

KENT COUNTY
STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Vision: A Mentally Healthy, Safe and Drug-Free Kent County.

Mission: To assist individuals and families affected by substance abuse, mental illness and co-occurring disorders to achieve a better quality of life through prevention, intervention and comprehensive treatment. Our primary value is to preserve the dignity and well being of every individual and family through the promotion, restoration and maintenance of a healthy and productive life.

PREVENTION:

Goal 1: To assist the citizens of Kent County in living mentally healthy, substance free lives through education, community building and environmental strategies.

Objective 1: Use appropriate, culturally competent and varied science-based strategies in providing prevention services to citizens of Kent County in all settings.

Objective 2: Increase prevention services to children whose parents / caregivers are in drug treatment or incarcerated by partnering with health department substance abuse treatment services and other appropriate entities to identify families at risk.

Objective 3: Partner with health department treatment services to provide the full continuum of addiction services in the Kent County Detention Center.

Objective 4: Increase awareness and collaboration on substance abuse issues through active participation, support and leadership in agency and community groups as needed.

Objective 5: Utilize universal and targeted science-based environmental strategies to change individual, community and social norms related to substances and to reduce access of illegal substances to underage youth.

Performance Target: Reduce the overall incidence of first use of substances among youth ages 11 – 17.

Measure: Number of new users.

INTERVENTION:

Goal 2: Develop and maintain an accessible community system of intervention and treatment services.

Objective 1: Develop standard screening, assessment and referral protocols for all public human services and law enforcement agencies.

Objective 2: Develop and maintain a Student Assistance Program in collaboration with the Kent County Board of Education.

Performance Target: Increase the number of adolescents needing treatment by accessing substance abuse intervention services and treatment services.

Measure: Percentage of population in need accessing treatment services.

TREATMENT:

Goal 3: Develop and maintain an integrated continuum of efficient and effective treatment services for both substance abuse and mental health.

Objective 1: Increase substance abuse education and treatment services for both substance abuse and mental health.

Objective 2: Increase residential treatment capacity for individuals with co-occurring disorders (20 beds) and women with children (5 beds). Dually diagnosed capable (A. F. Whitsitt Center is a 24 bed dually diagnosed capable facility.) The addition of 25 additional beds (or a new regional facility), would lower the waiting period for an individual to wait for services.

Objective 3: Develop regional halfway house services to serve both men and women following discharge from ICF.

Objective 4: Develop a long-term treatment center for the Upper Shore region.

Objective 5: Develop “no wrong door” philosophy for substance abuse and mental health agencies. Screening to be done by both teams. Family treatment, case management and continuing care services to ensure individuals do not fall between the cracks.

Performance Target: 1. Reduce the number of addicted individuals in Kent County.

Measure: Number of addicted individuals.

Performance Target: 2. Decrease the amount of time spent waiting to access services.

Measure: Actual amount of days waiting for entry into the program.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

Goal 4: **Develop a Behavioral Health infrastructure to sustain an efficient and effective system of care.**

Objective 1: Ensure adequate staffing for both mental health specialists and addiction specialists.

Objective 2: Achieve a one to one ratio of computer to clinician to ensure adequate data analysis.

Objective 3: Enhance and improve staff skills through technical assistance and training.

Performance Target: Retention of qualified leadership and clinical staff in both addiction and mental health specialties.

Measure: Actual turnover of staff, patient satisfaction surveys, referral source surveys, and quality assurance reviews.