

Community Needs Assessment

WINNEBAGO COUNTY ROSC (WCR)

The Community Needs Assessment consisted of a short but very detailed questionnaire which was sent out electronically, as well as passed out in hard copy form. In addition, the document was sent out in Spanish and English. Let's review the results below.

Winnebago County has one of the largest recovery treatment centers in the country; Rosecrance. Over the years they have become one of the premier recovery facilities, this has helped them to expand their services throughout the county. Unfortunately, this has brought a lot of people from outside of the county. Our Survey results show that many people disagree with it being difficult to find mental health and substance use treatment. In addition, respondents say they know how to access mental health/substance services with no issues outside of not have medical insurance. Our biggest obstacle (Gaps) is access to Mental Health and Substance Use facilities. Although there is an array of facilities, we still lack availability. Rosecrance is often full to capacity.

The court system has expanded their services for offenders who have substance use disorders. i.e. (Tip Court, Drug Court) located in the probation office. This helps fill in the gap a bit, leaving more availability for those who have not been incarcerated. These services provided to ex-offenders is often done outside of the area of Winnebago County. The community members believe there should be an increase in government funding to combat these issues according to our survey results.

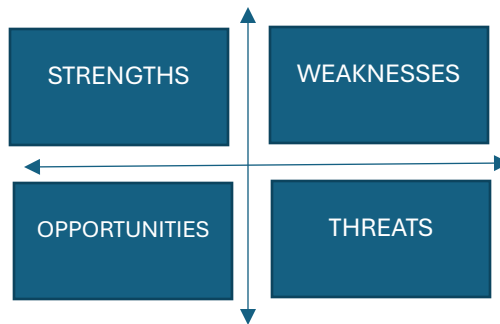
Winnebago County has a thriving recovery community with an array of resources and trainings. Through an assertive intentional effort, the overdose rate dropped 50% (125/65) since 2023. The percentage for people of color are still high. The fact that Winnebago county has more access to Narcan, and syringe service programs is what we believe has decreased the overdose rate. Majority of people who took the questionnaire also believe these services help reduce drug abuse. In addition, our hospitals are treating and engaging right away with services like Harm reduction and any treatments necessary including mental health for those suffering from substance use disorders. Most if not all people taking the questionnaire disagreed with it being difficult to access healthcare providers who offer MAR. Our stakeholders taking the questionnaire believe that they know the importance of drug assisted programs and in addition they know how to access them. Unfortunately, there is still an issue with availability to access mental health and substance use facilities due to overcrowding and the lack of insurance.

From our survey results it appears that the stigma in Winnebago county may be on a decrease as well. Nearly everyone acknowledged that people who have substance use, and Mental health disorders deserve respect. We were not expecting this outcome, but it was refreshing. The community has shown that they are ready to support the WCR. We were also glad to discover that most people can tell when someone is overdosing, and that people are aware of when their family and /or friends may need treatment for drug and alcohol use disorders.

One of our concerns has been the youth of Winnebago county. We asked, "How can our organization appeal to the youth who have lived experience with drugs, alcohol and mental health disorders". The group of respondents feel we need to engage with the youth and meet them right where they are; the group believes we need to listen more and direct less. Its tough not to direct when you feel like your job is to provide guidance. However, we are taking our survey responses serious and will adjust according.

We have added our SWOT analysis below which demonstrates our weaknesses, threats, Opportunities and strengths. This SWOT analysis helps us make informed choices about the future of the WCR. Also as always one of our goals is to expand the WCR. We are hopeful that we'll connect with more agencies serving the youth as well as the Latino population. We believe in using our connections with current partners is a smart way to reach these audiences as well as knocking on doors which we have always done. We are certain this will increase our council.

SWOT Analysis



Strengths	Weaknesses
Diverse council	Lack of community awareness of services
Detox facility	Employment Opportunities
Inpatient & Outpatient facilities	Stigma
Social activities	Housing opportunities
Mentors and role models	Transportation
Partnerships between recovery/non recovery organizations	Involvement of Family and community in planning services
Certified Peer Specialist	Lack of awareness of Substance abuse education
Residential treatment Facilities	Lack of family support education
Peer ran sober living house	Limited number of providers
Variety of treatment options	Recovery Representation on Advisory Boards
Grief support	Development of new programs with peer assistance and feedback
Celebrate recovery support groups	Knowledge of Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) and Harm reduction techniques
Diverse service providers	State Funded Recovery Support Services (RSS)
Continuing recovery support services	
Opportunities	Threats
Partnership Collaborations	Appointment Availability for Mental Health and Substance use disorders
Increase Community Sober events	Funding for Housing
Community Education events	Lack of family support
Improve the building of partnerships	Stigmas
More funding/Grants	
Increase overall outreach to family and other natural supports	
Recovery Support Services	
Building youth connections	

Services provided in Winnebago County:

• Intensive Outpatient/Partial Hospitalization	• Outpatient Counseling
• Buprenorphine / Suboxone / Office-based Opioid Treatment	• Residential programs are licensed and accredited and use evidence-based approaches to care.
• Drug and alcohol addiction education groups	• Recovery Support Services.
• Recreational and team building activities 12-step education	• Family counseling and education
• Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)	• Recovery planning, and relapse prevention
• Recovery Coaching	• Medication Assisted Recovery (MAR)
• Hepatitis C / Viral Hepatitis Resources & Information	• Medication Information / Assistance
• HIV / AIDS Resources & Information	• Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution Services (Narcan/Naloxone)
	• Vivitrol / Injectable Naltrexone

Resources:

• Heroin / cocaine anonymous	• Rosecrance Aware Center
• Ms Carleys Place	• Carpenters Place
• GEO	• St. Anthony's Hospital
• Winnebago parole/probation	• Anonymous groups
• Forest City Church	• Crusader Clinic
• JDOC Parole/Probation	• NAACP
• Winn. Health Dept.	• Remedies
• Goodwill	• Bergstrom
• Rockford Park District	• Brightstar
• Jerimiah Development	• Greendale recovery house
• Liv4Lali	• City First Church