The Union County Suicide Prevention Coalition serves the Union County area with the goal of working to prevent suicide by mobilizing the community through education, awareness and advocacy. The lead agency, Prevention Awareness Support Services (PASS), a 501c3, provides paid staff and manages grants that help fund the coalition.

**LEAD AGENCY OR CONVENER GROUP**

The Union County Suicide Prevention Coalition has about 10-12 regular members. Membership consists of local agency representatives and community members with general concern about suicide prevention. Representation from the following sectors reflect the community population: parents, religious organizations, business community, schools, youth-serving organizations, state/local agencies, healthcare professionals, and other organizations.

**OPERATIONS AND PROCESSES**

The organizational climate of the coalition is fun-loving, supportive, open and welcoming. Members have the opportunity to share their thoughts, feelings and ideas and all are encouraged and welcome to do so.

**LEADERSHIP AND STAFFING**

Aside from Prevention Awareness Support Services (PASS) staff, who are paid, all coalition members are volunteers.

**MEMBER ENGAGEMENT**

The mission and vision of the coalition helps to inspire our members to consider becoming more involved in the community and suicide prevention. Members feel a sense of belonging and importance while making a difference in the community. We try to involve all members in meeting goals and making decisions by holding meetings after work hours so that members may easily participate.

**ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING**

The coalition uses data to identify issues within the local community so that effective strategies can be discussed. Strategic planning allows the coalition to identify which variables and conditions are contributing to the problem of practice and the best strategies to use to address these problems. Strategic planning and resource identification help to build capacity for the coalition efforts.

**POOLED RESOURCES**

The coalition members that work with other agencies offer their resources and collaborate with the coalition to meet the needs of the community.

**STRUCTURES**

The Union County Suicide Prevention Coalition is working to prevent suicide by mobilizing the community through education, awareness and advocacy. Our vision is to support a responsive, compassionate community that inspires hope and strength; we promote the well-being of all human beings. We have plans to begin adding committees to focus on specific areas such as Veterans Suicide Prevention.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIES**

Prevention Awareness Support Services (PASS) acquires resources through grants, as well as through donations and volunteer efforts. The coalition then moves forward with carrying out the plans made during the strategic planning process.

**COMMUNITY CHANGE OUTCOMES**

The coalition’s targeted outcomes include: A greater community knowledge of warning signs and risk factors of suicide, greater mental health awareness, and the normalization of help-seeking, which lead to breaking stigma and making community resources more well-known and available to those in need of help and their families.

**COMMUNITY CAPACITY**

Through several initiatives, the coalition has been able to partner with local businesses and city/village governments to help raise awareness of mental health and suicide. These initiatives have allowed coalition members and community and business leaders to collaborate and get information out within the local communities.

**HEALTH AND SOCIAL OUTCOMES**

Health and Social Outcomes of our local coalition work are: More acceptance and understanding of mental health challenges, community wide knowledge of the warning signs and risk factors of suicide, less stigma, and a more mentally healthy community.
Community Coalition Action Theory- Longer Narrative  
Union County Suicide Prevention Coalition  
Union County, Ohio

Community Context
Union County is located northwest of Columbus and was formed from the union of parts of Franklin, Delaware, Madison and Logan Counties. Cities (or parts of cities) within Union County are: Dublin, Magnetic Springs, Marysville (County Seat), Milford Center, New California, Plain City, Raymond, Richwood, and Unionville Center. Union County continues to grow at an accelerated pace, but the last reported demographics were: 92% White, 3% Asian, 2.5% African American, 1.5% Hispanic or Latino and 1% other races. The median age of residents is 38-years old and the median household income is $86,715 (2019 Census). The community is religion oriented and close knit. We have had several suicides within our schools and it is a great concern for the community. Populations within the county that are at a high risk of suicide are: Youth, LGBTQ+, Senior Citizens, Veterans and Active Duty Military.

