



Geauga County Board of  
Mental Health &  
Recovery Services

# IMPACT REPORT FY2024



RESILIENCE  
is the ability  
to find the inner  
strength to bounce  
back from a  
CHALLENGE



[www.geauga.org](http://www.geauga.org)



13244 Ravenna Road  
Chardon, OH 44024

## Christine's Message

The Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services is established under the Ohio revised code section 340. The Board is charged with the planning, funding, and evaluating of local mental health and substance use services in Geauga County. It is the Board's primary responsibility to ensure that all programs and services offered within our continuum of care are responsive to the behavioral health needs of the citizens of Geauga County.

*"Mental Health is vital to overall well-being and deserves our attention and care. It's perfectly okay to have ups and downs. What's crucial is how you take care of yourself during these times. Engage in activities that bring you joy, connect with loved ones, and don't hesitate to reach out for support when needed. Asking for help is not a sign of weakness; it's a brave step. We're here for you, and our commitment to Geauga County remains unwavering."*



Christine Lakomiak  
Executive Director

## **FY2024 Board Members**

Steven Oluic, PhD, *Board Chair*

Alberta Chokshi, *Vice Chair*

Michael Petruziello, *Treasurer*

James Lee Holden, *Secretary*

Reba Dykes

Douglas Lundblad

Kathy Johnson

Mary Ruth Shumway

Carolee Lesyk, PhD

Patricia Varanese

## **Outgoing Board Members**

Ann Bagley

Martin Fay

Gregory O'Brien

Thank you for your dedicated service  
to the GCBMHRS!

# Our Impact

**"When the LOSS Team came to our door, we were completely numb. Just knowing we weren't alone and that someone understood what we were going through made all the difference in those first awful hours." - LOSS Team**

**"My counselor has done an outstanding job and continues to provide emotional support and encouragement. She gets it. She understands the fear of telling the truth and not being believed can create intense consequences. She is also very helpful with ways to better cope with difficulties and communicate in a better and more effective way." - WomenSafe**

**"There was always a peer supporter available to talk to during my stay. RTP gives personal attention quickly. I don't have to call to make an appointment with a case manager or peer support worker". - Red Tulip**

**"(Counselor) is an absolutely wonderful therapist and case manager. She helped teach me how to regain control of my home while getting my granddaughter and I through so much trauma and heartache. I couldn't have asked for a better fit for my family." - Family Pride**

**"The clubhouse has helped me to feel more confident, I enjoy meeting new people and learning new tasks." - Ravenwood Health Clubhouse Member**

**"The counselors were really able to connect with my son in a meaningful way, build trust and rapport, and provide services that he could understand." - Family Pride**

**"Ravenwood's mental health program has taught our son strategies to cope with the daily mental health challenges he faces. Family First has transformed our son into the kind, compassionate, amazing young man he is today." -FFC**

**"I was failing most of my classes and my Mentor showed me how to study and be organized and now I am passing all my classes!" - Torchlight YMA**

**"(Case Manager) has been absolutely fantastic. We are so blessed to have her in our lives to help us grow! We thank each and every person who has helped us and who continue to help us! God answered prayers through you all! Thank you!" - Catholic Charities**

**"I am 10 years sober and completely in awe of the unbelievably full and beautiful life that I have today. Without Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers and Oak House giving me a chance to get sober and helping to learn the tools to live and fully embrace my life, I know I wouldn't have made it to see 30 years old." - Lake Geauga Recovery Centers**

**"(Counselor's) guidance has helped me to be in charge of my life. I am a better communicator and listener. I have better self-esteem. She helps me unbundle and recognize situations that at times seem overwhelming. She has been and currently is an important part of my life's happiness. " - Catholic Charities**

**"NAMI support groups helped me realize I wasn't alone. Sharing my story was hard but it gave me strength and hope." - NAMI**





