



# UnifiedErie

*A Violence Reduction Initiative*



2012-2017

## Progress Report

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## Special Thanks

UnifiedErie would like to say a special thank you to the Erie Community Foundation and United Way of Erie County for the incredible support and funding both agencies have provided since this initiative began. Without you this project may never have happened. Thank you for investing in the community this way.

Thank you to the County of Erie and the City of Erie. The support, cooperation, and collaboration from both government entities has been key to the success of this project. Thank you.

Thank you to the many partner agencies and community members who are doing the hard work to better Erie. Together, we are UnifiedErie.

This publication was made possible thanks to Jordan Hunter and Julia Williams who donated a great deal of time and talent to help create this report.

### Credits:

Photography	Julia Williams, Jordan Hunter, Andrea Bierer
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This progress report covers events related to the UnifiedErie initiative from it's public release in 2012 thru 2017.

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# EVEN IN ERIE, Violence is a Problem

## WHAT are we going to DO about THIS?

If you could have been part of the meeting in the Erie Federal Courthouse in June 2010, that was the question hanging in the air. An assortment of law enforcement officers crowded around a single conference table. On the table lay the day's newspaper with yet another headline about a shooting...a death...another young life cut short. And in those moments of pain and frustration and determination to make a difference, something exciting was born. Discussions and debate and one clear conclusion: enforcement alone wasn't enough. And at that table, the idea of UnifiedErie was born. Soon to be coined by local media as the ERIE Unified Youth Violence Reduction Initiative (EUYVRI), a three prong approach was established as an initial effort from the US Attorney's Office, the Erie County District Attorney's Office, and local law enforcement. The prongs would be prevention, enforcement, and reentry. Each prong is vital to the goal of reducing violence in Erie County, Pennsylvania. No one prong can succeed without the other.

**USE RELIABLE DATA.**

**FIND THE ROOT CAUSES OF VIOLENCE AND PROBLEM BEHAVIORS.**

**SELECT PROVEN EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES.**

**WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE A  
STRONGER, SAFER COMMUNITY.**

Yes. We know the root causes of violence in Erie.

Yes. Somebody is doing something.

Yes. It is going to work.

**YES. YOU CAN BE A PART OF IT.**

# What is UnifiedErie?

## Let's start with what it's not.

It's not a building.

It's not a 501c3 Nonprofit.

It's not an organization.

It doesn't have any money.

## UnifiedErie is a framework.

It is an idea.

It is a communication structure.

It is a problem solving structure.



UnifiedErie is a collaboration of people and organizations choosing to work together for the good of our community to reverse the violence issue that Erie is facing.

There is no hierarchy.

There is no one person or organization in charge.

But there are a lot of people working really hard together to do something good.

By carefully evaluating reliable data, and using it in a proven way, UnifiedErie incorporates the **BEST EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGIES** to address the **SPECIFIC ROOT CAUSES OF VIOLENCE IN ERIE COUNTY**.

UnifiedErie believes in order to successfully address violence, we need to address the three areas of **prevention, enforcement, and reentry**. We need to prevent what we can prevent, enforce on the things that cannot be prevented, and then provide genuine help to those who reenter our community after jail or prison to keep them from being caught in a revolving door of imprisonment.

That's UnifiedErie: a three-pronged approach to reduce violence and crime in Erie County, Pennsylvania using data and evidence-based strategies.

**And it is going to work.**



## How do we keep our kids safe?



NEIGHBORHOODS  
MATTER



FAMILIES  
MATTER



RELIGIOSITY  
MATTERS

Prevention is crucial, but what does this mean?

## How do we lead the way for positive change in Erie?



Working Smarter Together,  
but what does this mean to law enforcement?

How can we assist  
those caught in  
the revolving door?

COMMUNITY



PRISON

More than 50% return  
to a life of crime after  
coming home from prison.

## Prevention

**PREVENTION IS CRUCIAL.** If we do not do something to change the root causes, we will have a steady stream of young people turning to violence to solve the problems they face. The prevention sector of UnifiedErie works towards coordinating long term efforts by organizations and services to reduce the likelihood of violence and other problem behaviors among youth.

**Collaboration:** Erie Policy & Planning Council for Children & Families

**Lead Agency:** Mercyhurst University Civic Institute

**Strategy:** Community Action Plan

## Enforcement

**ENFORCEMENT IS NECESSARY.** The enforcement sector of UnifiedErie addresses what is not prevented. They do so through various enforcement strategies including Project Safe Neighborhoods and Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation strategies, the Gun Crime Working Group, a Group Violence Reduction Strategy and the targeting of Chronic Violent Offenders. Working through their lead agencies at the US Attorney's Office, District Attorney's Office, and the Erie Police Department, UnifiedErie enforcement partners utilize evidence-based strategies proven to work to address both individual and group violence in Erie County.

**Collaboration:** Erie County Law Enforcement

## Reentry

**REENTERING LAWFUL SOCIETY IS HARD.** It is not easy to stop a revolving door. The reentry sector of UnifiedErie works toward reducing the number of people who are caught in the revolving door of criminal behavior and prison. In order to build positive change, reentry partners promote hope, opportunity and second chances. It takes community awareness, focus, coordination, and desire to be the encouragement someone needs. The Erie County Reentry Services and Support Alliance (ECRSSA) was established to provide support and services to reduce recidivism and promote success.

**Collaboration:** Erie Together Action Team 4

**Lead Agency:** Greater Erie Community Action Committee (GECAC)

**Strategy:** Erie County Reentry Services and Support Alliance

2010 - 2017

# UnifiedErie Timeline

UnifiedErie became a public initiative when the first Community Action Plan was established in June of 2012, but the work began long before that time. Included in this timeline are the events that led to UnifiedErie's creation as well as efforts and accomplishments across the three prongs of UnifiedErie spanning the first ideas of the project through 2017.

DATE	DESCRIPTION
● 2010   June	1st Planning meeting is held in the Federal Courthouse with Law Enforcement seeking a collaborative approach to reducing gun violence in Erie, PA
● 2011   June	Collaborators determine that a three prong approach, including Prevention, Enforcement, and Reentry will be the best strategy to actually impact gun violence among young people - Law enforcement first connects with the prevention efforts of Erie County Policy and Planning Council for Children and Families (PPC)
● 2011   August	Enforcement strategy working groups: Chronic Violent Offenders List and Implementation; Offender Identification and Notification meetings; Gun Violence Working Group; Youth Firearms Reduction Program; Summer Jobs Program; School-based Anti-violence Curriculum
● 2011   August	Erie City Council passes resolution supporting UnifiedErie
● 2011   November	Local media outlets name the collaborative project the "Erie Unified Youth Violence Reduction Initiative" (EUYVRI)
● 2011   November	US Senator Casey writes to US Attorney Holder applauding UnifiedErie efforts
● 2012   March	Project Safe Neighborhoods awarded to District Attorney's office from US Attorney's Office for \$40,000 – PSN grant is used with EUYVRI strategies
● 2012   June	The Erie County Policy and Planning Council publishes the Community Action Plan, which is the written document containing the Prevention strategies of UnifiedErie
● 2012   June	Secures \$135,000 worth of training/resources to bring PCIT to Erie County
● 2012   June	Erie Together assumes leadership to create reentry strategy

