

MICHIGAN'S TRANSFORMATION TO A RECOVERY ORIENTED SYSTEM OF CARE FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES WHAT IT MEANS FOR AGENCY DIRECTORS IN THE SUD SERVICE SYSTEM

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 bio-psychosocial 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:

- SUD is a chronic condition, but we currently have an acute care treatment model.
- In Michigan, 54.4% of persons having received detoxification services have had at least one previous substance abuse admission; and 33.6% of persons having received long-term residential services have had at least one previous admission for the same service.
- The current system is a deficit-based approach.
- We want to broaden our system of treatment services through increased licensing options and providing services that meet the needs of every individual.
- We want to integrate and better enhance the coordination of prevention and treatment.
- The best way to provide all services needed is by working together in partnership and collaboration with other systems.

Additionally, we need to:

- Create expectation that full recovery is a life-long pursuit supported and successful through necessary intervention and needed community support;
- Recognize that prior treatment and relapse and recovery cycles are indicative of SUD;
- Acknowledge the fact that re-occurrence is an expected and accepted reality of the disorder;
- Embrace aftercare as critically important to the recovery process; and
- Respect the fact that recovery requires ongoing relationships rather than brief interventions.

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.

Elements of a ROSC that promote recovery:

- Holistic and integrated services: beyond symptom reduction.
- Continuity of Care: assertive outreach and engagement; and ongoing monitoring and support.
- Culturally responsive services.
- Peer support.
- Community health and wellness.
- Systems anchored in the community.
- Person centered, self-directed.
- Family and other ally involvement.
- Individual approaches.
- Partnership-consultant relationships.

Administrators will need to:

- Be a strong advocate for the ROSC transformation;
- Thoroughly assess assets and challenges;
- Establish and maintain relationships with key stakeholders and ROSC partners – be inclusive;
- Engage key stakeholders in a strategic planning process for ROSC that results in a multi-year plan;
- Assess the training and preparation needs of providers and partners;
- Provide training and technical assistance to providers and partners to ensure the greatest opportunities for ROSC transformation success; and
- Act as a strong and supportive change agent within your agency and community.

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.