

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 18, 2020

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**Wayne County Board of Health Receives Rural Health
Network Development Planning Grant**
Fund Total of One Million Dollars to be Dispersed Over Three Years

JESUP, GA – The Wayne County Board of Health has been awarded a one million dollar grant to be dispersed over the next three years. This funding is provided by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The goal of this grant is to kickstart a strategic plan for prevention, recovery and treatment of those affected by Substance Use/Opioid Use Disorder (SUD/OD). The Wayne County Substance Abuse Coalition (WCSAC) was formed in July 2019 in order to develop an integrated healthcare network for community collaboration in tackling SUD/OD. WCSAC will initiate multiple strategies over a three-year span to improve family members' and community members' understanding of these disorders.

Wayne County Substance Abuse Coalition Members



Wayne County's emergency room visit rate for disorders relating to drug use in 2018 was 285.2 per 100,000 individuals compared to 233.4 for Georgia. In 2018, there were 1,396 drug overdose deaths in Georgia alone. Opioids represent the leading cause of drug overdose and emergency room visits in Wayne County. Due to this disturbing data, the WCSAC intends to establish a peer-to-peer support system for local providers interested in obtaining a Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) waiver and make peer support specialists available to clients. Training will be offered to providers, administrative staff and other relevant stakeholders to offer the best quality care through MAT.

This collaborative effort is a great undertaking that will provide numerous benefits to the community and aims to encourage reduction of SUD/OD. The WCSAC will implement activities and provide leadership and training opportunities to the community. In the next three years, the coalition will be working to increase the number of local MAT providers, increase availability of Naloxone and increase local access to treatment and recovery programs.

WCSAC relies on the partnerships with healthcare providers, behavioral health professionals, public health representatives, law enforcement officers, chamber of commerce representatives, non-profit representatives, human services representatives and educators, all of whom are essential for the success of the reduction of SUD/OD. If you believe that you or your organization can make a positive impact within the WCSAC and would like to contribute as a WCSAC partner, please e-mail amickens@sharehealthsega.org. More information can be found at <https://www.sharehealthsega.org/wayne-county>.

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Coffee, Evans, Jeff Davis, Pierce, Tattnall, Toombs, Ware & Wayne counties*