Program Overview

Central Wisconsin Partnership for Recovery

Formed in 2019, the Central Wisconsin Partnership for Recovery (CWPR), is a consortium of at least 24 different organizations in Clark and Wood County, who have come together with the mission to create awareness and work together to reduce the prevalence of substance use disorder through prevention, treatment, and recovery. CWPR is facilitated by Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc. (FHC). In 2020, CWPR established four priority areas, including development and implementation of a jail discharge planner program in Wood County, which is further described in this report.

Wood County Jail Discharge Planner Program

The Discharge Planner/Case Manager position was created in collaboration between Wood County Human Services and the Wood County Sheriff’s Department. The position is supported through a collaborative relationship with FHC on behalf of CWPR. Funding is provided in part by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) through a Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) – Implementation grant.

This program was launched in November 2020 to reduce recidivism in Wood County through referral of individuals to county and community programs and services. In addition, the Jail Discharge Planner also provides feedback to the Central Wisconsin Partnership for Recovery on gaps in existing services.

Program Objective:

Maintain Wood County Jail Discharge Planner program such that 80% of individuals who have been sentenced to ≥ 30 days in the Wood County Jail have at least one meeting with the Jail Discharge Planner prior to release.
A survey was conducted over several weeks in December 2020 to establish baseline demographics for the population being served with 118 respondents. The survey was repeated on a single day in December 2022 with 27 respondents. Those served tend to be white males with at least a high school education; many, if not most, reported having no source of income.

### Demographics of Population Served

**Gender Identity**

- Male: 75.4%
- Female: 24.6%

**Sexual Orientation**

- Heterosexual or Straight: 92.2%
- Bisexual: 6.1%
- Gay or Lesbian: 1.7%

**Race and Ethnicity**

- White: 77.1%
- Mixed Race: 6.8%
- American Indian: 6.8%
- African American: 5.1%
- Hispanic/Latino: 2.5%
- Native Hawaiian/PI: 0.8%
- Other: 0.8%
- Asian: 0.0%

**Level of Education**

- Some High School: 19.0%
- High School or GED: 46.5%
- Some College: 27.6%
- 2-Year College Degree: 1.7%
- 4-Year College Degree: 5.2%

**Source of Income**

- None: 44.8%
- Job: 38.8%
- Social Security (SSI): 8.6%
- Disability (SSDI): 6.9%
- Other (e.g., per capita): 8.6%
- Unemployment: 4.3%
- Child Support: 2.6%
- Veteran’s Benefits: 0.9%
- Worker’s Compensation: 0.0%
Surveys conducted in January 2021 (n=118) and January 2023 (n=29) included questions about substance use and mental illness as potential factors contributing to incarceration. Most respondents reported using drugs or alcohol regularly and regarded that use as a factor contributing to their current incarceration. The proportion of respondents who reported wanting substance use or mental health treatment and being unable to find it increased between 2021 and 2023.

### Substance Use

**January 2021**
- Reported using drugs or alcohol on a regular basis: 63%
- Reported substance use influenced why they were currently in jail: 61%
- Reported not receiving treatment for drug or alcohol use: 43%
- Wanted substance use treatment, but were unable to get or find treatment options: 41%

**January 2023**
- Reported using drugs or alcohol on a regular basis: 74%
- Reported substance use influenced why they were currently in jail: 67%
- Reported not receiving treatment for drug or alcohol use: 37%
- Wanted substance use treatment, but were unable to get or find treatment options: 56%

### Mental Health Conditions

**January 2021**
- Reported not receiving treatment for mental health conditions outside of jail: 38%
- Wanted mental health treatment, but were unable to get or find treatment options: 38%

**January 2023**
- Reported not receiving treatment for mental health conditions outside of jail: 26%
- Wanted mental health treatment, but were unable to get or find treatment options: 59%
Meetings with Jail Discharge Planner & Completed Discharge Plans

Individuals in the custody of Wood County are offered the opportunity to meet with the Jail Discharge Planner who works to create discharge plans based on individuals’ specific needs. From program start through April 2023, 625 individuals met with the Jail Discharge Planner and 551 completed a discharge plan.

The Jail Discharge Planner completes an average of 21 discharge plans per month.
Referrals & Follow-Up

Referrals for Services
The Jail Discharge Planner has made 3,354 referrals to various resources. The top five referrals for service in completed Discharge Plans include food, employment, housing, health insurance, and substance use treatment.

Referrals January 2021 – April 2023 (Program Total)

- Food: 537
- Employment: 533
- Housing: 440
- Health Insurance: 394
- Substance Use: 378
- Clothing: 300
- Fines & Fees: 225
- Mental Health: 183
- Other: 138
- Transportation: 106
- Income: 62
- Primary Care: 53
- Domestic Violence: 5

The Jail Discharge Planner makes an average of 134 referrals to various resources per month.

Follow-Up Survey 6-Months Post-Release
In January 2022, the Discharge Planner began attempting to contact individuals six months after their release to conduct a satisfaction survey. Despite a relatively low response rate, 83 individuals who were released between June 2021 and September 2022 have completed surveys. Respondents overwhelmingly report that working with the Discharge Planner was helpful and that they were able to follow through with at least one referral.