DATE	DESCRIPTION
● 2012   November	The Erie Community Foundation awards a Shaping Tomorrow grant to the Mercyhurst Civic Institute for UnifiedErie to hire a Community Action Plan Coordinator
● 2013	Erie County receives state Prevention Award for Outstanding Progress
● 2013	Erie City receives the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Grant for \$600,000 for Little Italy neighborhood initiative
● 2013   June	The first Religiosity Summit was held. 75 attendees from a variety of religious backgrounds gathered to discuss how to reach the youth of Erie.
● 2013   July	Three agencies were trained to provide Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)
● 2013   July	Reentry Team forms; Erie Together partners with UnifiedErie by agreeing to facilitate the Reentry Team. That team begins meeting every other week in order to solidify a written plan and strategies for helping transitioning clients.
● 2013   September	First evidence-based Program Quick Directory released
● 2013   October	Erie City receives the Project Safe Neighborhoods grant for \$300,000
● 2013   November	The "Neighborhood Concerns Survey Summary Report" was released and started a focus on creating safe neighborhoods in the Erie Community. Data from this survey assists in applications for multiple funding opportunities.
● 2014	The Erie Unified Youth Violence Reduction Initiative is rebranded as UnifiedErie
● 2014   January	Erie County Council passes resolution supporting UnifiedErie
● 2014   May	The first Youth Work Awards event was held and honored 29 individuals who work with youth in the Erie community
● 2014   June	Neighborhood Resource Organization (NRO) created with initial Shaping Tomorrow grant from The Erie Community Foundation (ECF)

● GENERAL

● PREVENTION

● ENFORCEMENT

● REENTRY

DATE	DESCRIPTION
● 2014   August	First set of NRO mini-grants awarded
● 2014   August	Professional Development Training Series for Youth Workers launches (partnership with Erie Together, United Way, and the Nonprofit Partnership)
● 2014   December	The Erie County Youth Religiosity Survey Summary Report was released showing new data and statistics on youth involvement in religious activities.
● 2015   May	2nd Youth Work Awards
● 2015   July	2nd Religiosity Summit
● 2015   June	NRO receives funding from Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
● 2015   July	Religiosity Toolkit released
● 2015   August	Second set of NRO mini-grants awarded
● ● 2015   December	Representatives travel to Kansas City to research Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS)
● 2016	Asst. DA is cross-sworn with US Attorney office
● 2016   April	Third set of NRO mini-grants awarded
● 2016   July	Funding announcement to GECAC; ECF and United Way award total of 1.2 million for 3 yrs to start the ECRSSA
● 2016   September	ECRSSA Program Manager is hired, launching the ECRSSA
● 2016   September	Reentry Workforce Summit highlighting job development for the Transitioning Client is held at the Sheraton Hotel.
● 2016   November	The last of 5 staff is hired for ECRSSA; 1 program manager, 3 case managers, and 1 Call In Coordinator
● 2017   January	Client Advocate is hired by Downtown YMCA
● 2017   January	ECRSSA Advisory Committee created. First meeting held
● 2017   April	Hold first GVRS call-in event

DATE	DESCRIPTION
● 2017   May	UnifiedErie representatives invited to participate as members of Governor's first PA Reentry Council
● 2017   July	Take Me To Worship Campaign - Year 2 launched
● 2017   November	Hold 2nd GVRS call-in event
● 2017   November	Erie County Policy and Planning Council approves 2017 Community Action Plan

# UnifiedErie Accomplishments



## Recognition & Support

- Erie City Council – Resolution passed August 7, 2011 in support of UnifiedErie.
- Erie County Council – Resolution passed January 28, 2014 in support of UnifiedErie.
- Erie County PPC received 2013 PA Prevention Coalition of the Year Award from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency for work on the Community Action Plan.
- Department of Justice – UnifiedErie collaborated with City of Erie for Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Grant application (Erie City was chosen as \$600,000 grant recipient for Little Italy neighborhood Fall 2013, in addition to Project Safe Neighborhoods \$250,000 for lower east side).
- UnifiedErie efforts fully endorsed by Western District of Pennsylvania US Attorney David Hickton.
- UnifiedErie received the 2016 Greater Erie Community Action Committee (GECAC) Paul Martin Community Service Award for Service Above Self
- UnifiedErie's Take Me To Worship campaign received the 2017 Gold Addy Award from Erie Ad Club (American Advertising Award) for excellence in a cross-platform advertising campaign.

reducing community disorganization. Applied for and received \$214,000 grant to be spread over 3 years from The Erie Community Foundation to launch the NRO.

- **NRO Mini-grant Program** – A program providing small amounts of grant funding for local neighborhood initiatives was launched through the NRO with funding from corporate and private donations. Eligible neighborhood groups applied for funding for specific projects in their neighborhood.

### Family Conflict/Parental Attitudes:

- **Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)**– PCIT training was secured for free through a grant project with UPMC Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic; training was conducted in July 2013 with three agencies now providing therapy in Erie. Value of training: \$135,000.
- **Evidence Based Program Survey** – Conducted Office of Children & Youth/Juvenile Probation Office (OCY/JPO) survey regarding Evidence Based Programs (EBP); Presented results of OCY/JPO survey to the program coordinators; members determined there was a need for an easy Evidence-Based Program reference for OCY and JPO.
- **EBP Quick Directory** – Completed Quick Directory of Evidence Based Programs (EBP) available in Erie County and distributed to service providers, court system, school nurses, and the public.
- **Youth Work Awards** – Held yearly in May for 4 years (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), this annual event honored the hands-on youth workers who work directly with children and youth in Erie County non-profits. This award models the importance of recognition and reenforces pro-social behavior among youth. It also provides opportunity to conduct focus groups and engage direct service workers in Community Action Plan strategies.
- **Professional Training Series** – In partnership with United Way and the Nonprofit Partnership, UnifiedErie's 2014 Youth Work Awards kicked-off a 2 year training cycle aimed at providing training opportunities free of charge to the youth workers at non-profits in Erie County. Break out sessions held to discuss strategies for parent engagement and to promote community wide communication regarding youth issues and programming generated the topics for the 10 training sessions which then took place over a 2-year time span.
- **Parent Engagement Agreement** – A tool for increasing parent engagement with quality non-profit programming was created and distributed to youth-oriented programs throughout Erie County. This tool was developed using focus groups of parents and focus groups of youth workers who provided input and common issues as seen from their own perspective.

## Prevention

### Participation:

- Community Action Plan (CAP) was written by more than 60 people representing various agencies across the county (see partial list within the CAP document).
- UnifiedErie steering committee worked as advocates on behalf of the plan.
- Each of the three committees had approximately 25 people actively serving on each one.

