Wayne County Recovery Coalition

October 2026 Newsletter

About Our Coalition:

The mission of the Wayne County Recovery Coalition (WCRC) is to improve the health and safety of individuals and families in Wayne County through comprehensive, community-wide strategies that reduce and prevent youth and adult substance use, assure treatment services are available and accessible for all, and promote long-term recovery for everyone. WCRC was initially formed in 2019 when a task force was developed to look into the rising number of ER visits related to drug misuse and overdose deaths due to opioids in Wayne County. In September of 2023, the WCRC was awarded a Drug Free Communities Support Program (DFCSP) grant to prevent and reduce youth substance use.

Partners in Wayne County are uniting in health, safety, and well-being: *Anchored, Boys and Girls Club of the Altamaha Area, City of Odum, City of Screven, Coastal Pines Technical College, Drug Court, Family Connections, Forward Digital Marketing, Jesup Police Department, Life, Inc., Mother's Against Substance Abuse, Press Sentinel Newspaper, Safe Kids, Shane's Crib, Share Health Southeast Georgia, Southeast Health District, St. Simons by the Sea, Wayne County School System, Wayne County Sheriff's Office, and Wayne Memorial Hospital. By combining resources and support as partners in prevention, Wayne County will become a safe and healthy place for youth and families to thrive and live life substance free.*

Upcoming WCRC Meetings:

Tuesday, Oct 13th, 9:30 AM | 7200 Odum Hwy, Odum, GA 31555

Would you like to stay informed?

Email shaunamattinglyanchored@gmail.com to join our coalition email list and receive a calendar invitation for our upcoming meeting.

Pineland BHDD Community Service Board

Mental Health Community Coalition 2026 Meeting:

November 10: In-Person (Toombs, Location TBD)

All Meetings Start at 10:30 AM

For questions, please contact:

Sarah Refuss

serefuss@pinelandbhdd.org

Kratom and Youth: Know the Risks

Kratom is a plant-based substance that can have stimulant-like and opioid-like effects. While it may be marketed as "natural," kratom can pose health risks, particularly for young people.

What to Know:

- **Can lead to dependence and withdrawal**
- **May affect the brain and nervous system**
- **Can interact with medications or other substances**
- **Products can vary in strength and ingredients**
- **"Natural" does not always mean safe**

Talk with youth about the risks and encourage them to ask questions before using products marketed as herbal or natural.



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Check out our website and follow us on Instagram and Facebook!

https://www.waynecountyrecovery.com

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Recovery Bus Tour Brings the Community Together

The 2026 Georgia Recovers in Communities Bus Tour made its first celebration stop in Jesup, bringing more than 500 community members together to celebrate recovery, prevention, hope, and healthy choices. Hosted by Anchored, the event was a powerful example of what can happen when an entire community comes together.

The evening brought together children and church youth groups, prevention programs, nonprofits, schools, businesses, local government, law enforcement, fire and EMS, the recovery community, and community members of all ages. Families and visitors from across South Georgia, including Appling, Coffee, Long Counties, also joined the celebration.

With great food, live music, fun activities, sobriety chips, and stories of hope and recovery, the event highlighted both the strength of the recovery community and the importance of prevention. Wayne County Family Connection also participated, with more than 80 individuals visiting their booth to make a statement about why they choose to say no to alcohol and other substances, emphasizing the importance of prevention and healthy choices for youth and families.

The event also featured recognition of individuals and businesses making a difference in the community. The Chamber of Commerce President and a representative from the Industrial Authority presented economic awards to businesses whose owners are in long-term recovery, while the Mayor of Jesup recognized a husband and wife in long-term recovery for their years of service to the community.

A special thank you to Anchored for hosting this celebration and to the many community partners who helped make the evening possible. We would like to thank Jenny Deloach, Region 5 Director for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), for her continued support, along with Mayor Ralph Hickox, State Representative Steven Meeks, and Matthew Worth, District Director for Congressman Buddy Carter, for joining the Wayne County community in celebrating recovery and prevention.



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Wayne County Youth Vaping Prevention Billboard

Share Health Southeast Georgia, on behalf of the Wayne County Recovery Coalition (WCRC), is proud to announce that a new youth vaping prevention billboard is now up in Wayne County. The billboard provides a highly visible prevention message encouraging young people to recognize the cycle of nicotine use and make healthy choices.

The campaign is part of WCRC's ongoing Drug-Free Communities Support Program efforts to address youth substance misuse through education, awareness, and community collaboration. The billboard was made possible through a mini grant from the RYAM Foundation and is designed to reach youth, parents, families, and community members throughout Wayne County.

A special thank you to Crista Carroll, MPH, Share Health's Communications and Marketing Specialist, for spearheading the design, coordination, and completion of the billboard campaign. Through efforts like this, Share Health and WCRC continue to bring prevention messaging beyond traditional community events and make important health information visible throughout Southeast Georgia.

CHECK IT OUT

The new billboard is now on display in Wayne County. If you're traveling through the area, be sure to look for it!

Location: Hwy 301, 0.33 miles south of Rayonier Road





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SAVE THE DATE!

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAININGS

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

NOVEMBER 3, 2026

9:30AM-4:00PM

APPLING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
560 BARNES ST, BAXLEY, GA 31513

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

DECEMBER 3, 2026

9:30AM-4:00PM

APPLING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ROOM
69 TIPPINS STREET, BAXLEY, GA 31513

Gents & Glam

Share Health SOUTHEAST GEORGIA

Coalition for a Healthy Appling County

Magnolia Coastlands AHEC Area Health Education Center

Stay tuned for event updates, and registration information!

GEORGIA NURSING LICENSURE RENEWAL

THE GEORGIA BOARD OF NURSING DEEMS MAGNOLIA COASTLANDS AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER AS AN ACCEPTABLE PROVIDER FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE). THIS ACTIVITY IS APPROVED FOR 8 CE HOURS TOWARD THE CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR GEORGIA LICENSURE RENEWAL. NURSES SHOULD ONLY CLAIM CREDIT COMMENSURATE WITH THE EXTENT OF THEIR PARTICIPATION.