- 96% reported that meeting with the jail discharge planner was helpful
- 95% reported connecting with at least one resource to which they were referred

The Wood County Jail Discharge Planner is an initiative of the Central Wisconsin Partnership for Recovery in partnership with Wood County Human Services and Wood County Sheriff’s Department, and funded in part by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) – Implementation Grant GA1RH39557-01-00 awarded to Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc.
Case Management Highlights

Service Expanded to Reach Broader Population
The primary strategy with case management has been to continue to expand services to all who might benefit from jail discharge planning. The Discharge Planner has worked with Jail staff to modify reports to ensure those with release dates are identified and to include individuals serving probation sanctions. A combination of several reports are being used and one more is in development with support from Jail staff and the IT department with the goal of streamlining the process.

Support for Individuals Housed in the Adams and Waupaca County Jails
The Adams and Waupaca County Jails house some individuals incarcerated in Wood County as part of a “safe-keeps” program. The Discharge Planner has worked to develop a relationship with these jails to support interaction with individuals incarcerated there.

Brochure Developed to Support Connection to Resources
A brochure was created for distribution to those who either choose not to or are unable to work with the Discharge Planner prior to release. The brochure includes contact information for the most commonly referred resources for housing, food, health insurance, employment, and mental health and substance use disorder treatment resources.

Coordination of Services with Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP)
The Discharge Planner meets routinely with the EMP Sergeant to review those potentially being released into the community with the goal of providing discharge planning services to these individuals prior to release. Though not always realistic, the majority of EMP releases now meet with the discharge planner as a result of this communication.

Responsiveness to Arising Needs and Available Resources
The Discharge Planner spends considerable time working toward improved communication with the various programs and entities he interacts with on behalf of clients. An unintended consequence of this improved communication is that other resources to assist clients often become apparent. The Discharge Planner has worked hard to coordinate access to these additional resources as they become available. Examples include onsite Rent Smart training provided by UW-Madison, Division of Extension, gifts for children of incarcerated parents during the holiday season, access to warm clothing for those discharged in winter months, and backpacks provided by Love INC. The Discharge Planner has observed increased connections with primary care, mental health, and substance use treatment services.
Facilitated Connections to Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Resources for substance use treatment can be limited. Discharge Planning prioritizes making connections for someone who is incarcerated to coordinate what is needed when an opportunity is available. Relationships have grown over time to facilitate rapid connection to treatment upon release, especially with FHC Marshfield Alcohol & Drug Recovery Center, Wood County Human Services, and Aspirus.

Access to Overdose Reversal Medication

Upon release from incarceration, individuals who use opioids have an extremely elevated risk of overdose. The Discharge Planner supports opportunities for individuals released from incarceration and the broader community to access the overdose reversal medication naloxone (Narcan®). In August 2021, in partnership with Wisconsin Voices of Recovery, a Nalox-Zone Box was installed in the Jail Lobby. The box contains naloxone doses and resources, including a brochure listing local service providers. The Discharge Planner encourages individuals to use this resource and also puts naloxone kits in a person’s personal belongings for release through a Badger State Sheriff Association’s program that will soon come to an end.

Coordination of Entry into Related Programming

Survey data suggest that substance use is a major contributor to incarceration in Wood County. In addition to making referrals for treatment upon release, the Discharge Planner also works with individuals to access related recovery supportive programming while they are incarcerated. For example, local recovery community organization Three Bridges Recovery offers SMART Recovery programming for individuals housed in the jail’s recovery pod. In addition, Wood County Sheriff’s Department was awarded one of three Wisconsin Department of Justice COSSAP 2019 (2022) Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) grants to begin administering MAT within the jail walls. Administered by the Criminal Justice Coordinator, the Discharge Planner supports the identification of eligible individuals and connection to continued treatment immediately upon release.
Conclusion

The Jail Discharge Planner Takes Steps to Address the Top Five Needs Identified

The top five most commonly identified needs include food, employment, housing, health insurance, and substance use treatment. The Jail Discharge Planner works closely with other Human Services staff to make referrals for economic and employment support (e.g., FSET) and arrangements to support BadgerCare enrollment or reactivation upon release. The Jail Discharge Planner also routinely makes referrals to Northcentral Community Action Program (NCCAP) to address housing needs and works with individuals on applications for supportive housing prior to release. The position has served as an important source of information regarding housing needs among those who are justice involved and has established access to Rent Smart training in the jail in partnership with University of Wisconsin – Madison, Division of Extension, which dovetails nicely with the Central Wisconsin Partnership for Recovery’s RentReady Program.

Substance Use is a Major Contributing Factor for Incarceration

The Jail Discharge Planner program grew out of recognition by members of the Central Wisconsin Partnership for Recovery that substance use disorder was a major contributing factor to incarceration and recidivism. The Jail Discharge Planner has been instrumental in implementing a number of innovative programs that attempt to mitigate this problem.

Community Agency Feedback Regarding the Jail Discharge Planner Program is Overwhelmingly Positive, Others are Hopeful to Replicate the Model

The network of agency partners willing to work closely with Jail Discharge Planner to meet the needs of those being released from incarceration is impressive and growing. These agencies often appreciate the warm hand-off and word of success is spreading. The Clark and Marathon County Jails have sought assistance from the Wood County Jail Discharge Planner in establishing similar services.

The Role of the Jail Discharge Planner May Expand in the New Jail

Space in the new Wood County Jail will allow for an increased number of individuals to be housed onsite and also offer additional space for programming, both of which will increase demand on the Jail Discharge Planner and may warrant consideration for expanding the position.

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