SAFE*Line*

SAFE*Line*, Erie's new community resource to assist youth who are victims of bullying or dealing with other difficult situations.

814-456-SAFE

The Problem: Bullying is estimated to affect as many as 30 percent of all school students. Many victims of bullying are unlikely to come forward because they fear retaliation from the person who is bullying them. Concerned peers want to provide support but are unsure how to help.

The Solution: SAFE*Line* provides a safe, confidential, and easy way to help youth in grades K-12 obtain the support they need to cope with this issue. SAFE*Line* is the first of its kind in the region because it provides 24/7/365 live support to young people, with an emphasis on those who are being bullied or dealing with other youth related concerns.

Safe Harbor Behavioral Health and UPMC Health Plan partnered to establish SAFE*Line*. Safe Harbor crisis counselors answer SAFE*Line* 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. SAFE*Line* offers callers the option to talk face-to-face with crisis workers. SAFE*Line* services are free to all Erie County residents.

Other important facts:

- Safe Harbor has been recognized as a Model Program in the development and implementation of practices in Crisis Services and the delivery of innovative outpatient services to individuals and families.

- 24/7 intervention services are available to assist school age children with a significant number of problem behaviors that occur outside of the school day.

- Staff will secure Releases of Information to facilitate coordination among schools, parents, and existing supports.

- Having additional options for intervention may increase the odds that young people in need can be identified earlier and tragedies can be avoided.

To help build awareness for SAFE*Line*, Safe Harbor will meet individually with school districts to determine the best ways to customize educational materials and marketing to their students.