

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Crawford County Health and Human Services Partners with Local Schools for Suicide Prevention

Crawford County Health and Human Services in partnership with local schools, announces the Hoops for Hope events. These events are a suicide prevention initiative aimed at raising awareness about suicide prevention, ending the stigma surrounding mental health, and sharing local resources available to those who need it.

The series of basketball games will take place in January and February. The scheduled games include:

- North Crawford – January 14
- Prairie du Chien – January 24
- Wauzeka-Steuben – February 10
- Seneca – February 14

In 2023, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey administered among Crawford County high school students revealed concerning statistics: 17% of students reported having considered suicide, and 14% had made a plan for a suicide attempt. Even one life lost to suicide, is one life too many. The goal of Hoops for Hope is to encourage conversations about suicide and bring awareness to mental health resources, so people have the tools they need to ask for help or help someone who is struggling.

"We want to use these games as a platform to raise awareness and let people know that they are not alone," said Sonya Lenzendorf, Health Officer for Crawford County Health and Human Services. "By coming together, we can help end the stigma surrounding mental health and connect people to the resources that can save lives."

T-shirts with suicide prevention messaging are for sale at each game and online at crawfordcountywisc.gov/departments/health/hoopsforhope with all proceeds benefiting the Crawford County Suicide Prevention efforts.

If you or someone you know is struggling with thoughts of suicide, please remember that help is available. You are not alone. There is support for you through these challenging times. Call, text or chat the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988, or visit www.988lifeline.org for free, confidential support, available 24/7.

