

NW PA Veteran Suicide Prevention Program

Monthly Report: June 2022

Program Overview

The **Northwest Pennsylvania Veteran Suicide Prevention Program (NWPASPP)** is a collaborative effort between federal and state-level entities, community-level service providers, and organizational experts in **suicide prevention** to create significant and lasting change in the **15-county NW PA region**. The program aims to **reduce Veteran suicide attempts and death** by an average of 10% over five years (2020-2025). Other program goals include increasing awareness of suicide risk, promoting community connection and resilience, and improving delivery of suicide care.

Report Overview



Key Updates

- Conducted **3 virtual [QPR \(Question. Persuade. Refer.\) Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Trainings](#)**, with a total of **89 individuals** trained.
- Completed a **site visit** with **Primary Health Network (PHN) Wayne** (Erie County).
- Presented about the NWPASPP at the virtual **[Comprehensive Moral Injury Conference](#)** hosted by Moral Injury Support Network for Servicewomen, Inc.

Key Next Steps

- **Implement action plans** to address feedback from the Suicide Awareness and Perceptions Survey pilot, Key Informant Interviews, and virtual QPR training.
- Continue **onboarding activities and technical assistance efforts** for recruited primary care sites.

Stakeholder Meeting Summary

Meeting Outcomes

Key Points:

- The June **Advisory Group** meeting focused on: 1) implementation activities; 2) general project announcements, and 3) facilitated breakout sessions to review data from training evaluations and the suicide awareness survey pilot.
- During the June meeting, the **Communication & Dissemination Work Group** created a list of communication-related activities for stakeholders to help spread the word about the program. The **Data & Evaluation Work Group** was cancelled for the month of June since Advisory Group break out discussions focused on evaluation data.
- The June **Journal Club** discussion focused on Veteran’s perceptions of and experiences with firearms, and implications for trauma-informed suicide prevention efforts.

Meeting	Partner Attendance
Advisory Group Meeting	13
Communication & Dissemination Work Group	2
Data & Evaluation Work Group	N/A
Journal Club	5

Meeting Evaluations

Key Points:

- Beginning in April, real-time **meeting evaluation polls** were implemented to increase stakeholder feedback.
- The poll asked members to rate their agreement (Yes/No) on **two questions** about the content and relevance of the meeting. An open-ended comment space was also included.

Summary:

- There was **unanimous agreement** with both statements for the Advisory Group (AG) meeting this month. A meeting poll was not used for the **Communication & Dissemination Work Group** in June due to the small sample size (n=2).
- **Advisory Group:** June was the first month when all (100%) of meeting attendees completed the evaluation poll. Qualitative comments were **positive** and remarked on the progress of the project and focus of the meeting.
- The project team will continue to review monthly meeting evaluation feedback and implement necessary changes to ensure project meetings are engaging and efficient.

Meeting	Responses
Advisory Group	13
Communication & Dissemination Work Group	N/A
Data & Evaluation Work Group	N/A

Region 1 Summary: June 2022

PERU is working to enhance local suicide prevention, intervention, and response efforts and work to address gaps in efforts or services. Implementation is being phased across **three geographic regions** that were selected based on resource availability and existing healthcare and community partnerships. Currently, implementation efforts are focused in **Region 1: Erie, Crawford, Venango, Warren, McKean**.



Partner Engagement

The goal of the program’s outreach and engagement strategy is to build and maintain positive relationships with community partners in each county to support implementation efforts. The table below represents the **number and types of meetings** held in June.

Entity Type	Meeting Purpose	# Meetings June 2022
County Coalitions/Task Forces	Continued Engagement	4
Dept. of Military & Veterans Affairs (DMVA)	Continued Engagement	1
Healthcare	Recruitment	2
Healthcare	Site Engagement	1
Hold My Guns & National Shooting Sports Foundation	Safe Storage Planning	3
Other Community Stakeholders	Continued Engagement	9
State-Level Agencies	Continued Engagement	2
UPMC Western Behavioral at Safe Harbor	Recruitment & Training Planning	3
Advisory Group and Work Groups	Project Planning	2
Totals		27

Resource & Material Development

The program team continues to create **resources and materials** to ensure all stakeholders are informed about the program goals and activities and are afforded the opportunity to provide program implementation input to enhance their engagement with the program. Over the past month, the following materials have been developed:

- 4 website [blog posts](#)
- 1 [monthly newsletter](#) (the June newsletter was disseminated to 343 individuals!)
- 1 [conference presentation](#) on the topic of moral injury

Process Evaluation & Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Efforts – *Items in Progress*

The May monthly report included action plans about the Suicide Awareness and Perceptions Survey pilot and Key Informant Interviews respectively. The following activities described in these plans continued throughout June/July and will be included in the July monthly report:

- Identify a larger, more diverse community group to collect additional feedback about the **Suicide Awareness and Perceptions Survey** before widespread survey dissemination.
- Hold individual meetings with Advisory Group members **to ascertain stakeholder strengths, interests, and motivations for collaborating with the NWPVSP**. Information collected from these conversations will be used to inform changes to stakeholder communication and meeting structure to ensure that all Advisory Group members feel engaged and valued.