### Community Disorganization:

- **Neighborhood Concerns Survey** - Conducted a county-wide "Neighborhood Concerns Survey" with more than 1335 participants in 2013, and repeated it again in 2015
  - Created multiple county, city, and neighborhood specific reports from the survey data to assist individual neighborhoods in making decisions and targeting goals for neighborhood efforts.
- **Neighborhood Group Survey** - Conducted a county-wide survey of neighborhood watch groups to assess baseline involvement and activity levels for individual watch groups.
- **Neighborhood Resource Organization (NRO)** – Created new organization that will provide training, technical assistance, funding opportunities, and other resources to neighborhood groups. Neighborhood groups and associations are the key in





## Religiosity:

- **Religiosity Summit** – This event was held June 2013 – The purpose of the event was, (1) to share data about religious participation and decreased problem behaviors among youth and, (2) to engage the religious community in partnering with UnifiedErie efforts to increase religious participation among youth. More than 65 attendees from a variety of religious backgrounds participated and feedback was overwhelmingly directed towards follow up activity.
- **Religiosity Team** – As a result of the positive feedback from the 2013 summit, a standing team was established under the PPC to address religiosity.
- **Religiosity Amendment to the CAP** – Specific strategies were drafted by the newly formed team for Religiosity and a formal amendment to the CAP was published in February 2014.
- **Youth Religiosity Survey** – A survey of Erie County Youth was conducted and published in 2014 to create a clearer picture of religious background and obstacles within area youth.
- **Take Me To Worship Campaign** – A positive messaging campaign to share the benefits of regular religious participation in the lives of youth was created and carried out in Erie County. Graphic design, photography, messaging and distribution were all accomplished with local volunteers. Raising more than \$20,000, the 3-month campaign in 2016 saturated the Erie area with the message that kids who participate in worship an hour or more per week do better in multiple risk areas. The Campaign met with such success and received so much support that a second round was continued with \$10,000 in funds in the fall of 2017.

- Enforcement leaders coordinated a group of Erie representatives to visit Kansas City to research the Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRs) in 2015.
- Enforcement participants in UnifiedErie greatly increased cooperation and partnering between law enforcement agencies throughout Erie County.
- Fugitive Task Force was created in 2010. Between 2010-2017 the Fugitive Task Force arrested 1,198 total fugitives and cleared 1,574 warrants.
- The Gun Crime Working Group was formed in 2014. Between 2014 and 2017 a total of 733 guns were seized.
- First GVRs call-in meeting was held in spring 2017
- Between 2014-2017, overall enforcement strategies and UnifiedErie efforts effectively reduced number of group related homicides and individuals shot significantly.
- Zero group related homicides have been committed since the first call-in meeting was held April 26, 2017.

## Enforcement

- Enforcement leaders convened the original concept of a violence reduction collaborative in Erie County in 2010, bringing the other necessary components together.
- 2012 Project Safe Neighborhood funding was awarded from the Department of Justice for \$40,000.
- 2013 Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Grant was awarded to Erie from the Department of Justice for \$600,000.
- 2013 Project Safe Neighborhood funding was awarded from the Department of Justice for \$300,000.

## Reentry

- Erie Together successfully facilitated three years of bi-weekly planning meetings, focus groups, and research which resulted in a comprehensive reentry plan for Erie County.
- Application for funding to launch GVRs meetings and reentry services was submitted to United Way of Erie County and The Erie Community Foundation; funding request was approved and funding awarded at a special event in July 2016.
- Erie County Reentry Services and Support Alliance (ECRSSA) officially launched in September 2016.
- As of 2017, ECRSSA clients served showed a significantly reduced recidivism rate of 3%.



**UnifiedErie**  
A Violence Reduction Initiative

# Prevention

Prevention efforts for UnifiedErie are coordinated by the Erie County Policy and Planning Council for Children and Families (PPC).

## Survey Data and What's Really Going on with Our Youth

Using data from the Pennsylvania Youth Survey, and interpreting it through the Communities That Care Model, the Erie County Policy and Planning Council (PPC) determined which risk factors are abnormally high in our Erie County youth, and which protective factors they are lacking. These high risk factors and lacking protective factors lead to problem behaviors including violence. If we want to prevent violence, we need to address these issues.



2012 CAP Erie County

## Risk & Protective Factors

### Priority Risk Factors

Factors that are too high and need reduced.

Community Disorganization .....

Family Conflict .....

Parental attitudes favorable to problem behaviors .....

### What does that mean?

Neighborhoods are in chaos

Families are in chaos

Parents think bad behavior is okay

### Priority Protective Factors

Factors that are too low and need to be increased.

Community opportunities for pro-social involvement .....

Community rewards for pro-social involvement .....

Religiosity .....

### What does that mean?

Kids say they don't know how to do good things in their community

Kids say that even if they do good things in their community, nobody notices

Very few youth are participating in religious activities one or more hours a week



# The Community Action Plan

The Policy and Planning Council utilizes the Communities That Care (CTC) process to drive prevention efforts. CTC is a coalition-based prevention process that uses a public health model to identify risk and protective factors that impact youth problem behaviors including substance abuse, delinquency, teen pregnancy, school dropout, violence, and depression/anxiety. Risk factors are proven through research to increase the likelihood of problem behaviors among youth, while protective factors are proven to buffer youth from problem behaviors and help them succeed in life. The CTC process was utilized to develop and write the Erie County Community Action Plan (CAP) published June 2012. The CTC Process then tracks outcomes and reassess risk & protective factors that will then inform new strategy development and planning over time.

The strategies written into the CAP are carried out by the volunteers serving on the three CAP Teams: Family, Community, and Religiosity. These teams meet monthly and are guided by the CAP strategies, goals, and outcomes.

More information about the full community action plan can be found on the UnifiedErie web page: [www.unifiederie.org](http://www.unifiederie.org)



## Family Team

The Family Team works on the risk and protective factors that fall within the family domain. These include (1) Family Conflict and (2) Parental Attitudes Favorable Towards Problem Behaviors.

## Community Team

The Community Team works on the risk factor of Community Disorganization. Strategies to improve this factor in Erie County revolve around grassroots level efforts to improve neighborhoods.

## Religiosity Team

The Religiosity Team works on the protective factor of Religiosity, which refers to a youth participating in organized religion for an hour per week.

“ Having a written plan provides guide rails for our path. It keeps us all moving together towards our goal and makes it achievable.”



Andrea Bierer  
Community Action  
Plan Coordinator



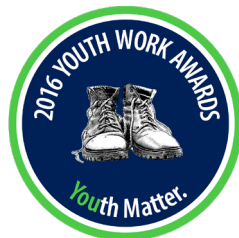
# Family Team



The Family Team is a subcommittee of the Erie Policy and Planning Council (PPC) and the Prevention Prong of UnifiedErie. (see pg 11)  
This team is tasked with carrying out the strategies from the Community Action Plan related to the family domain.

## Annual Youth Work Awards

The Youth Work Awards recognize the tireless work of individuals in the Erie County community who spend their careers working with youth in nonprofit organizations. These youth workers are extremely important to the Erie community because they play a key role in shaping the lives of tomorrow's adults. In 2014, the first event proudly honored and highlighted the work of 29 people. The most recent event held in May of 2017 honored 55 youth workers and had 150 attendees.



