

MICHIGAN'S TRANSFORMATION TO A RECOVERY ORIENTED SYSTEM OF CARE FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES – PREVENTION

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.

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.

A recovery oriented systems of care:

- Places a greater emphasis on community health and wellness for all;
- Has initiatives that are strategically planned and provided using a diverse range of services and supports that assist in assessing risk, preventing the initiation and escalation of use, initiating and sustaining recovery, and rebuilding life in the community;
- Is an overarching philosophical approach applied to service networks and collaboration efforts, developed, implemented and enhanced to address issues related to, and assist persons affected by, SUDs; and

- Views SUD as long-term or chronic illnesses/conditions that often require ongoing support and multiple coordinated strategies to promote sustained recovery for individuals, their families and friends and the community.

Elements of a ROSC:

- 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.

Why do we need a ROSC?

- Individuals with SUD and related problems do not live in a vacuum. They are members of families, they have networks of friends, and they live in communities, all of which are impacted by the personal and collateral damage inflicted by their SUD.
- Traditional services do not appear to be adequately addressing the initial or ongoing needs and/or issues resulting from SUD and related problems. Currently only about twenty percent of the services needed are being addressed. Sustaining initial effective outcomes is a goal that is not often achieved due to the acute and brief nature of interventions.
- The majority of individuals receiving interventions for addiction resume alcohol and other drug use within one year. The result of their return to use will again produce harmful effects on their family, friends and community.

Implications of a ROSC:

- A greater emphasis on continuum of care, whose focus is health and wellness that is holistic, integrated, culturally responsive and anchored in the community.
- A diverse menu of services and supports intended to impact individuals, the conditions immediately surrounding them and the community as a whole.
- An assertive effort to connect individuals and families to natural supports as well as working to create community awareness, enhance educational initiatives and combat stigma.
- A focus that seeks to create or enhance conditions and personal attributes that promotes personal and community wellness. Engage all members of the community in recovery support efforts.

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.