



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)

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For Immediate Release

Survey project to assess scope of Rockford-area behavioral health services

(August 4, 2015) – The Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee needs your help in determining how to improve behavioral health care services for individuals and families.

The committee, tasked with advising Winnebago County leaders on solutions for local coverage gaps for needed behavioral health services, is sending out surveys 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 includes 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.

The surveys are being distributed to three key groups: providers, referral sources and community members who have direct or indirect experiences with behavioral health services. Committee members have identified a long list of recipients for the surveys, but anyone who does not receive a survey is still encouraged to participate.

“Before we can move forward with solutions on how to improve services, we need to understand what the needs truly are,” said Angie Goral, a Winnebago County Board member and chairwoman of the Mental Health Advisory Committee. “The public’s input is critical for this process, as critical as these services are for our community.”



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The community member survey is anonymous, though participants can include their contact information if they want to stay involved. The community survey is also available in English and Spanish. Visit the Winnebago County Health Department's website at www.wchd.org to electronically complete the survey.

If you prefer to complete this survey in paper format, you can download it from our website at www.wchd.org under the Mental Health Advisory Committee section, or call us at 815.720.4200, and we will mail you a paper copy of the survey. Completed paper surveys can be returned to Winnebago County Health Department receptionists at 401 Division St. or 555 N. Court St., Rockford, or to the Winnebago County administration building at 404 W. Elm St., Rockford.

The deadline to return the provider and referral source surveys is Aug. 25 and Sept. 8 for the community survey. Please call 815-720-4200 to request a survey or for 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 (twitter.com/WinnCo_MHAC).

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