



EXPANDING PA SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS FOR SYSTEMS, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

SAMHSA GLS GRANTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026

INTRODUCTIONS

Rose Milani, MPH – Project Director

Katie Van Fossen, PhD – Evaluator

Sydney Waitz-Kudla, PhD – Associate Project Director

Additional GLS Team Members

Shaye Erhard - Principal Investigator

Perri Rosen, PhD - Statewide Project Advisor

Matthew Wintersteen, PhD - Training Director and Director of Higher Education

Anadys Rodriguez – Project Coordinator

Paula McCommons, Ed.D., L.P.C. - Consultant

Guy Diamond, PhD - Consultant



GLS IN PA

- Builds from previous grants
 - Previous grant built on Zero Suicide
 - Cross-Systems Youth Suicide Prevention
 - Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan
 - Feedback from counties on need for evidence-based treatment and family support
- Current Grant – Keep Empowering Youth – Partners, Providers, Lived Experience (KEY-PPLE)
 - Three Overarching Goals
 - Two Tiers
 - County Specific
 - Statewide

OVERARCHING GOALS



- Promote comprehensive youth suicide prevention efforts locally and statewide through infrastructure development, **cultivating partnerships**, and development and dissemination of trauma-informed and culturally relevant resources.
- Engage youth and families with suicide-centered **lived experience** in community-based and statewide prevention efforts to develop culturally relevant supports and services
- Provide **workforce development** and build capacity for evidence-based and trauma-informed approaches to identify and support youth at risk of suicide and their families.

TIER 1 STATEWIDE RESOURCES

- Partner with organizations around initiatives that serve youth and families
 - 7 Partner Organizations
 - Expanding local efforts statewide
 - Pilot local efforts for later expansion
- Upstream approaches
 - Family support groups & phone consultation
 - Mobile resource van
 - Expanding trainings
 - Connecting youth coalitions
 - Leadership trainings
 - Conferences
 - Social media campaigns
 - Resource generation

RESOURCES

- Podcasts
 - Youth
 - Family/Caregiver
- Videos
 - Candid Conversations
 - Family Stories
- Tip sheets/Infographics/One-pagers
 - Once They're Safe: Taking Care of Yourself While Your Child Is Receiving Mental Health Care
 - Infographics/One-pagers
 - Creating and Maintaining Safe Environments, Substance Use and Suicide, 988, Words Matter, Suicide Prevention Data
- Virtual Calming Room
- Social Media
 - PSA Contest
 - Suicide Prevention Month Campaign

Additional State-wide Efforts

- Quarterly Partner Meetings
- Higher Education Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Cross-County Calls
- County Mini-grants
- Clinical Training Series

TIER 2

CARE COORDINATION & TREATMENT



- Coordinated care around Evidence-Based Treatment
 - 1 county and one tri-county joinder
 - County Coordinator
 - Implementation and sustainability of CAMS in the county
 - Coordinate screening & safety planning
 - Linking qualified youth with CAMS trained provider
 - Data collection
 - Liaison between CAMS provider and the community
- CAMS Care Training & Implementation
 - Providers trained
 - CAMS referrals seen within 72 hours

Additional Support

- Zero Suicide Self-Study
- Zero Suicide Community of Practice
- Statewide Clinical Training

