



A Cross Collaborative Approach to School-Based Risk Assessment Development

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Our Needs

Mental Health is an urgent concern for students in our Wayne County schools. Results from the 2021 Evalumetrics Youth Survey (EYS) indicate that **one in 14 (6.9%) middle school students reported making a plan for suicide** and **nearly one in 20 (4.6%) attempted suicide one or more times in the past year.**

Among all high school students, **nearly one in 10 (8.9%) made a plan for suicide and more than one in 20 (5.8%) attempted suicide.** **One in four (25.1%) high school students with two or more childhood traumas reported making a plan for suicide;** this rate is more than five times higher than students that reported 0 or 1 childhood traumas. **Trauma remains a root cause for violence towards self and others, and access to firearms typical for rural culture can amplify that danger.**

Students with ACE scores of two or more were nearly six times more likely to report one or more suicide attempt (16.5% vs. 2.8%) and were four times more likely (37.9% vs. 9.6%) to report cutting or burning themselves when upset. **Among all Wayne County residents, the five-year (2012-2016) average firearm suicide rate is 5.22, while the average firearm death rate is 5.66, well above the lowest county rate of 1.73.**

A Review of Past Practice in Our Schools

District Created Suicide Risk Assessment

Columbia Suicide Rating Scale

ASQ NIMH Toolkit & SQUARE Program

We use the ASIST Model as our risk assessment ideology. This is used by The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and is widely supported as Evidence Based. **No one has been formally trained here other than myself from when I worked at the Veterans Crisis Line,** but I have shared the information and there are tons of scholarly journals on the tool available. **There is a 2-day training available out there, we have just never been able to get it coordinated to send folks.**

I do not specifically use an instrument when a student discloses SI or SIB. I rely on my training in the CASE approach and IS PATH WARM.

I use my intuition.

Multi-Disciplinary Risk Assessment Team

We established a **multi-disciplinary risk assessment team** in each school district across the county, using existing **Multi-Tiered System of Supports** and invigorated those teams with **Law Enforcement** and **Mental Health Clinicians** so that every school building is considering safety alongside school climate and academics. Our county team included:



Multi-disciplinary Risk Assessment Team Members

Dr. Iustinian Rusu, **Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist, WBHN**

Dr. Hennessey Lustica, **Community Schools Mental Health Director & Licensed Mental Health Counselor**

Margi Taber, **Community Schools Coordinator for Behavioral Health**

Jesse Strazzabosco, **School Psychologist, Lyons CSD**

Steve Humbert, **School Psychologist, Sodus CSD**

Tane Robinson, **UPK-5 Dean of Students & Trauma Informed Schools Coordinator, Palmyra Macedon CSD**

Brian Pitt, **Investigator/School Resource Officer, Wayne County Sheriff's Office**

In consultation with **Newark Hospital** and **Clifton Springs Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP)**

Wayne County Community Schools Risk Assessment



asQ NIMH Toolkit
SQUARE Program
COLUMBIA-SUICIDE SEVERITY RATING SCALE (C-SSRS)
Brief
User Friendly
Higher Level of Care

Continuous Data Tracking (2021 - present)

Process

- Identified School Rep to input data
- Monthly reminders to School Reps to input their data
- School District Excel sheets for their own data

Data Collected

- Date of assessment
- School Building
- Age of student
- Grade of student
- Gender of student
- Was parent contacted of assessment
- Did initial screen result in need for further lethality assessment
- Who was student referred to for additional follow up or support
- Was School Resource Officer notified if applicable

Contact Information

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