# ***Our Impact***

by the numbers

➔ **9,506 Crisis Hotline Calls Answered**

**Our 988 hotline is 1 of only 19 in the state of Ohio!**



**If you need to talk, the 988 Lifeline is here. 988 is more than just an easy-to-remember number. It's a direct connection to a compassionate, trained person. Whether you're facing mental health struggles, emotional distress, substance use concerns, or just need someone to talk to, our caring counselors are here for you. You are not alone!**

# Overdose Deaths in Geauga County

## Decline by 45% in 2024

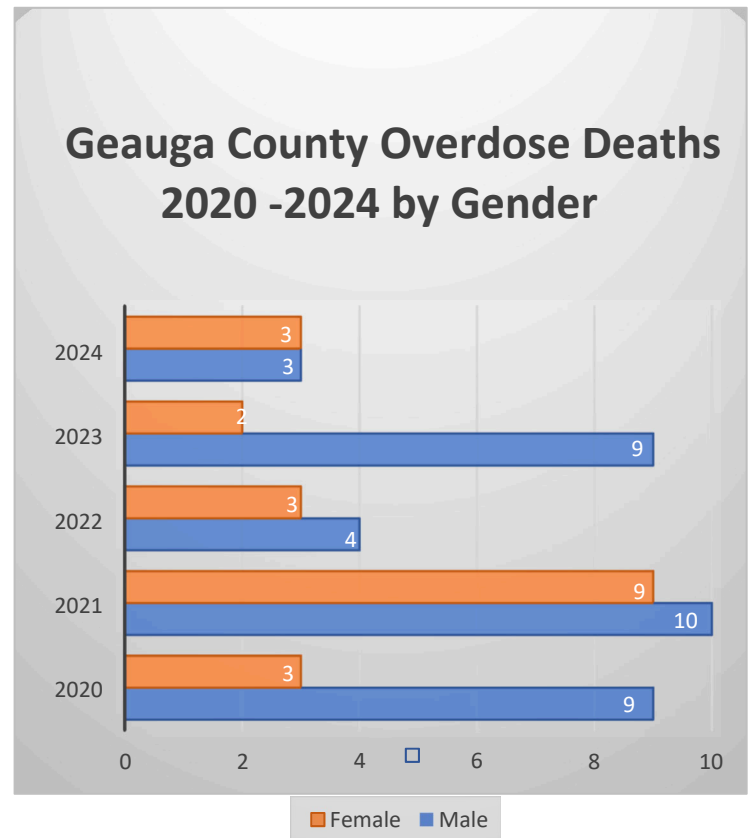
Reducing overdose deaths is a critical public health priority that requires a multifaceted approach to address this complex issue. In Geauga, overdose deaths were reduced from 11 in 2023 to just 6 in 2024. Here is a breakdown of key strategies and highlights:

### **Targeted Prevention:**

This involves focusing on preventing substance use early with effective community based education.

**Treatment & Recovery:** Ensuring readily available and affordable evidence-based treatment for substance use disorders, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT), providing a comprehensive recovery support system, and addressing co-occurring disorders is crucial to healthy communities.

**Collaboration & Partnerships:** Fostering collaboration between law enforcement, behavioral health, the criminal justice system, and healthcare ensures access to appropriate and timely interventions that save lives.



# Milestones in FY2024



## **May 2 & 3, 2024 - Sequential Mapping Workshop**

Over 20 agencies came together to support the Stepping Up Initiative. A 5-point Intercept Map was created to identify critical points in the criminal justice system where those with mental illness and substance use challenges can be helped with access to treatment.



## **On November 7, 2023**

Geauga County voters overwhelmingly approved our 0.7 mill renewal levy by 69%, which is the highest approval rate since 1989.

*thank you  
FOR YOUR  
support*

# The Transitional Living Center Expansion Project

In partnership with Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services and the American Rescue Plan Act, the GCBMHRs is expanding the Transitional Living Center. The project will reach completion by the end of 2025.