### Youth Worker of the Year Award Recipients

- 2014 Cheri Kinem  
*YMCA of Greater Erie*
- 2015 Erika Muhammad  
*SafeNet*
- 2016 Walaa Ahmad  
*Urban Erie Community Dev. Center*
- 2017 Aaron Compton  
*Community Country Day School*



Erica Muhammad  
Youth Work Award  
Winner 2015

“I can remember being a youth myself and not having a lot of mentors. There weren't a lot of people to look up to other than family members. I felt that the youth needed other people to look up to.”



## PCIT Training

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) is a new coaching therapy for parents. In 2013, the UnifiedErie project received free PCIT training valued at \$135,000 through a grant project with UPMC Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic. This training was given to facilitators in three different locations throughout Erie County. The therapy involves the parents and children as well as the therapist. However, unlike many therapies where only the therapist works directly with the child, PCIT puts an emphasis on strengthening the parents' feelings of attachment to their child, putting the therapeutic relationship between the parent and the child.



Amy Voto  
PCIT Trained Therapist

“The biggest reward for families going through PCIT is when they see the changes in their child and they see that the program is actually working.”



Mandy Fauble  
PCIT Director

“We don't yet know the full reach or potential of this program but it's amazing to think that if we do something now, if we give these children a better relationship with authority and a stronger attachment to their family, we can head off some of the potential risk factors they may face in the future.”



The image shows a printed document titled "EBP Quick Directory OF EVIDENCED BASED PROGRAMS". It is a multi-column table listing various evidence-based programs, their descriptions, and contact information. The table is organized into sections, likely by program type or provider. The text is small and difficult to read in detail, but the structure is clear.



## EBP Quick Directory

An evidence-based program (EBP) is a program that has met rigorous research requirements and has proven to have effective and repeatable outcomes. Erie is fortunate to have many of these high quality programs available to residents, but in 2012 the Family Team learned that many are not filled to capacity and families who most need the help they offer are unaware they exist. To address this gap, the family team created and published the EBP Quick Directory, a one page listing of programs available in the Erie community. This list has been distributed extensively and is referenced by healthcare workers, education specialists, religious leaders, caseworkers, judges and community members at large to refer appropriate families to the programs that can help them most.

## Youth Worker Professional Training Series

Many high-quality nonprofits and programs in Erie County are operating with a very limited training and continuing education budget. Together, the Family Team, the Nonprofit Partnership, and United Way of Erie County created a 2-year series of trainings made available to employees of nonprofit organizations at no cost. Trainings were held on a variety of issues and resources from the series are still distributed and referenced through the annual Youth Work Awards ceremony.

# Community Team



The Community Team is a subcommittee of the Erie Policy and Planning Council (PPC) and the Prevention Prong of UnifiedErie. (see pg 11)  
This team is tasked with carrying out the strategies from the Community Action Plan related to the community domain.

## Neighborhoods Matter

Core to the prevention plan of UnifiedErie is the idea that community involvement and development leads to a reduction in problem behaviors such as violence, drug use, alcohol use, and antisocial behaviors. Sustainable change has to come from within, and that means that neighborhoods need to be empowered and encouraged to change from within.



## Why Neighborhoods?

One of the top 3 risk factors, as defined in the Community Action Plan, for Erie County is Community Disorganization. In other words, neighborhoods in chaos. This factor refers to a negative physical environment within a community. These negative aspects include: poor lighting, blighted properties, and general feelings of being unsafe. It has been found that cities with a risk factor of Community Disorganization tend to have high rates of vandalism and low surveillance of public areas. These results also lead to an increased amount of problem behaviors among children, youth, and adults. UnifiedErie's goal in focusing on community is to help decrease these problem behaviors. In particular a focus has been placed on neighborhood groups, as they are the heart of every community. This focus has translated into a specific set of strategies to help create a sense of safety, pride and belonging in one's neighborhood. The Neighborhood Research Organization was created out of the CAP with the purpose of supporting neighborhood efforts and connecting neighborhoods with training, technical assistance, and resources.



# \$20,305

29 neighborhood mini-grants totalling more than \$20,305 were distributed to neighborhood groups throughout Erie in 2015 and 2016 through the NRO.

# 70%

of people surveyed think that neighborhoods should work together to solve local problems.

NCS 2013

“The NRO is like a life coach for neighborhood organizations.”



Bob Hand  
Academy Neighborhood Association



John Villa  
Neighborhood Resource Organization Outreach Coordinator

“It's all about being good neighbors and helping one another out.”



# Neighborhood Resource Organization (NRO)

Partners of UnifiedErie realized that community issues needed to be addressed individually on a grassroots level within each unique neighborhood. Erie already possessed a robust network of neighborhood groups, watches, and organizations. Often those groups are led by volunteers who need assistance navigating grant opportunities, planning structures, and interfacing with government red tape. Out of that need, the Neighborhood Resource Organization (NRO) was born. UnifiedErie sought and secured seed funding to form the NRO from The Erie Community Foundation.

The NRO is now tasked with empowering neighborhoods through trainings, notification of funding opportunities, assistance with funding applications, research and distribution of best practice information, connections to key community partners, and a variety of other paths to help individual groups grow and make change in their own neighborhoods. The NRO continues to steadily grow and has a robust influence in the neighborhoods of the city and Erie County.



## National Night Out

National Night Out is an event held to represent the Erie community's night out against crime. It's common that people living in the city don't know their neighbors. When people don't know their neighbors, they can't talk to them, they can't understand the issues and challenges they're facing, and consequentially, they cannot work together. By bringing one another together around entertainment and food, such a night helps break down social barriers and provide a more inclusive and inviting community where people feel more comfortable in their neighborhoods. This event is also used as a communication tool to distribute information such as the components of the community action plan, tips on how to make small improvements in the community that eventually lead to larger improvements, as well as to provide people with connections they need to find other community resources they may find helpful to them.



Mike Jaruszewicz  
United Way of Erie County

“By providing our community with the resources they need to be positive role models, to help reduce the risk factors and raise those protective factors, it's going to spread.”

# Religiosity Team



The Religiosity Team is a subcommittee of the Erie Policy and Planning Council (PPC) and the Prevention Prong of UnifiedErie. (see pg 11)  
This team is tasked with carrying out the strategies from the Community Action Plan related to the religiosity domain.

## Religion Matters

The third core pillar in the prevention plan of UnifiedErie lies in the research that weekly participation in organized religious activity is connected to a reduction in problem behaviors such as drug use, alcohol use, and antisocial behaviors.

**"Just 1 hour a week can change a child's life."**

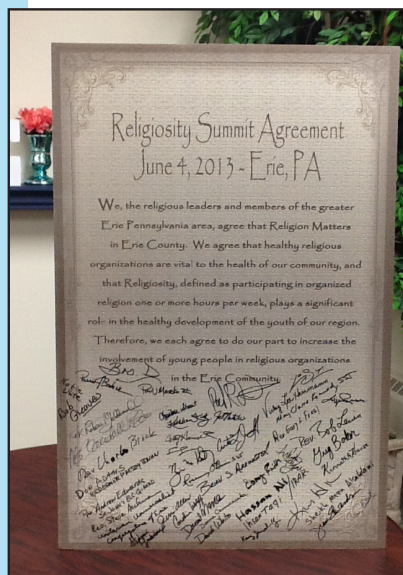
**TakeMeToWorship.org**

## Why Religiosity?

The Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) revealed in 2005 that Erie County had slipped below the nation's average youth participation in religious activity. Since that time, surveys show that number is falling annually, hitting an astounding eleven points below the national average in 2011. Due to the large body of research showing that weekly participation in religious activity reduces the risk of developing and continuing problem behaviors, such a rapid decline is of vital interest to the prevention sector of UnifiedErie. Further analysis of the PAYS questions regarding their personal use of substances within the past 30 days, their antisocial behavioral habits, ideas about moral order, and depressive symptoms show a shocking relationship between each of those variables and religious activity that students currently participate in. In other words, as students participate in organized religious activities, their likelihood of developing or continuing involvement in any of the problem behaviors listed above significantly decreases.

