

GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES

STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2026

OUR MISSION



The Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services is committed to leading the development, implementation, and evaluation of mental health and substance use programs. Our dedication to this mission is unwavering. As a proactive agent for change in Geauga County, the Board is dedicated to optimizing human and financial resources and enhancing and stabilizing the mental health of the county's citizens through our programs. Through a comprehensive needs assessment, the Board shall effectively plan and coordinate a full range of community-based services. Our dedication to quality client care ensures we provide the best possible support in the least restrictive environment.

GOAL 1

ENHANCE ACCESS TO CRISIS SERVICES

STRATEGY 1

Enhance Access to
Crisis Hotlines

STRATEGY 2

Educate the Public
about Available Crisis
Services

STRATEGY 3

Strengthen Crisis
Response within
our Continuum of
Care

ACTIONS

- We will host and participate in community events that inform the public about vital crisis services, empowering individuals with the knowledge they need to seek help when it matters most.
- We will provide training for direct service workers to equip them with the necessary skills to manage behavioral health crises effectively.
- We will provide educational training to community members, explaining the crisis response teams, their activation process, and the response to crises, to reduce the impact of trauma on our community.
- We will develop educational handouts to help the community identify the risk of suicide among adolescents, teens, and adults.
- We will create crisis resource giveaways, branded with the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, to distribute within the community, making it easier for those experiencing a crisis to navigate available resources.
- We will establish a youth steering committee to gain a deeper understanding of the needs of youth in crisis and develop policies and procedures to address their behavioral health needs during large-scale crisis or natural disasters.

ENHANCE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND RECOVERY SUPPORTS				
GOAL 2	STRATEGY 1	STRATEGY 2	STRATEGY 3	STRATEGY 4
	Support	Strengthen and	Expand Crisis	Strengthen
	Residential	Sustain Our	Intervention	Treatment
	Treatment and Recovery House Programs	Community's Stepping Up Initiative	Training for Criminal Justice Providers	and Recovery Programs

ACTIONS

- Allocate funding to recovery support services that deliver impactful care for individuals in Residential Treatment and the Recovery Housing Program, fostering a path to lasting recovery.
- Collaborate with law enforcement and criminal justice service providers to implement community crisis intervention training and/or CIT to strengthen their knowledge of de-escalation techniques and increase their ability to redirect individuals in the criminal justice system with mental health conditions to treatment.
- Develop a Stepping Up Commission to develop plans that reduce barriers in the priority areas identified in the Sequential Mapping Workshop.
- Provide training for direct service workers to increase their skills and knowledge in establishing a healthy support system, thereby ensuring sustained recovery.
- The Board will work with the Courts to explore the possibility of a specialized docket for a Mental Health Court.

GOAL 3

PREVENT OVERDOSE AND SUBSTANCE USE RELATED HARMS

STRATEGY 1

Sustain SUD
Treatment
Services

STRATEGY 2

Gather and Report
System-Wide Data on
Trends and Risk Factors

STRATEGY 3

Increase Community
Harm Reduction
Strategies and
Outreach Efforts

ACTIONS

- Invest in programs in the jails and outpatient programming to promote recovery.
- Participate in the Overdose Fatality Review Board. Utilize aggregate data to identify gaps in the continuum of care, enhance substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services, and strengthen community outreach efforts.
- Ensure the HUB Coalition develops an annual strategic plan to increase access to treatment, supportive housing, and recovery supports for those suffering from substance use disorder.
- Provide community education through the distribution of Detera Bags on how reducing access to unused medications can reduce prescription drug misuse in our community.

GOAL 4

BUILD RESILIENCE IN CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES THROUGH PREVENTION SERVICES

STRATEGY 1

Enhance Early Intervention and Community Prevention Programming to Target High-Risk Populations

STRATEGY 2

Increase Information Dissemination Through Various Methods to Reach a Wide Audience

STRATEGY 3

Explore How to Partner with Providers to Develop an Anti-Stigma Campaign

ACTIONS

- Distribute knowledge and education through various channels, including verbal communication, written documents, media, the internet, and signage.
- Invest in prevention services that build resilience in children, youth, and families.
- Engage teachers, coaches, grandparents, and parents in resiliency education to help children gain trust in themselves to solve problems and make appropriate decisions.
- Partner with local organizations to collaborate on events to raise awareness about the importance of good mental health practices to foster well-being.

GOAL 5

BUILD HOPE THROUGH EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, AND SUPPORT FOR A FUTURE FREE FROM SUICIDE

STRATEGY 1

Gather and Report System-Wide Data on Trends and Risk Factors for Individuals Who Died by Suicide

STRATEGY 2

Strengthen the Community Presence of the Suicide Prevention Coalition

STRATEGY 3

Increase Community Access to Education About the Risks of Suicide

ACTIONS

- Participate in the Suicide Fatality Review Board and use aggregate data to identify gaps in the continuum of care, enhance treatment services, and strengthen community outreach.
- Gather data and produce reports that highlight demographics and trends, identifying high-risk populations to inform the development of new initiatives.
- Ensure the Suicide Prevention Coalition develops an annual strategic plan to increase access to crisis services, behavioral health treatment, and recovery supports for those experiencing a crisis.
- Launch the GeaugaLives.org website, which will provide our community with 24/7 access to education, resources, and hope.
- Increase social media presence by adding LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram to share targeted and consistent messaging with partner agencies involved in the Suicide Prevention Coalition.