

2025 HOPES Award Winner – Andrea Nauer Waldschmidt



Andrea Nauer Waldschmidt is a fierce advocate for suicide prevention and mental health access. She has dedicated her career to crisis services across multiple counties and states. Currently, she serves as the Psychiatric Crisis Services Coordinator for Milwaukee County, where she oversees two Mental Health Access Clinics. The Access Clinics have led the way for suicide safer care in Milwaukee County with the implementation of universal screening, comprehensive assessment, and treatment of suicidal thoughts

directly. In this role and her previous role in Milwaukee County, she is instrumental in the implementation of suicide safer care through the Zero Suicide Framework. She is seen as a leader and expert in this space by both colleagues within Milwaukee County Behavioral Health and across Wisconsin. Evidence of this is her appointment to Wisconsin Zero Suicide faculty, where she helps other health and behavioral health care systems across the state implement Zero Suicide to ensure suicide safe care.

In Milwaukee County, she is a part of the Milwaukee County Suicide Death Review Team and the Child Death Investigation Review Team, where she contributes to prevention recommendations and works to improve system gaps to prevent future fatalities. Her expertise in behavioral health and crisis services provides valuable insight in these spaces.

On a state level, she serves on the Community Advisory Board for the Medical College of Wisconsin Division of Suicide Research and Healing. In this space, she advises the Division of Suicide Research and Healing on research and programming priorities. The CAB also serves as the group that connects the division to community groups and organizations and helps ensure that the work aligns with community priorities. Additionally, she is an active member of the Prevent Suicide Wisconsin Steering Committee. In this role, she helps support the statewide coalition on suicide prevention. She has also been active in the Suicide Prevention State Plan Committee. The Wisconsin State Suicide Prevention Plan helps develop action steps and prevention strategies for local implementation and coordination across Wisconsin. As part of the state plan, she co-leads a workgroup on clinical care. Her input on the state plan will support statewide suicide prevention efforts.

She also contributes to the Southeast Wisconsin Veteran Suicide Prevention Taskforce and Prevent Suicide of Greater Milwaukee. Andrea has worked tirelessly to increase

community awareness through gatekeeper trainings and specialized suicide screening trainings. She has presented at local and statewide Crisis Intervention Trainings for law enforcement, equipping professionals with the tools to effectively address mental health crises. As someone who has co-presented with Andrea in this space, her expertise in the subject area is clear to audience members. She presents on difficult topics with empathy and creates a space where individuals feel comfortable asking questions. Andrea's mission is to create a world where every individual feels valued, supported, and empowered with the resources needed to navigate crises and overcome challenges. Andrea will be attending the PSW conference and co-presenting a breakout session.