Lead Agency or Convener Group
The Union County Suicide Prevention Coalition serves the Union County area with the goal of working to prevent suicide by mobilizing the community through education, awareness and advocacy. The lead agency, Prevention Awareness Support Services (PASS), a 501c3, provides paid staff and manages grants that help fund the coalition.

Coalition Membership
The coalition members consist of members of the community that are part of other agencies and parents that have a general concern about suicide prevention. We have representation from the following sectors: Parents, Religious Organizations, Business Community, Schools, Youth-serving Organizations, Schools, State/Local Agencies, Healthcare Professionals, and Other organizations.

Coalition Operations and Processes
The organizational climate of the coalition is fun-loving, supportive, and welcoming. People in the community look to us as a resource for the crisis hotline number and information on support groups and other agencies within the community. Members receive benefits such as getting their name out, meeting other members of the coalition, and they get to participate in community events that raise awareness for suicide prevention. The coalition communicates with members via email, telephone, and Zoom meetings. The coalition members have open discussion about ideas and resources to execute plans and goals that are set.

Leadership and Staffing
The lead agency for our coalition is Prevention Awareness Support Services (PASS). Our leader is Beth Miller who is the Associate Director of Prevention Awareness Support Services and our secretary is Jennifer Crawford. The members volunteer their time and efforts to take initiative to lead events, fundraisers, other activities, and community outreach.
Structures
The Suicide Prevention Coalition of Union County is working to prevent suicide by mobilizing the community through education awareness and advocacy. Our vision is to support a responsive, compassionate community that inspires hope and strength; we promote the well-being of all human beings.

Pooled Resources
The coalition members that work with other agencies offer their resources and collaborate with us to meet the needs of the community.

Member Engagement
The mission and vision of our coalition inspire our members to consider becoming more involved in the community and more involved in suicide prevention. Members feel a sense of belonging, and a feeling of importance while making a difference in our community. We try to involve all members of the coalition in meeting goals and making decisions by holding meetings after work hours so that members may finish their personal and professional obligations before discussing the coalition.

Assessment and Planning
We use data to identify issues within our schools and community so that we can implement effective strategies to better understand and help serve our community. The coalition looks at the community as a whole and identifies current issues within the community and within the school districts so that we can properly address concerns and issues. The coalition decides which variables and conditions are contributing to the problem of practice by listening to the coalition members’ concerns from the community. With the help of Prevention Awareness Support Services (PASS), they offer numerous great evidence-based programs and strategies within the community.

Synergy
When organizations come together and combine resources, knowledge, skills and different points of view, they create something new that can accomplish more than the individual organizations could have accomplished on their own (Taylor-Powell, Rossing & Geran, 1998.) There is something powerful in this partnership which researchers and others call synergy (Lasker, Weiss & Miller, 2001; Taylor-Powell, Rossing & Geran, 1998.) In the CCAT, synergy occurs through the combination of: pooled resources, member engagement and assessment and planning.

Implementation of Strategies
The coalition ensures that it is implementing strategies that are adding value to the community by looking at past and current data and by measuring the success of community events. Our membership is filled with people who are able to network in the community and bring other people into our purpose. The coalition evaluates the implementation process by looking back at the process and getting feedback from coalition and community members.
Community Change Outcomes
Our coalition has concerns about school-aged children and suicidal ideation that caused us to form clubs and organizations within various school districts throughout our county. One of our short-term outcomes is gaining more membership in clubs like Gatekeepers. One of our long-term outcomes is having Gatekeepers be a staple in the schools. The coalition also offers mental health awareness programs like Mental Health First Aid and Youth Mental Health First Aid.

Health and Social Outcomes
Health and Social Outcomes of our local coalition work are: More acceptance and understanding of mental health challenges, the community having an understanding of what the signs of suicide are, less stigma, and ultimately, a more mentally healthy community.

