



## **Ray of Hope – Westmoreland County Suicide Awareness & Prevention Task Force**

### **Ray of Hope Annual Events**

**Veteran Cornhole Tournament – June 13, 2026**

**Ray of Hope Walk – August 29, 2026**

**Candlelight Vigil – November 13, 2026**

**Conference – November 20, 2026**

**Celebration of Life – December 2, 2026**

### **Committees, Meetings, WC LOSS/DOSS Team, and WC SFRB Information**

Here is information about all Ray of Hope (RoH) committees, Task Force meetings, the Westmoreland County LOSS/DOSS Team, and the Westmoreland County Suicide Fatality Board (SFRB). The LOSS/DOSS Team requires a separate application form. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Goldberg at [EGoldberg@mhaswpa.org](mailto:EGoldberg@mhaswpa.org).

### **RoH Task Force Quarterly General Meeting**

The Task Force has a general meeting for the entire membership quarterly in March, June, September, & December on the 3rd Thursday of the month – see schedule below:

- March – Zoom at Noon
- June – In person at MHA 6:00 PM
- September – Zoom at Noon
- December - in person Holiday Luncheon (date and time TBD)

### **Walk Committee**

Meets **in person** every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month January thru September at 6:00 PM

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk is August 29, 2026 at Twin Lakes Park in Latrobe

Last year we had over 400 people attend the walk. It is a beautiful, emotional, and healing event.

### **Special Events Committee - Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month 4:30-5:30 PM (In Person)**

This meeting will discuss and plan fundraising efforts and RoH Events relevant for that month's agenda. Members of this committee may attend all meetings or opt to attend only the meetings for the events you want to be involved in. Please see schedule below:

- Fundraising Efforts (every meeting)
- Fundraising Events
  - May 24, 2026 Bingo (January-May)
  - 814 Lanes Music Bingo September 2, 16, & 30 (February-August)
- RoH Annual Conference (April-November)
- Candlelight Vigil (July-November)

- Celebration of Life (July-November)

### **Fundraising**

This new committee started at the end of 2025 due to the loss of county funding and the increasing expenditures for Ray of Hope's growing Westmoreland County initiatives. Ray of Hope is committed to impacting change in our community by providing solutions/programing/resources for those who have lost a loved one to suicide or have attempted suicide. These fundraising efforts/planning take place in the **Special Events Meeting** all year.

### **Candlelight Vigil**

Held in November – This is an outdoor event for those who have attempted suicide or lost a loved one to suicide and their family and friends. This event is planned in the **Special Events Meeting** July - November.

### **Annual Conference**

Held in November, the Annual Conference is a full day of Suicide Awareness & Prevention speakers, presentations, activities, and in person access to local resource providers. This event is planned in the **Special Events Meeting** July - November.

### **Celebration of Life Event**

Typically held the first week of December, the Celebration of Life event is for those who have lost someone to suicide to celebrate their lives and to offer help and hope during the holidays. This event is planned in the **Special Events Meeting** July - December.

### **Tabling Committee**

This group does not have regular meetings to attend. They are volunteers that go out to events, usually in pairs, setup the Ray of Hope Table/Tent and talk to people who stop by the table. Committee members are required to come to MHA or an event to learn about all the different marketing materials/brochures we display on our table.

### **Veteran Committee**

Meets in person every first Monday of the month at 10:00 AM at Mental Health America. This committee is dedicated to providing information, training and events for local veterans and their families, friends, and veteran providers. The committee is passionate about providing opportunities for veterans to connect with other area veterans. Connection is the biggest protective factor against suicide.

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, we are hosting our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veteran Cornhole Tournament at the Jeannette American Legion. It's a very successful event!

\*You DO NOT have to be a veteran to participate in this committee.

### **Lethal Means Safety Committee**

This committee was started in April of 2025. The meetings are a hybrid of in-person and virtual on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 11:30. The in-person portion is held at Mental Health America.

Most suicide crises are brief (less than an hour). When a firearm is used in a suicide attempt it is 85-90% fatal. Some of this committee's goals are to:

- Educate the public and providers on Lethal Means Safety by providing trainings
- Reach out to gun shop owners in Westmoreland County to start a dialog and host a networking event
- Provide free gun locks
- Design promo item/s that can be distributed to the public, veterans, and gun shops to promote the WC crisis line, 988, and Ray of Hope
- And More

### **Scholarship Committee**

This committee meets on an as needed basis. The work is primarily done via email during March – May.

We award \$1,000 Scholarship to a Westmoreland County graduating senior.

### **Westmoreland County LOSS/DOSS Team (Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors / Drug Overdose Survivor Support)**

This is not a committee. This is a trained team made up of suicide loss survivors, drug overdose survivors, and caring community members trained to reach out to those experiencing a suicide or overdose loss. A LOSS/DOSS Team is an active model of postvention that involves two or more trained volunteers who go to the scene of a suicide/overdose to provide immediate support to those left behind. Having a LOSS/DOSS Team at the scene of a suicide provides loss survivors with practical support, a connection to resources, and most importantly, an instillation of hope.

### **Westmoreland County Suicide Fatality Review Board (SFRB)**

**The Westmoreland County Suicide Fatality Review Board** launched in 2025 under the direction of Ray of Hope. The multidisciplinary team does detailed case reviews of suicide deaths in the county with the goal of creating actionable recommendations to prevent future suicide fatalities in Westmoreland County. WC member organizations are Area Agency on Aging, BH/DS, Children's Bureau, WC Coroner's Office, Department of Public Safety, Forge Health, Juvenile Probation, Live 4 Tomorrow Today, WC LOSS Team, Native Counseling & Therapy, PA DMVA, PA State Police, Ray of Hope, VA Pittsburgh Health System Suicide Prevention, Westmoreland Community Action, Westmoreland County Crisis Hotline, WCSI, WeDAC, WC DHS-DCRP, WC Faith Leaders, Veterans, and Loss Survivors.

If you are interested in joining the Task Force please fill out the attached form and email it back to me. If you are interested in becoming a member of the LOSS/DOSS Team or want more information about the SFRB, please send me an email.

I know this is a lot to digest, let me know if you have any questions,

Lisa Goldberg  
Ray of Hope Coordinator  
[EGoldberg@mhaswpa.org](mailto:EGoldberg@mhaswpa.org) or Cell: 724-875-2415



**WESTMORELAND COUNTY SUICIDE AWARENESS  
AND PREVENTION TASK FORCE  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDAY (Month & Day): \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following Committees will you be joining:

Walk Committee (Event in September)

Special Events Committee (includes Fundraising, Candlelight Vigil, Conference, and Celebration of Life Planning)

Tabling Events Committee

Veteran Committee

Lethal Means Safety Committee

Scholarship Committee

I would like more information regarding the LOSS/DOSS Team

Please list any special interests or skills that you would be willing to share with the Task Force:

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Please email this completed form to Lisa Goldberg, Task Force Coordinator, at [EGoldberg@mhaswpa.org](mailto:EGoldberg@mhaswpa.org) or mail to 409 Coulter Ave., Greensburg, PA 15601