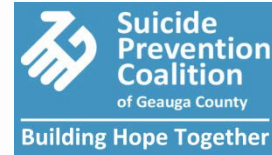


The project will increase the number of beds from 9 to 16 so those experiencing crisis can remain in their community while they get the help they need. This expansion will also provide a kitchen that is better equipped to support improved life skills training, a new group/multipurpose room, and a private, dedicated room that can be used for art therapy, music therapy, or general interpersonal group therapy. Other new spaces to be provided include: new family visitation room, new staff respite room, new quiet/sensory room, basement storage for both resident possessions and bulk foods, and lastly, a new exterior covered deck area for resident use.





# A Rebrand for the Suicide Prevention Coalition



Gauga is unique in that there is a mix of both suburban and rural areas with a population of about 95,500 people. We are the second highest in median income as a county, yet large disparities exist that limit access to the care for those who need it most. Our community averages one or more suicides per month. Currently, our high-risk group is men aged 50-75, but our outreach efforts center around the safety and support of all of our residents. We provide community education and advocacy as we strive to promote all of the wonderful resources Geauga has to offer!



## Mission Statement:

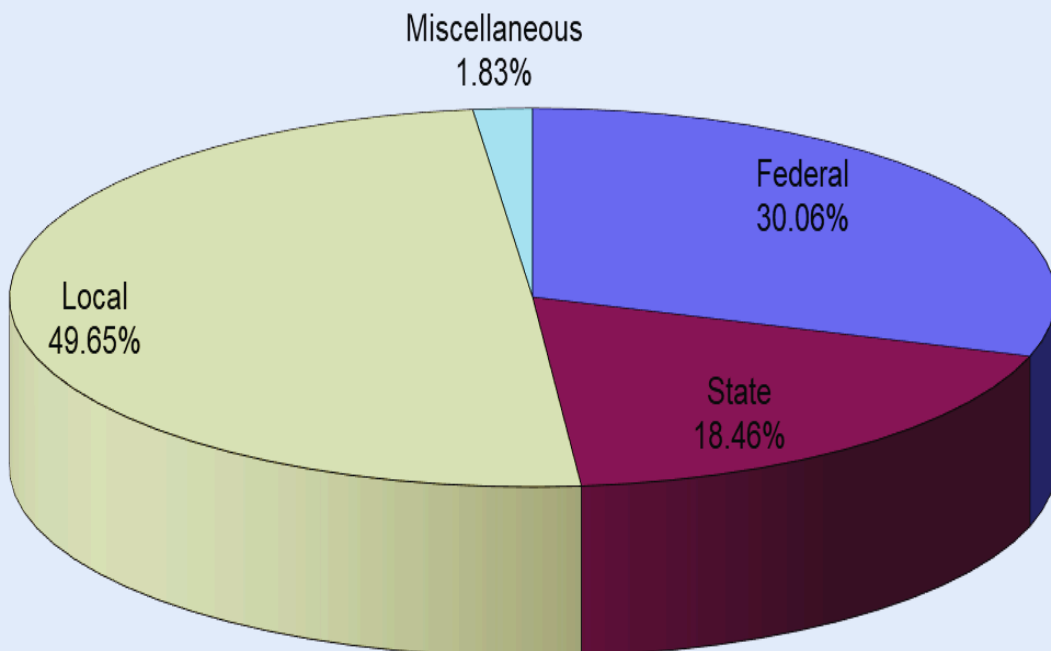
*The Geauga Suicide Prevention Coalition partners with the community to create compassion and build hope through education, advocacy, and support for a future free from suicide.*



## SFY2024 REVENUE SOURCES

Local	\$ 3,601,765
Federal	\$ 2,180,520
State	\$ 1,338,841
Miscellaneous	\$ 132,909
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,254,035</b>

