

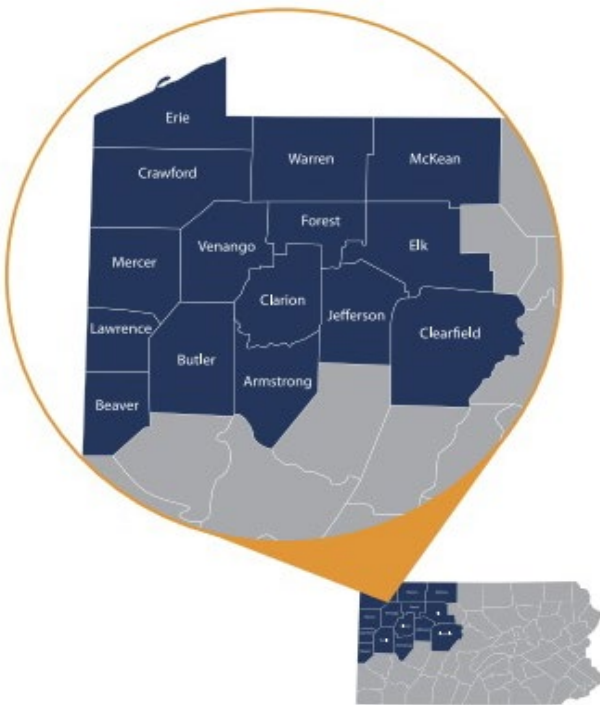
# NW PA Veteran Suicide Prevention Program

Monthly Report: August 2022

## Program Overview

The **Northwest Pennsylvania Veteran Suicide Prevention Program (NWPAVSPP)** 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 Summary



### Key Updates

- Held **1 in-person and 4 virtual [QPR \(Question. Persuade. Refer.\) trainings](#)**, with **91 individuals trained** as suicide prevention gatekeepers.
- Partnered with the Penn State Master Gardener's Watershed Program to host a **[community greening event](#)** in Erie, which was attended by **17 people** who collected over **600 pounds of trash**.

### Key Next Steps

- Continue to **outreach** with new healthcare systems in NW PA to **identify pilot sites** to implement universal suicide risk screening.
- Plan to initiate implementation activities in **Region 2 counties** (Elk, Forest, Clearfield, Jefferson).

## Outcomes

### Key Points:

- The August **Advisory Group** meeting focused on implementation and evaluation activities, updates on completed gatekeeper trainings and future training registrations, and discussion of communication campaign ideas for [Suicide Prevention Awareness Month](#) (September).
- Beginning in August 2022, stakeholder work group discussions were integrated into monthly Advisory Group meetings to increase efficiency and decrease extraneous meetings.
- The August **Journal Club** discussion focused on military discharge characterizations and correlations with Veteran suicide attempts and homelessness.

Meeting	Partner Attendance
Advisory Group Meeting	9
Journal Club	2

## Meeting Evaluations

### Summary:

- A **real-time meeting evaluation poll** is used to increase stakeholder feedback.
- The poll asks members to rate their agreement (Yes/No) on **two questions** about the content and relevance of the meeting. An open-ended comment space is also included.

### Next Steps:

- There was unanimous agreement with both statements for the Advisory Group meeting this month.
- 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	6

## Region 1 Summary: August 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 August.

Entity Type	Meeting Purpose	# Meetings
		August 2022
County Coalitions/Task Forces	Continued Engagement	3
Dept. of Military & Veterans Affairs (DMVA)	Continued Engagement	1
Healthcare	Site Recruitment	1
Healthcare	Data Reporting	2
Hold My Guns & National Shooting Sports Foundation	Safe Storage Planning	1
Other Community Stakeholders	Continued Engagement	5
State-Level Agencies	Continued Engagement	1
UPMC Western Behavioral at Safe Harbor	Recruitment & Training Planning	3
VA VISN4	Continued Engagement	1
Advisory Group and Workgroups	Project Planning	1
<b>Totals</b>		<b>19</b>

### 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:

- **6** [website blog posts](#)
- **1** [monthly newsletter](#)
- **1** *draft* educational material on benefits eligibility for Military Sexual Trauma (MST)