including medications, household products, and agricultural chemicals.

Identify when and how to contact our poison center for expert guidance in acute and non-acute situations.

Access and share poison prevention education materials to strengthen community outreach and patient safety.

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What's HAPPENING IN OUR REGION

VA SAVE

A free training about how to help during a mental health crisis

Join us to learn how to SAVE a life:

- Suicide data overview
 - Signs of a mental health crisis
 - How to use the SAVE model to respond to someone in crisis
 - How to reduce risk of suicide
- September 4th at 11 AM at Red Jacket Library (Manchester)
 - September 5th at 10:30 AM at Caledonia Library
 - September 9th at 11:30 AM at Modeste Bedient Memorial Library (Branchport)
 - September 10th at 12 PM at Lyons Library
 - September 12th at 3 PM at Ogden Farmers' Library
 - September 15th at 1 PM at Macedon Library
 - September 17th at 11:30 at Dansville Library
 - September 18th at 11 at Penn Yan Library
 - September 20th at 5:30 Virtual, email ashley.smith14@va.gov to register
 - September 22nd at 12 PM at Seneca Falls Library
 - September 24th at 10 AM at Honeoye Library
 - September 27th at 10 AM at Dundee Library
 - September 29th at 10:30 AM at Avon Free Library
 - September 29th at 1 PM at Lima Public Library
 - September 30th at 1 PM at Bristol Library (Canandaigua)



NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH
Psychological
FIRST AID
Trainings

Tuesday September 9th - 9am - 12pm

OR

Tuesday September 23rd - 1pm - 4pm

For questions/ registration email twilliams@waynecountyny.gov

Why Train in Psychological First Aid?

Psychological First Aid is an early intervention that can be used to support anyone who is stressed or distressed, including patients, clients, and colleagues. This training will present a toolkit of supportive elements that can be used to help others, regardless of the setting or source of the stress, in order to remove barriers to natural resilience.

FREE WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY TRAININGS

To see all available trainings or to request a training for your group scan or visit: <https://forms.gle/JRghDDPRBhBwdLR5A>

More Than Sad (Parent or Educator)

Teaches parents and educators how to recognize signs of depression and other mental health problems, initiate a conversation about mental health with their child, and get help. This program focuses on parents and guardians of teen youth.

- Offered in-person or virtual
- 90 minute course
- Specific to parents or educators

Adult Mental Health First Aid

Teaches participants how to identify, understand and respond to signs and symptoms of mental health challenges and substance use disorders.

- Offered in-person or blended
- 8 hour course
- Open to anyone

It's Real: Teens and Mental Health

The program raises awareness about mental health issues, how to start a conversation about mental health, the importance of self-care, and how to reach out for help.

- Offered in-person or virtual
- 45 minute course
- Specific to teens 14-18

Naloxone Training

This course will teach you how to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose and administer the opioid overdose reversal drug Naloxone.

- Offered in-person
- 30-45 minutes (group), 15 minute (individual)
- Open to individuals 18+

Suicide Safety for Teachers and School Staff

Emphasis is on recognizing warning signs, clarifying the referral process in place at school, and making a warm handoff.

- Offered in-person or virtual
- 60-90 minute course
- Specific to school staff

Talk Saves Lives (Community or Workplace)

Introduction to Suicide Prevention is a community-based presentation that covers the general scope of suicide, the research on prevention, and what people can do to fight suicide.

- Offered in-person
- 60-90 minute course
- Open to anyone

Link to HOPE

This course will focus on recognize was to help an individual thinking of suicide and how to feel confident in talking opening about suicide.

- Offered in-person or virtual
- 60-90 minute course
- Open to anyone

Operation SAVE.

This course that will help you act with care and compassion if you come across a Veteran who is in crisis or having thoughts of suicide.

- Offered in-person or virtual
- 45 - 60 minute course
- For anyone who knows a Veteran

UPSTATE NEW YORK POISON CENTER

Find Upstate Poison Center's free materials order form [HERE](#)

What do you do with expired Narcan?
Seneca County is collecting expired Narcan during Drug Take Back Day and will be passing it along to an organization that sends it to low and no-access communities across the United States. Find more about it [HERE](#).

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What's HAPPENING IN OUR REGION

Fentanyl Kills



Lethal Dose
2 mg



OPIOID COMMITTEE
STEUBEN PREVENTION COALITION

Emergency NARCAN

In an Opioid Overdose
Emergency, Don't Wait –
Act Fast!

For Locations of Emergency Wall Units



OPIOID COMMITTEE
STEUBEN PREVENTION COALITION

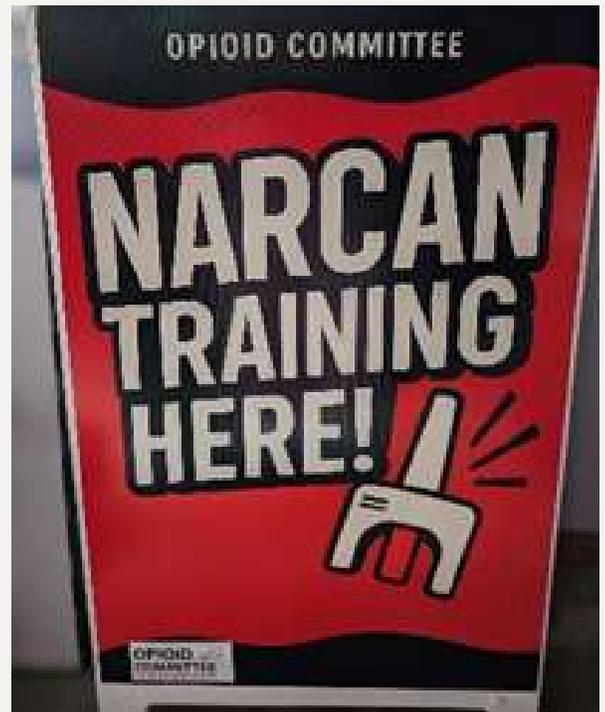
<https://scnygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d9a2723d449a4e558a2dfd44a121>

[More Info](#)

The Steuben Opioid Committee has 2 new banners and a new sandwich board sign for Narcan trainings. Scan the QR code to find locations in Steuben County.



Substance Use Can Happen to Anyone.



OPIOID COMMITTEE

NARCAN TRAINING HERE!





MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Identify. Understand. Respond.

Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults..

3 Reasons to Become a Mental Health FirstAider



BE PREPARED

When a mental health crisis happens, know what to do



YOU CAN HELP

People with mental illnesses often suffer alone



YOU CARE

Be there for a friend, family Member, or colleague

WHAT IT COVERS

- Common signs and symptoms of mental health challenges.
- Common signs and symptoms of substance use challenges.
- How to interact with a person in crisis.
- How to connect a person with help.
- Expanded content on trauma, substance use and self-care.

Community-Specific Courses in Wayne County

Trainings provided at NO COST



Contact: Bridget Dougherty-Herman
bdougherty-herman@DelphiRise.org



SCAN ME!

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What's HAPPENING IN OUR REGION



KEUKA COLLEGE
Believe in What We Can Do Together

988 | **SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE**



**American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention**

**WALK
WITH US**
TO PREVENT SUICIDE



REGISTER TODAY

Keuka Lake Out of the Darkness Walk
Keuka College, Keuka Park NY

Sunday, October 5, 2025

Check-in: 11:30am
Opening Program: 12:30pm

Register at
afsp.org/keukalake



American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention



For Suicide Prevention month, The Yates Prevention Coalition has a display table full of resources set up in the County building for the month of September.

Scan QR code for
Previous Newsletters

