



County of Door PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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What is the Mental Health Focus Group?

In 2011, Door County Public Health's Community Needs Assessment revealed mental health to be an area of concern. A main factor was a high suicide rate in Door County; data revealed a higher rate here than the state average for all four years studied. At the community meeting to present our Community Needs Assessment, Mental Health was determined to be the top priority. Our 2016 Community Needs Assessment revealed that the suicide rate in Door County remained higher than the state rate in the most recent data available (2007-2011).

We asked for volunteers to participate in a Mental Health Focus Group. Our group, which formed in 2012, includes general community and professional members from: NAMI of Door County, the Door County Board of Supervisors, Door County Prevent Suicide Nathan Wilson Coalition, Door County Medical Center, Door County Department of Human Services, JAK's Place, Door County Partnership for Children and Families, Door County Alcohol and Other Drug Coalition, local law enforcement, United Way of Door County, UW-Extension, local schools, private counseling agencies, parents of children with mental illness, those whose loved ones died by suicide, and Door County Public Health staff.

This is a truly collaborative group, and those who attend are very passionate about promoting mental health.

The Mental Health Focus Group goals include:

- Increase access to Mental Health services through formulation of the Door County Mental Health resource guide. This was completed 2013, and is updated annually.
- Reduce incidence of suicide, which is a preventable outcome of a treatable disease. Our group supports efforts of the "Prevent Suicide Door County Nathan Wilson Coalition".
- Educate and promote mental health awareness.
- Reduce the stigma of Mental Illness.

If you are interested in being part of the Mental Health Focus Group please contact Public Health Nurses Sue or Katie at 746-2234.