## Religiosity Summit 2013

The Erie County Policy and Planning Council created the Religiosity Summit as an event held to summon as many Erie County religious leaders as possible to one place. The purpose of the event was to share the data on religiosity in Erie County and then to get feedback from attendees. The event was held on June 4, 2013, and more than 65 religious leaders and community members attended to represent a wide variety of religious backgrounds and beliefs. The first portion of the summit was dedicated to presenting data on religiosity in Erie County. Speakers from the steering committee of the UnifiedErie (then known as the Erie Unified Youth Violence Reduction Initiative) shared the data, as well as the process used to evaluate the data, the process used to write the Community Action Plan, and the actions taken to implement those selected strategies. The second portion of the summit was dedicated to small group discussions led by trained facilitators. Attendees were broken into groups of ten or less, and were asked several questions focused on generating ideas for increasing religiosity in Erie County. Finally, the summit ended by bringing all the participants back together, presenting "The Religiosity Summit Agreement," and asking participants to do their part to increase religiosity in Erie. Participants were given the opportunity to sign a poster-sized print of the agreement as the event concluded. The feedback from the summit was overwhelmingly positive, and the most common request found on the evaluations from the participants was to continue pursuing this topic and to "not make this a one-time event." As a result, the Erie County Policy and Planning Council for Children and Families created a standing subcommittee, the Religiosity Team, dedicated to increasing religiosity in Erie County.





take me to  
**worship**

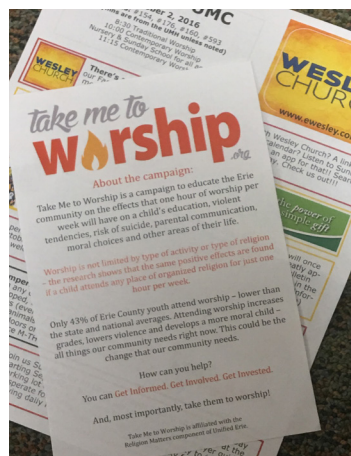


**If you take me to worship...**  
I will be more likely to get A's and B's.

take me to  
**worship.org**



Just one hour per week makes a difference.  
Learn more at  
**takemetoworship.org**



## Take Me To Worship Campaign Launches 2016

Following the Religiosity Summit of 2013, the top strategy to emerge from the focus groups was to find a way to share the social science data with the general public. The religiosity team took on the task of creating a county-wide positive messaging campaign sharing social science data regarding weekly religious participation and better outcomes in the lives of youth. A team of marketing experts, photographers, videographers, graphic designers, and communications experts volunteered their time and created the "Take Me To Worship" (TMTW) campaign. This ambitious group raised every dollar for the campaign through private donations. A team of advisors from a variety of religious backgrounds served to guide the marketing team. Together the campaign was created and launched in the Summer of 2016. Religious organizations across Erie County embraced the campaign, and overwhelmingly requested the campaign be continued for several years. The second year of the campaign launched in the fall of 2017. The campaign goal was to increase weekly religious participation among youth. The efforts consisted of billboards, radio, TV and social media advertising, as well as one-on-one outreach to religious organizations educating them on strategies to promote themselves during the campaign. Many organizations and participants bought yard signs to put front of their house, business, or place of worship to show their support. In 2017, the campaign won a "Gold Addy Award" from the Erie Ad Club for a cross-platform campaign. TMTW has received attention not only from neighboring communities and counties, but also from other states and even prevention researchers across the country.

# Enforcement



## Mission Statement

Our multi-faceted Enforcement strategies work in conjunction with our Prevention and Reentry strategies and are focused on reducing & addressing individual & group violence through evidence-based approaches.



Marshall Piccinini  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

“We are asking how can we be smarter about enforcement. How can we have the police engage more pro-actively with the community?”

“This is a long-term, focused strategy. The citizens, community partners, and law enforcement have the same goal—a safer Erie.”



Jack Daneri  
District Attorney

## Chronic Violent Offender Strategy

Modeled after the effective and studied Project Safe Neighborhoods initiatives, our Enforcement strategy in Erie County recognizes that a small number of chronically violent offenders likely commit a disproportionately high number of offenses. This strategy involves identifying chronic violent offenders systematically, targeting enforcement actions towards chronic violent offenders, and ultimately capturing chronic violent offenders using a fugitive apprehension team before they re-offend. The criminal justice partners will be able to ensure public safety by fairly and effectively dealing with these offenders at every level of law enforcement, including: patrol officers, law enforcement detectives and investigators, federal and state law enforcement officers, the Erie County District Attorney, County, State and Federal probation and parole, the Department of Corrections pre-release center, and other reentry initiatives.

## Fugitive Task Force

The US Marshal's Fugitive Task Force combines the efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement to locate some of the most dangerous fugitives in Erie County. The task force focuses on fugitives wanted for crimes of violence involving firearms, assaults, narcotics, and sex offenses. In addition to fugitive investigations, the task force assists state and federal law enforcement agencies in the location and apprehension of non-compliant sex offenders.

Year	Fugitives Arrested	# of Warrants Cleared
2010	84	93
2011	103	205
2012	153	205
2013	148	187
2014	197	227
2015	160	218
2016	190	247
2017	163	192

## Gun Crime Working Group

Recognizing that a collaborative focus on gun crime has proven effective in gun crime reduction efforts elsewhere in the U.S., the enforcement strategy included the use of the Gun Crime Working Group comprised of a team consisting of an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Assistant District Attorney, ATF Agent, Erie Police Detective or ATF Task Force Officer, Erie Police officers, Adult Probation Officer, Juvenile Probation Officer, and a detective from the Office of the Erie County District Attorney. The team met regularly with the goal of specifically targeting gun crimes and worked collaboratively to arrest offenders and prosecute them.

Year	# of Guns Seized
2014	175
2015	196
2016	208
2017	154



## Erie PAL (Police Athletic League)

While not an enforcement activity, this outreach effort is conducted by active law enforcement officers. Community leaders and retired educators approached both Erie City Police and the Erie County Sheriff about the idea of reviving the Police Athletic League in 2015. PAL Chapters are required to have one or the other involved; Erie County is the only chapter nationwide that has *both* the local Police Chief and the County Sheriff. The Police Athletic League exists to build healthy bonds between at risk youth and law enforcement. The officers/deputies work on teaching the kids how to respect themselves in order to gain respect from others. The program teamed up with the City of Erie School District and the GEARS Program, which greatly accelerated success of the program. Now two years into the program, officers and deputies share their time with kids at Pfiefer-Berliegh and McKinley Elementary schools during the week and with kids at the Bethesda Center on West 18th Street on Saturdays.

