

2024 – 2026 Community Health Implementation Plan

Mental Health Services for Clark and Madison Counties, Inc.

Introduction

Consistent with Mental Health Services vision, mission, and values, we are committed to caring for the behavioral health needs of our community. Based on the community health needs assessments conducted in both Clark and Madison Counties, we have developed an implementation plan to address our community needs.

In the most recent Community Health Assessment, the Clark County Combined Health District and Madison County Public Health Department identified Mental Health and Substance Use as one of the top 4 priority areas for improvement.

In Clark County, the suicide rate per 100,000 is 15.4 (13.3 for Ohio) and the rate of depression is 16.4% (18.5% for Ohio). Our counties have nearly half of the ratio of mental health providers needed (1:1152) compared to the state at 1:561 Ohioans. In addition, we have nearly double the rate of uninsured residents at 14.2% (7.6% for Ohio). This can lead to problems with access to care due to limited number of mental health providers.

Implementation Strategies to address community health needs

Mental Health Services chairs the Mental Health Wellness and Suicide Prevention Coalition which is a subcommittee of the Clark County Health Department Steering Committee to address mental health and substance use needs. Madison County management staff are active in the Madison County Health Improvement Plan and serve as a liaison to Mental Health Services leadership.

Objectives to support both Madison and Clark Counties include:

1. Open access to gain services for mental health and substance use treatment is available in both counties to address any access to care barriers.
2. A standardized suicide screening tool is used across the organization to anyone seeking treatment and as a follow up to care.
3. A standardized screening tool is used to screen for symptoms of depression.
4. A standardized safety plan is developed with any client evaluated to be at risk for suicide.

5. MHS staff will receive annual training in evidence-based screenings and assessments to determine the risk of suicide.
6. MHS staff work together as a team along with prescribers to treat depression, a common disorder that indicates potential risk for suicide or harmful behaviors.
7. Increase the number of medication assisted treatment providers to offer MAT to individuals struggling with alcohol or opiate use disorder.

Conclusions

MHS is dedicated to working with other community stakeholders to improve the health of our citizens in Clark and Madison Counties. We look to expand services and options to offer anyone seeking treatment as many options as possible. We will continue to serve on the Health Department committees in both Clark and Madison County to be part of the solution to improving health outcomes.