

MICHIGAN'S TRANSFORMATION TO A RECOVERY ORIENTED SYSTEM OF CARE FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS – CHILD WELFARE

This is an extraordinary time in the history of substance use disorder (SUD) service systems. A recovery revolution is sweeping the nation and is having a profound impact on the design and delivery of all services and supports. Michigan, like many other states, is undergoing a transformation to a recovery oriented system of care (ROSC). This transformation entails a shift from models of care that promote brief biopsychosocial stabilization to those that support strength-based sustained recovery and community health.

In an acute care model, many individuals are able to successfully initiate their recovery in treatment, but they often have difficulty maintaining their recovery following treatment. As a result, they cycle in and out of a series of disconnected treatment episodes. In a ROSC, SUDs are viewed as long-term or chronic illnesses that often require ongoing support and multiple coordinated strategies to promote sustained recovery. As such, people are provided with a diverse range of services and supports that assist them in not only initiating their recovery, but also sustaining it and rebuilding their life in the community.

Additionally, traditional systems focus little on promoting community health. A ROSC, however, places greater emphasis on community health and wellness for all. As a result, prevention services, which have a long history of promoting personal and community health and wellness, are integral elements within a ROSC.

Why we need change:

- Fifty percent of clients entering treatment have already had at least one prior episode of care.
- SUD is a chronic condition, but we currently have an acute care treatment model.
- We want to broaden our system of treatment services.
- We want to integrate and better enhance the coordination of prevention, follow up and continuing care in the recovery process.
- The only way to provide all services needed is by working together in partnership and collaboration.

What is a ROSC?

Michigan's recovery oriented system of care supports an individual's journey toward recovery and wellness by creating and sustaining networks of formal and informal services and supports. The opportunities established through collaboration, partnership and a broad array of services promote life enhancing recovery and wellness for individuals, families and communities.

How this relates to Child Welfare:

- Being a partner in a ROSC with linkages to a broad spectrum of services creates the best opportunity to engage the individual and help them to attain and sustain recovery from SUDs and restore balance and health to the family.

- Nationally 40-80% of parents with children in the child welfare system have substance abuse related problems serious enough to affect parenting of their children.
- In Michigan, substantiated reports for 2008, there were approximately 7,000 cases in the child welfare system with potential substance abuse problems.
- More than 26,749 women in Michigan accessed treatment last year (FY 2009).
- 1 in 100 babies are born with alcohol related disorders; between 4-11% of all newborns are exposed to illicit drugs.

What are the benefits of a SUD/child welfare partnership?

Substance use disorder treatment and child welfare systems working collaboratively can provide children with safe, stable homes with nurturing families to develop a foundation for a healthy and productive life. The impact of this transformation could increase family stability, family reunifications and timely permanency for children, while reducing foster care placements and court utilization.

How can we make a difference?

By receiving input from both systems, we can provide greater understanding of the links between the SUD service and child welfare arenas, and gain greater understanding of what helps and hinders collaboration between these fields. Areas to consider could include:

1. Increasing the availability and types of SUD prevention and intervention services for parents involved in the child welfare system and their children;
2. Identifying and making available additional pathways to needed services, such as: effective intervention for drug dependent pregnant woman; treatment and recovery process options for young people in foster care; and
3. Improving personal and familial health and providing access to universal screening for families and drug exposed infants and children to reduce the number of drug exposed births.

The Importance of Culture in a ROSC

Our system of care will be culturally sensitive, gender competent and age appropriate. There will be recognition that beliefs and customs are diverse and can impact the outcomes of recovery efforts. It will be recognized that the cultures of those who support the recovering individual affect the recovery processes. We need to respect the culture of recovery itself. The culture of recovery requires long-term relationships, and collaborations that support and encourage individuals, families and communities to embrace recovery.

Michigan's recovery transformation efforts are designed to promote greater health and wellness for individuals, families and communities. We invite you to join this exciting effort. For more information, please contact the Bureau of Substance Abuse and Addiction Services at (517)373-4700 or mdch-bsaas@michigan.gov.