## Erie Neighborhood Action Team and Saturation Patrols (NAT/SAT)

The Neighborhood Action Team (NAT) was established in 2002 and was originally established under the Community Development Block Grant to combat inner city crimes of violence and gang activity. Duties also include many nuisance crime and problems brought to our attention by the neighborhood watch groups. The main focus of patrol is north of 26th Street to the Bayfront and East Ave to Cranberry St.

The NAT Team is comprised of six officers, all which are members of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT). They carry their SWAT gear on the street with them at all times, making them available for immediate response to any critical incidents that arise.

The Saturation Unit (SAT) was established in 2010 and consist of 6 Erie Police officers. The SAT Unit works from Noon till 8:00 PM providing additional support and backup to the Patrol Units. The SAT unit also works with Neighborhood watch groups and follows up on complaints. Once a complaint is received regarding a problem area the unit will saturate that area with police presence to combat crime in that location.

Both NAT and SAT work together sharing information received regarding complaints within the City of Erie also working together in and during special operations.



ERIE CITY RECEIVED A  
**\$600,000**  
GRANT FOR BYRNE CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE PLANNING GRANT

*making it*

1 of 14  
GRANT RECIPIENTS  
NATIONWIDE  
2013

The \$600,000 BCJI grant was committed to execute collaborative strategies in Erie's historic Little Italy neighborhood.

# Enforcement

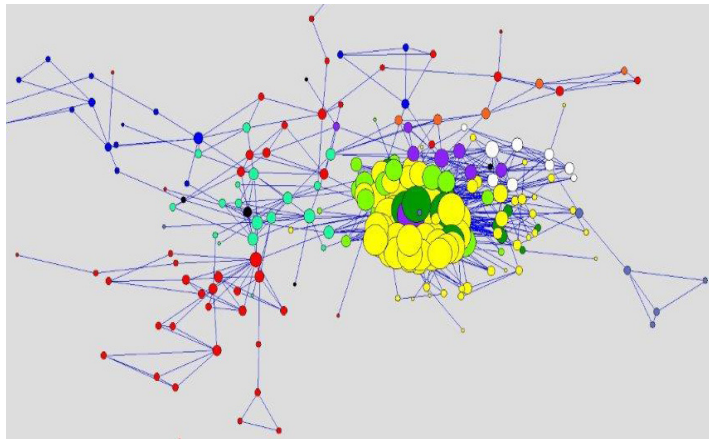


## Group Violence Reduction Strategy

In addition to UnifiedErie's focus on chronic violent offenders individually through the targeted Chronic Violent Offender enforcement strategy, it was identified that many of the shootings in Erie, including those that have resulted in homicide, have been retaliatory in nature and have been connected to rival groups of individuals. These groups of individuals (also referred to as gangs or networks) have formed within the city and are engaging in retaliatory violence. To address group violence issues, the UnifiedErie enforcement prong established a Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRs). As with all UnifiedErie initiatives, this strategy begins with the collection and assessment of data.

### Data/Social Network Analysis

The criminal networks and associates have been identified through a process referred to as social network analysis (SNA) that is regularly updated as social networks change over time. This is a data-driven process utilizing official police data to identify those individuals who have recently been and currently are engaging in violent crime connected with violent subgroups within the city of Erie.



The GVRs engages in strategies to target the gang members for enforcement action for their criminal activity, and strategically invites gang members by calling them into a special meeting to receive a message.

The Message:

Violence Will Not Be Tolerated.

You have an Opportunity to Turn your Life Around.

The "call in" meeting serves two purposes. The first is to clearly communicate to high-risk individuals that violence is not going to be tolerated and that law enforcement and other systems are communicating at an unprecedented level and are working together.



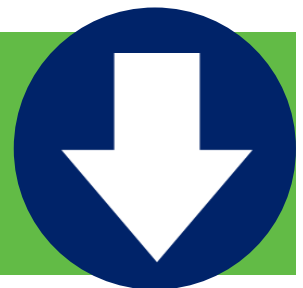
The message that violence will not be tolerated is communicated during the first half of the "call in" meeting by law enforcement partners who demonstrate for the participants that they know who they are and who they are associated with.

The message is communicated that the next group/gang/network that engages in the next act of gun violence will get the full attention of all levels of law enforcement.

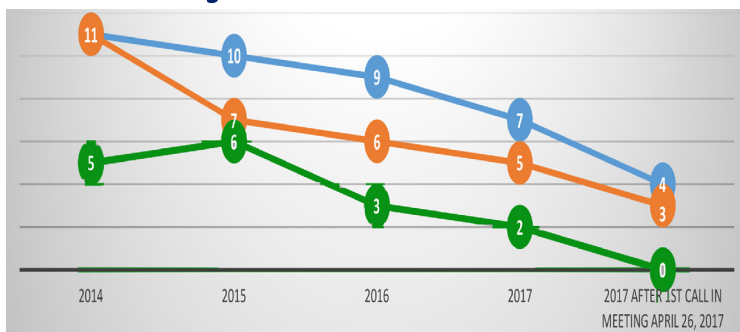
The second purpose of the "call in" meeting is to convey a message of value and hope with an opportunity for help to those individuals who want to leave their criminal networks to re-enter society in a law abiding life. That offer of support extends to all of those on the network list and not just those attending the call in meeting. The Erie County Reentry Services and Support Alliance (ECRSSA) and the Downtown YMCA employ a team of case managers (ECRSSA) and a client advocate (YMCA) to provide support and guidance to the willing call-in participants related to: employment, education, housing, transportation, mental health, substance abuse and mentoring.



Homicides and shots fired have been greatly reduced since UnifiedErie began. No group related homicides have been committed since the first call in meeting was held April 26, 2017.



## Erie City Homicides 2014-2017



\* Zero group related homicides have been committed since the first call in meeting April 2017

Total Homicides

Homicide by Firearm

Group Related Homicides

Year	# of Total Homicides	# of Homicides by Firearm	# of Group Related Homicides
2014	11	11	5
2015	10	7	6
2016	9	6	3
2017	7	5	2
2017 AFTER 1ST CALL IN	4	3	0

Year	# of Shots Fired	# of People Shot	# of Robberies	# of Recovered Firearms	# of Stolen Firearms
2014	379	72	217	175	95
2015	286	61	259	196	131
2016	242	57	190	208	92
2017	185	59	180	154	69

Shots Fired

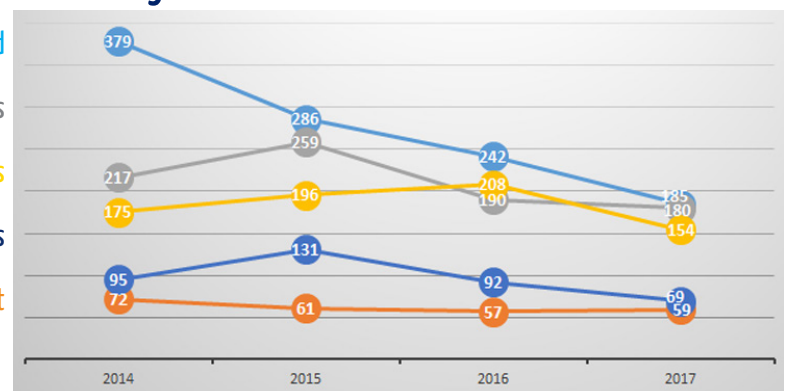
Robberies

Recovered Firearms

Stolen Firearms

People Shot

## Erie City Firearms Incidents 2014-2017



# Reentry



Erie County Re-Entry Services and Support Alliance

*PROVIDING DIRECTION AND HOPE TO TRANSITIONING CLIENTS*

## Mission

The mission of the ECRSSA is to provide support and services to transitioning clients through an intentional network of community- and faith-based organizations in partnership with the criminal justice system.

