



**Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee  
Action Plan  
August 3, 2015**

**Background**

The Chairman of the Winnebago County Board, Scott Christiansen, convened the Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) and appointed seven (7) community members to the MHAC as mandated in 55 ILCS 5/5-25027. The charge of this advisory committee as established by legislation and adopted as the Mission by the MHAC is to:

- *Assess the current mental health services in the county.*
- *Monitor changes in the available mental health services.*
- *Make recommendations for additional mental health services if deemed necessary.*

The following vision statement was adopted by the MHAC in February 2015:

*The Mental Health Advisory Committee envisions all with diagnoses or at risk of mental illness having access to a mental health system that is based on identified needs, with fully funded and coordinated care, and are able to live, work and participate in communities of their choosing.*

The committee does not have a budget and has no taxing authority. It is an advisory committee reporting to Chairman Christiansen. The MHAC by statute is dissolved on December 31, 2018.

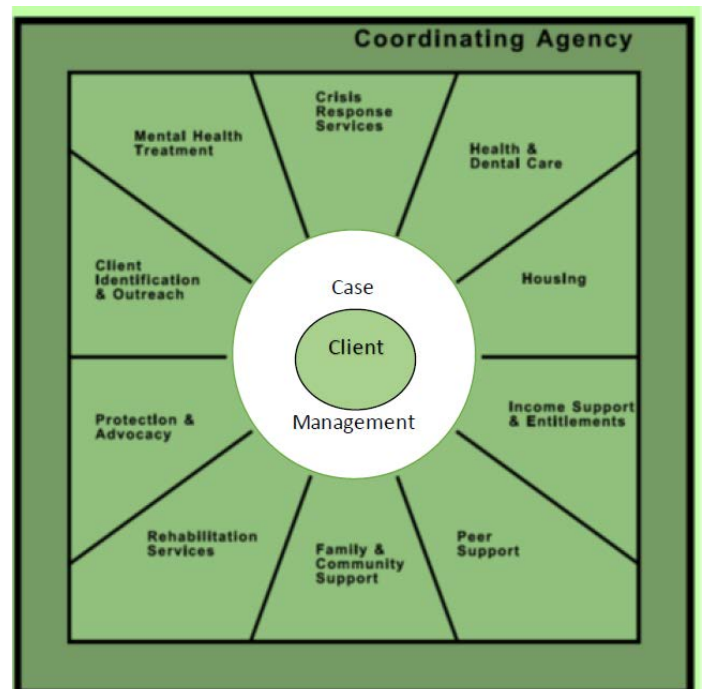
The seven community members of the MHAC are Phil Eaton, Angie Goral, Carol Klint, Richard Kunnert, Donny Parham, Charles Smith, MD, and Matthew Toohey. The MHAC is facilitated by the Winnebago County Health Department Public Health Administrator, Sandra Martell, RN, DNP. Support for assessment and reporting is provided by Penny Billman, PhD.

**Phase I - Assessment**

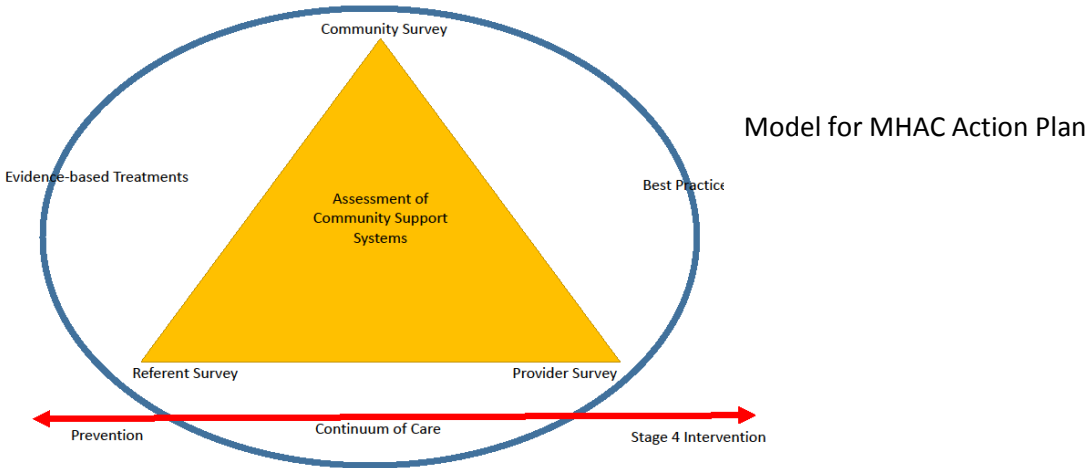
The MHAC is in a three part data collection process of assessing the current mental health services in the county. For the purpose of this assessment, mental health services is broadly defined to include behavioral, developmental, substance abuse, and mental health. In addition the MHAC adopted the Community Support Systems (CSS) framework. The CSS includes the array of services across the continuum from primary prevention to intervention.

The three components of the assessment include:

1. *Community Survey – Client, Community Perspective*
2. *Community Support Systems – Provider Perspective*
3. *Referents Survey – Referral Source Perspective*



The Community Support Systems Survey will be conducted using standardized tools from the Association of Community Mental Health Authorities of Illinois (ACHMAI). The Community Survey has been developed with input from neighborhood groups and subject matter experts. Obtaining assessment data from the three perspectives will assist in providing valid data from which the MHAC can monitor changes and make recommendations.



**Timeline for Activities**

- September 8, 2015 Phase I: Completion of Assessments
- January 2016 Phase I: Analysis of survey data and comparison to benchmarks and benchmarks
- April 2016 Phase II: Recommendations from appointed MHAC members
- July 2016 Phase III: Executive Summary and Report approved by appointed MHAC members

**Request**

Please encourage and promote participation in the surveys. Broad participation will help to strengthen the assessment process and information collected with the goal of making recommendations for services that support a healthy community.

Mental Health Advisory Committee

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