Community Capacity
We had a table tent initiative that brought together various businesses within the community. By implementing this initiative, we also spread our mission and vision throughout the community. This formed an alliance between the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Union County and stakeholders within the community.

The community pulls together to help change and fight the stigma around mental health and suicide within our community. The community connectedness has been improved or increased by the outpouring of support of local businesses and organizations. The evidence of this is that local businesses (more than 50) participated in raising awareness for mental health and suicide prevention for the month of May. Our coalition’s next steps are hosting a suicide prevention walk in the month of September.
Community Coalition Action Theory- Shorter Narrative
Union County Suicide Prevention Coalition
Union County, Ohio

Community Context
Union County is located northwest of Columbus and was formed from the union of parts of Franklin, Delaware, Madison and Logan Counties. The last reported demographics were: 92% White, 3% Asian, 2.5% African American, 1.5% Hispanic or Latino and 1% other races, but these demographics are changing due to the rapid growth of the county. The median age of residents is 38-years old and the median household income is $86,715 (2019 Census). The community is religion oriented and close knit. We have had several suicides within our schools and it is a great concern for the community. Populations within the county that are at a high risk of suicide are: Youth, LGBTQ+, Senior Citizens, Veterans and Active Duty Military.

Lead Agency or Convener Group
The Union County Suicide Prevention Coalition serves the Union County area with the goal of working to prevent suicide by mobilizing the community through education, awareness and advocacy. The lead agency, Prevention Awareness Support Services (PASS), a 501c3, provides paid staff and manages grants that help fund the coalition.

Coalition Membership
The Union County Suicide Prevention Coalition has about 10-12 regular members. Membership consists of local agency representatives and community members with general concern about suicide prevention.

Coalition Operations and Processes
The organizational climate of the coalition is fun-loving, supportive, open and welcoming. Members have the opportunity to share their thoughts, feelings and ideas and all are encouraged and welcome to do so.

Leadership and Staffing
Aside from Prevention Awareness Support Services (PASS) staff, who are paid, all coalition members are volunteers.

Structures
The Union County Suicide Prevention Coalition is working to prevent suicide by mobilizing the community through education, awareness and advocacy. Our vision is to support a responsive, compassionate community that inspires hope and strength; we promote the well-being of all human beings. We have plans to begin adding committees to focus on specific areas such as Veterans Suicide Prevention.
Pooled Resources
The coalition members that work with other agencies offer their resources and collaborate with the coalition to meet the needs of the community.

Member Engagement
The mission and vision of the coalition helps to inspire our members to consider becoming more involved in the community and suicide prevention. Members feel a sense of belonging, and importance while making a difference in the community. We try to involve all members in meeting goals and making decisions by holding meetings after work hours so that members may finish their personal and professional obligations as well as participate in coalition work.

Assessment and Planning
The coalition uses data to identify issues within the community so that effective strategies can be discussed. Strategic planning allows the coalition to identify which variables and conditions are contributing to the problem of practice and the best strategies to use to address these problems. Strategic planning and resource identification help to build capacity for the coalition efforts.

Synergy
Synergy occurs through the combination of: pooled resources, member engagement and assessment and planning.

Implementation of Strategies
Prevention Awareness Support Services (PASS) acquires resources through grants, as well as through donations and volunteer efforts. The coalition then moves forward with carrying out the plans made during the strategic planning process.

Community Change Outcomes
Through several initiatives, the coalition has been able to partner with local businesses and city/village governments to help raise awareness of mental health and suicide. These initiatives have allowed coalition members and community and business leaders to collaborate and get information out within the local communities.

Health and Social Outcomes
Health and Social Outcomes of our local coalition work are: More acceptance and understanding of mental health challenges, community-wide knowledge of the warning signs and risk factors of suicide, less stigma, and a more mentally healthy community.

Community Capacity
The community pulls together to help change and fight the stigma around mental health and suicide within our community. The community connectedness has been improved or increased by the outpouring of support of local businesses and organizations.