"Transitioning clients" are (1) individuals released from federal, state or county prison reentering Erie County after serving a sentence for a criminal conviction; and/or (2) people reentering a law-abiding life from criminal network involvement.

## Vision

A county where transitioning clients are supported, empowered, and fully integrated into the community.

## Strategic Goals

**The primary goals of the ECRSSA are:**

1. Increase access and connections to support services and assistance for transitioning clients.
2. Promote a responsible quality of life through positive family, spiritual and informal support connections.
3. Achieve safer communities through reduced recidivism.

**Transforming a life through an alliance of services and support, reducing violence and recidivism.**

"Recidivism" is defined as when an offender on probation or parole is returned to custody for new charges, technical parole violation(s) or both.



## From the beginnings...

In July 2013, Erie Together, our region's anti-poverty movement, convened a group of stakeholders to explore the creation of a countywide "transitioning client" reentry strategy. The purpose of the strategy is to support the successful reentry of formerly convicted county, state, and federal offenders into the community and individuals reentering a law-abiding life from criminal network activity so they can reach their highest potential. Stakeholders included law enforcement, social service, religious, government and educational professionals along with ex-offenders. This work was being done as part of UnifiedErie's three-pronged approach to violence reduction in our community.

The aforementioned stakeholder planning group, which represented a tremendous collaboration across several sectors, met regularly for nearly three years to identify challenges that transitioning clients face; elements that a successful reentry strategy must include; and desired strategic outcomes. They also discussed actions/milestones that transitioning clients must generally take/achieve in order for this strategy to be most successful. In addition, the group reviewed local trends and important national data related to transitioning clients, to shed light on the importance of the issue. They considered unemployment, recidivism, and clients struggling with mental health, drug and alcohol and/or co-occurring disorders.

## One-Stop-Shop

The planning group concluded that Erie County's reentry strategy must include, at the onset, creation of a "one stop shop" to deliver important services and connect transitioning clients to appropriate resources and jobs in the community. To that end, they proposed creation of an "Erie County Reentry Services and Support Alliance" (ECRSSA) to further refine and implement their transitioning client reentry strategy. The ECRSSA was to be a point of contact for any transitioning client returning to Erie from the federal, state or county correctional institutions, not limited to serving clients with certain "disabilities" as some programs do. Additionally, the ECRSSA should serve people reentering a law-abiding life from criminal networks.



## Getting Ahead

The reentry strategy called for a strong mentoring component and recommended that the ECRSSA incorporate GECAC's Getting Ahead While Getting Out program. This program is designed to help returning citizens become more self-sufficient. It is a 10 week curriculum that works to bring the issues and challenges of poverty to light. It includes household budgeting, time management and goal setting. At the end of these sessions, each participant will establish at least three new goals that will drive them closer to being self-sufficient. After these sessions have been completed, each participant is then paired with a mentor. The mentor works to help the participant accomplish their goals.

## Transforming Lives

ICM participants are given a portable file folder, pocket day planner, pen, and tablet of paper to start the organization of important documents, appointment cards and other paperwork. In addition to accessing and attaining various community supports, ECRSSA Case Managers offer to the client help in creating a resume, learning how to address their criminal history during a job interview, locating employment, and conducting a mock interview.



The strategy was presented to The Erie Community Foundation and United Way of Erie County, both of which made a significant multi-year financial commitment of \$1.2 million in total to launch the ECRSSA. On July 7, 2016 the funding announcement was made and Greater Erie Community Action Committee (GECAC) was identified to be the home to the program.



# Reentry

## How do we assist those caught in the revolving door?

Many individuals have completed various types of therapeutic and vocational programming while serving their sentence. Decisions to change their life have been made, but returning to the community after incarceration can be very intimidating. For those who have been in prison for a length of time, many things have changed such as the shape of the community plus the advancement of technology. ECRSSA offers case management support to help the Transitioning Client access and attain those community services and support for a successful transition while giving encouragement to not give up when various obstacles arise.



## Why is support needed for those transitioning from incarceration back into the community?

### Nationally...

**68%**

Rearrested with  
in 3 years

68% of released offenders were rearrested for a new crime within three years.

77% were arrested within five years.

**77%**

Rearrested with  
in 5 years

Of those arrested within three years, 57% were arrested by the end of their first year out.

### Locally...

**1,250**

Return to our  
community each  
year

### Did you know?

Approximate # of individuals returning to our community from prison each year is 1,250.

Approximate recidivism rate is 58% in Erie County.

## How does the program support a person transitioning back into the community?

A case manager meets with the person to complete a holistic intake so together they talk about individual needs and goals. The preference is to meet with the person to develop the Reentry Plan of Action before release from incarceration. For those who were released before a referral was given, referrals from parole or walk-ins are welcomed. There are two levels of service support offered:

### Intensive Case Management (ICM) support

Program eligibility: (1) Individual was residing in Erie County at the time of the offense and is returning to Erie County from federal, state, or county incarceration and (2) the individual ranks as a medium to high risk offender on the parole risk/needs assessment. For those who have been released from prison or jail for less than 6 months ECRSSA provides ICM support during the Transitioning Client's initial 12 to 18 months return to the community.

Case managers will work with the eligible participant to access and attain any or all of the following:

- Job training
- Employment
- Education
- Medical Assistance and Care
- Mental Health Care
- Drug and Alcohol Treatment
- Housing community resources support when the person has a sustainable income
- Bus passes or tokens
- Pre-employment Support; e.g. obtain work boots, uniforms, clearances, ID



## 2016-2017 Stats

Total # Referrals .....297  
 Total Active Clients (ICM) .....130  
 Total Active Clients (RC) .....51

### Connected to:

Jobs.....83%  
 Stable Housing.....78%  
 D&A Services.....95%  
 MH Services .....90%  
 Health Care.....97%  
 Education.....54%  
 Skills & Training.....76%

### Client Advocate

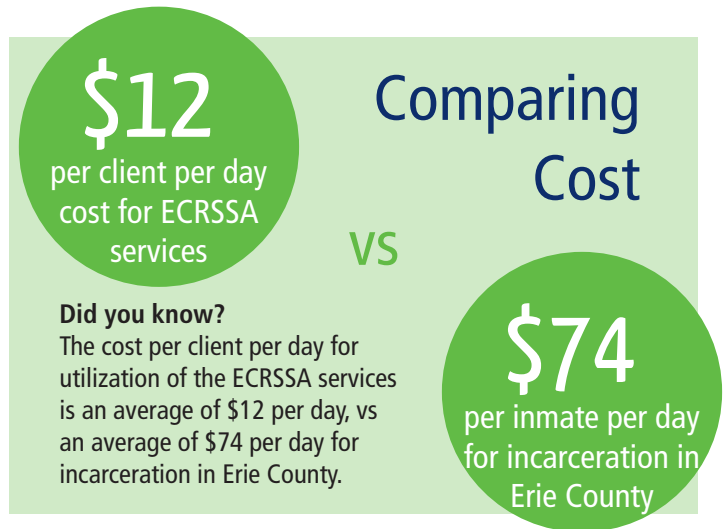
Total Client Contact .....70%  
 Ongoing Support .....22%

### Resource Coordination (RC) support

If a person does not meet the eligibility for ICM support, the ECRSSA offers a lower level of service of Resource Coordination (RC).