### SFY2024 REVENUE SOURCES

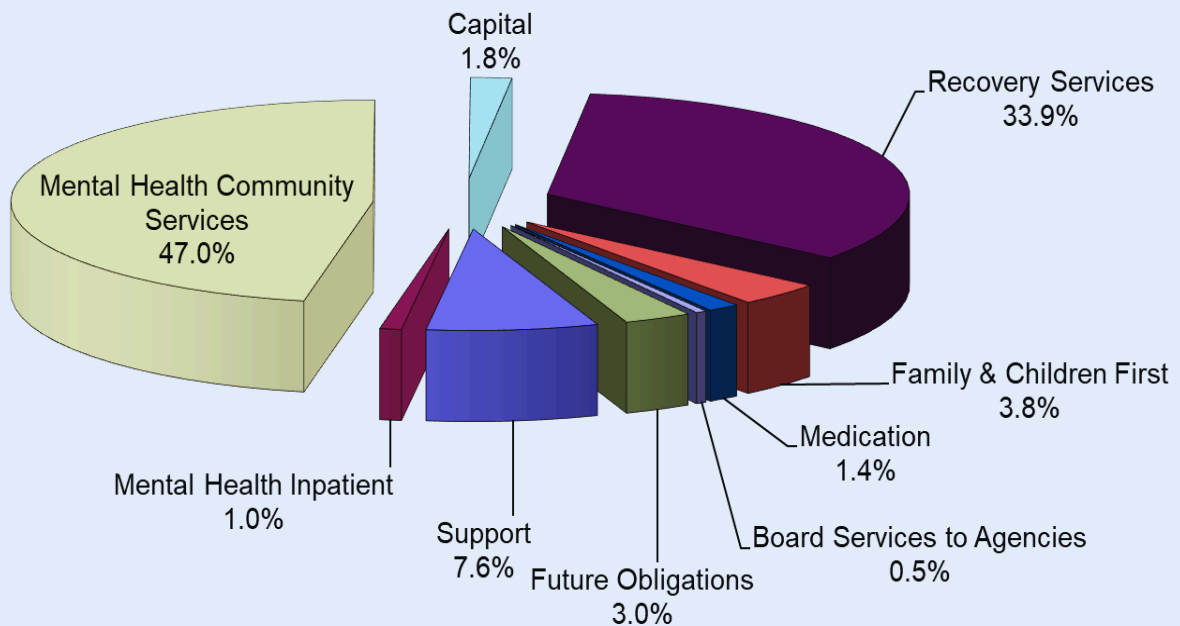


## SFY2024 EXPENDITURES

### Program

Community Services	\$3,409,928
Recovery Services	\$2,457,994
Support	\$ 554,128
Family & Children First	\$ 275,000
Future Obligations	\$ 216,754
Capital	\$ 133,609
Medication	\$ 101,816
Inpatient Hospitalization	\$ 70,250
Board Services to Agencies	\$ 34,556
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,254,035</b>

### SFY2024 BOARD EXPENSES



# PARTNERS

**Catholic Charities**

<https://ccdacle.org/counties/geauga>

**Family First Council**

<https://geaugaffc.org>

**Family Pride of Northeast Ohio**

<https://familyprideonline.org>

**Geauga County LOSS Team**

<https://friendsgeaugalossteam.org>

**Lake Geauga Recovery Centers**

<https://lgrc.us>

**NAMI Geauga**

<https://namigeauga.org>

**Ravenwood Health**

<https://ravenwoodhealth.org>

**Red Tulip of Geauga County**

<https://redtulipproject.com>

**Signature Health**

<https://signaturehealth.com>

**Torchlight Youth Mentoring Alliance**

<https://torchlightyouthmentoring.org>

**WomenSafe, Inc.**

<https://womensafe.org>

# Meet the Staff



Christine Lakomiak  
Executive Director



Jim Mausser  
Finance Manager



Teresa Slater  
Admin/Office Manager



Michelle Maneage  
Clinical & Compliance Manager

Michelle Maneage joined the team in August of 2023 as the Clinical & Compliance Manager. Michelle was born and raised in Geauga County. She spent 9 years in Colorado where she and her family developed and built a campground in the Rocky Mountains prior to moving back to Chardon with her husband. Michelle was the Program Director at Doors of Hope Geauga – the first family shelter in our County. She was hired to develop the program from the ground up and successfully integrated DoHG into the community to serve families experiencing homelessness. Her experience in housing, research, grant management and direct service in the behavioral health system will enhance services and programs provided in our system of care. Michelle is also certified in mindfulness-based meditation and is working on her Master of Public Administration at Kent State University.