EARLY LESSONS LEARNED

- Statewide

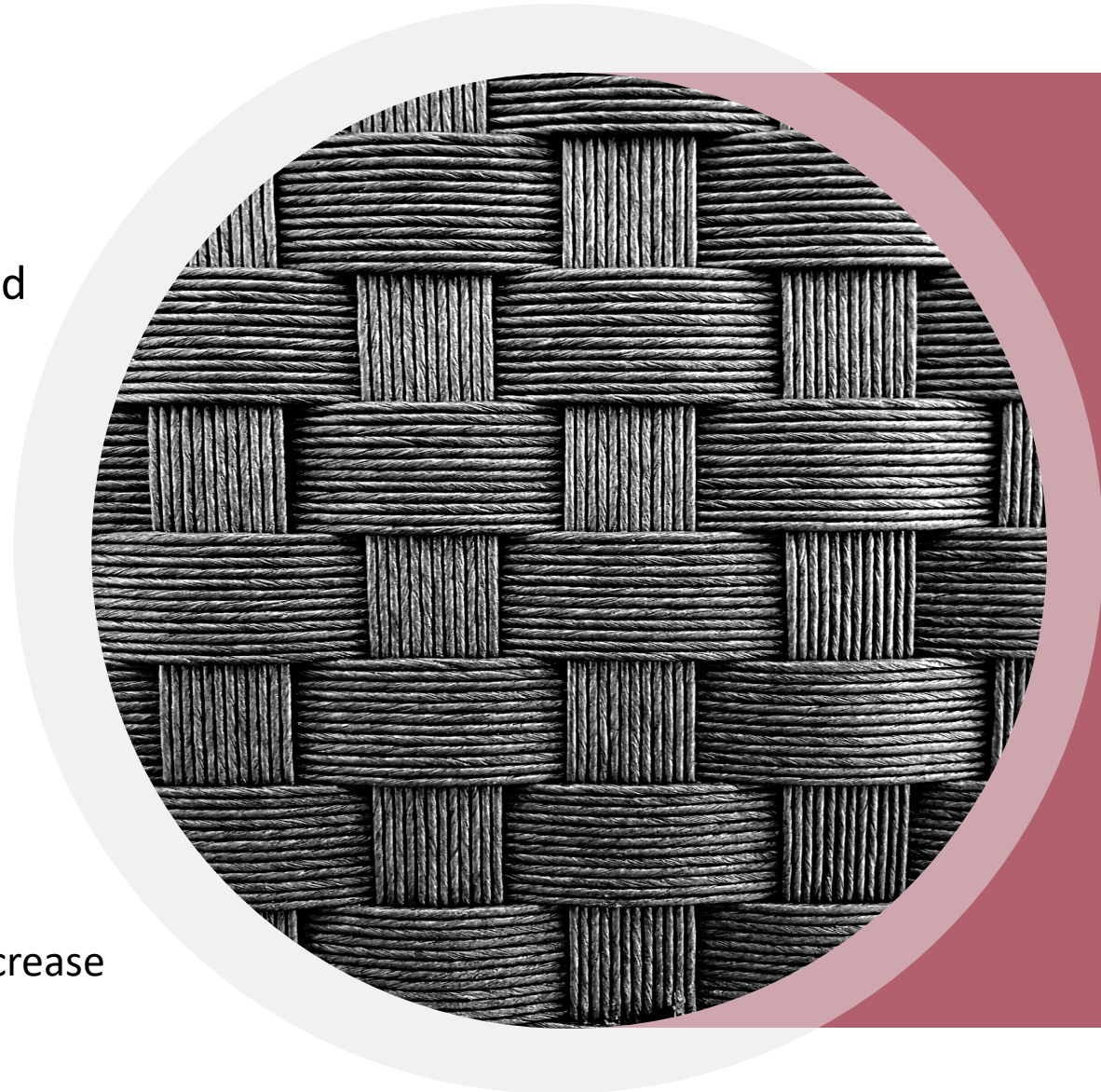
- Importance of monthly check-ins and partner meetings
 - Coordinating similar efforts
- Difference in how organizations are structured
 - Various levels of support around implementation and data collection

- County Level

- First year spent laying foundation
 - Screening and safety protocols
 - Mapping systems
- Agency onboarding
 - Working through 72-hour window
- Training barriers
 - Public vs. Private providers
- Time to initial referral

STRENGTHS

- GLS team and structure
 - Building from previous grant work and relationship building
- County and organization level
 - Local awareness
 - County-level resources
 - Organizations connected with their communities
 - Sustainability
 - County is making the connections & invested in long-term impact
 - Multiple trainings
 - Connecting local organizations to increase statewide impact
 - Statewide expansion





Q&A

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rose Milani

c-rmilani@pa.gov

Katie Van Fossen

Catherine.VanFossen@jefferson.edu

Sydney Waitz-Kudla

Sydney.Waitz-Kudla@jefferson.edu



Keep Empowering Youth -
Partners, Providers, Lived Experience