This is shorter term of support is offered up to 90 days. Case manager offers guidance and support to the individual who is specifically seeking help accessing and attaining the following:

- Job skills training
- Employment
- Education
- Medical Assistance and Care
- Mental Health Care
- Drug and Alcohol Treatment
- Housing community resources
- Any other community support needed for successful transition



### Pennsylvania Recognizes the Need to Support Transitioning Clients

Gov. Tom Wolf; Launch of the PA Reentry Council (PARC)

"In Pennsylvania, 90 percent of the prison population will return to their community," Governor Wolf said. "And if we are not successful at getting them the services they need to make it home, then all of our work, all the rehabilitative programming, all the money we've spent to get them ready to return home is rendered useless. Pennsylvania has had a large but fragmented network of reentry services, but today with the announcement of the Reentry Council, we can unite the state's multiple reentry partners into one statewide reentry council."

*Text of May 15 press release*





# How to Get Involved

## Formal

*Ways to be involved in a formal or professional capacity.*

Join a UnifiedErie Team that meets monthly and works on strategies.

Look for a way that your business or agency could partner with UnifiedErie.

Adjust the focus at your company or non-profit to more closely align with the data-driven UnifiedErie focus on Families, Neighborhoods, and Religiosity.

Become a mentor for the ECRSSA Getting Ahead program.

I ALWAYS WONDERED  
WHY SOMEBODY DIDN'T  
**DO SOMETHING  
ABOUT THAT,**  
THEN I REALIZED  
**I AM  
SOMEBODY**



## Informal

*Ways to be involved in your social circles, clubs, or other circles of influence.*

Are you a member of a social club? Ask if they can donate money or volunteer hours to a nearby neighborhood group.

Are you a member of a local religious organization? Ask them if they can get involved with Take Me To Worship.

Do you participate in a group or volunteer agency that interacts with families in conflict? Refer them to help through the Evidence-Based Program Directory.

Recognize kids in your community who are doing good things.



# #IamUnifiedErie





## Financial

Donate towards the Take Me To Worship Campaign.

Donate towards the  
Neighborhood Resource Organization.

Sponsor the Annual Youth Work Awards.

Create an award or incentive for kids who  
are doing good things in the community.

## Personal

Is your family in conflict? Get help!

Review the list of Evidence-Based Programs offered  
in Erie County - refer yourself if you could benefit from one  
- refer a friend who is struggling if they could use one.

Get involved with your local neighborhood group.  
If there isn't one, **START ONE!**

Make a priority of getting the kids in your life  
to worship in a religious organization weekly.

Come forward if you witness a crime.

Nominate an amazing Youth Worker in your life  
for the Annual Youth Work Awards.





# Advisory Group Members

The UnifiedErie Advisory Group consists of representatives from all three prongs of UnifiedErie's violence reduction effort in Erie County, Pennsylvania (Prevention, Enforcement, Reentry). People in this group are ambassadors for the effort in the community and also serve to promote strong communication between the three prongs. These individuals speak publicly on behalf of the UnifiedErie collaborative when a spokesperson is needed in a meeting or in the media.

*Members may have served only for a portion of the years included and may not be current members at the time of publishing.*



**Marcus S. Atkinson**  
*Executive Director,  
ServErie*



**Vanessa Belen**  
*Community Advocate,  
ErieUP*



**Andrea Bierer**  
*Community Action Plan  
Coordinator, Mercyhurst  
University Civic Institute*



**Randy Bowers**  
*Chief of Police 2013-  
2016, City of Erie Police  
Department*



**Mary C. Bula**  
*Facilitator/Consultant,  
Erie Together*



**Rev. Michael Coles**  
*Pastor, House of Prayer  
Missionary Baptist Church*



**James Hodge**  
*Director of Evaluation/  
PYD Co-Coordinator, Susan  
Hirt Hagen Center CORE*



**Mike Jaruszewicz**  
*VP of Community Impact,  
United Way of Erie  
County*



**Yvette Jennings**  
*Community Advocate,  
ErieUP*



**Dave Johnson**  
*Custody Control  
Coordinator, Community  
Transitions Center Erie/  
Gateway Rehab*



**Curtis Jones, Jr.**  
*Pastor, Erie City  
Councilman*



**John Loomis**  
*Erie County Sheriff*



**Sheila Silman**  
*ECRSSA Reentry Program  
Manager, GECAC*



**Chief Daniel Spizarny**  
*Chief of Police  
2018-present, City of Erie  
Police Department*



**Rev. Kevin Stevenson**  
*Pastor*



**Dr. Nick Viglione**  
*CEO, Charter School  
for Excellence*





**Daryl Craig**  
*Lead Coordinator, Creative  
Community Connectors*



**Donald Dacus**  
*Chief of Police 2016-  
2017, City of Erie Police*



**Jack Daneri**  
*District Attorney,  
Erie County*



**Georgia Del Freo**  
*VP of Operations,  
Greater Erie Community  
Action Committee*



**Dave Deter**  
*Director, Erie  
Redevelopment Authority*



**Amy Eisert**  
*Director, Mercyhurst  
University Civic Institute*



**Paul A. Markiewicz**  
*Director, Erie County  
Adult Probation/Parole*



**Pete Mitchell**  
*Sergeant, City of Erie  
Police Department*



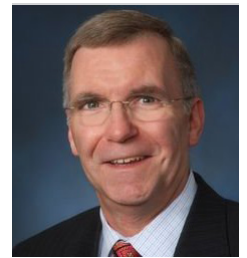
**Michael Outlaw**  
*Community Liaison,  
City of Erie*



**Marshall Piccinini**  
*Assistant US Attorney,  
Department of Justice*



**Mark Rosenthal**  
*Detective, Erie County  
District Attorney's Office*



**Mayor Joe Schember**  
*Mayor, City of Erie*

## Awards and Recognition

- Erie City Council Resolution of support 2011
- Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency award for Prevention Coalition of the Year 2013
- Erie County Council Resolution of support 2014
- GECAC Paul Martin Community Service Award for Service Above Self 2016
- 2017 Gold Addy Award for Take Me To Worship Campaign





Watch videos and learn more at  
[UnifiedErie.org](http://UnifiedErie.org)

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