



Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee

Committee Members:

Angie Goral

Winnebago County
Board Member

Philip Eaton

President/CEO
Rosecrance

Carol Klint, RN, M.S.

Behavior Health
Advocate

Richard Kunnert M.S. ED.

President of the Mental
Health Association of
the Rock River Valley

Donny Parham

Former Winnebago
County Sheriff's
Department Senior
Deputy

Charles Smith, M.D.

Founder of Group Hope

Matthew Toohy

Executive Director of
Access Services of
Northern Illinois

Sandra Martell, RN, DNP

Winnebago County
Health Department
Administrator
(Ex-Officio)

Contact: Sue Fuller, Public Information Officer 815-720-4213

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2015

For Immediate Release

**Today (October 15) is the deadline to complete surveys assessing scope of
Rockford-area behavioral health services**

(October 15, 2015) – Today is the final day to complete an important survey that will help determine how to improve behavioral health care services for individuals and families in Winnebago County.

The Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee, tasked with advising Winnebago County leaders on how to address service gaps for needed behavioral health services, is leading a survey project that will offer feedback on a variety of topics. Those topics include how easy/difficult it is to access care and how prevalent behavioral health issues are within the community.

Behavioral health is a broad category that represents mental health and substance abuse treatment, as well as services for people with developmental disabilities.

Winnebago County is the only urban area in Illinois that has no broad-based local funding support for behavioral health services. That lack of local dollars has been magnified in recent years as agencies have grappled with state budget cuts and other grant reductions.

Surveys were distributed starting in August to three key groups: providers, referral sources and community members who have direct or indirect experiences with behavioral health services. More than 1,700 surveys have been returned so far; the majority of those were completed by community members.



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The community member survey – available in English and in Spanish – is anonymous, though participants can include their contact information if they want to stay involved. Access the community survey by clicking this link or pasting it into your Web browser:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/MHACWINCO. You can also visit the Winnebago County Health Department's website at www.wchd.org, click "Mental Health Advisory Committee" on the left side of the page and access the survey links or download paper copies of the survey.

Completed paper surveys can be returned to Winnebago County Health Department receptionists in Rockford at 401 Division St. and 555 N. Court St., or to the Winnebago County administration building at 404 W. Elm St., Rockford.

Please call 815-720-4200 to request a paper copy of the community survey, electronic links to the provider/referral surveys or more information. You can also connect with the committee via Facebook (visit www.facebook.com and search "Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee") and Twitter (www.twitter.com/WinnCo_MHAC). Everyone's feedback is important no matter what your experience is with local services, so please help us spread the word.