

Mental Health Advisory Committee

Key Findings and Strategic Recommendations

August 2016

The Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) considered the broad definition of mental health to include:

- 1) Mental, emotional, and personality disorders as detailed in the DSM 5 – Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th edition;
- 2) Substance use disorders as defined in the DSM 5;
- 3) Intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Mental health is a community issue and the actions to address it need to be community-driven.

A multi-component assessment of mental health was conducted in Winnebago County over several years to assess mental health services, changes in those services, and make recommendations for identified service gaps using the Community Support System Framework.

Community Support System Framework



Community Issues

- **Crisis Response Services:** lack of crisis care and stabilization for pediatric and adult populations
- **Mental Health Treatment:** lack of services for children and psychiatric care; need for integrated system of care for persons with multiple mental health disorders
- **Family and Community Support:** lack of services and supports for intellectual/developmental disabilities; lack of resources for supportive care
- **Client Identification and Outreach:** lack of outreach services; difficulty being assessed/diagnosed in a timely manner
- **Case Management:** need for relational, face-to-face engagement to support persistent and frequent users of service.

Community Driven Strategies

Immediate

Mental health is in our hands, it's up to all of us!

- Fund crisis response services at Rosecrance through hospital trust funds.
- Establish pediatric mental health services at the Mercy Health System Rockton Avenue facility.

Future

- Develop Community Support System for mental health in Winnebago County.
- Identify Coordinating Group to implement and evaluate Community Support System.
- Establish long-term community driven funding sources to fund Community Support System.



For the complete report of the Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee, please visit the website at www.wchd.org.