



## **Richland County**

## Mental Health and Recovery Service Board FY21 What is the best definition of **RESILIENCE**?

Psychologists define resilience as the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or significant sources of stress- such as family and relationship problems, serious health problems, or workplace and financial stressors.



**FY21 RICHLAND COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH** & SUBSTANCE ABUSE STATISTICS

	Mental Health	Addiction Services
Adult	3698	2612
Children	2686	257
Total	6384	2869

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~ADDRESSING THE TREATMENT NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS WHILE FOCUSING ON BUILDING RESILIENCE AS A TOOL TO BE USED TO MAINTAIN RECOVERY~

"Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again."

Nelson Mandela

HAVING AN INDEPTH UNDERSTANDING OF RESILIENCY'S AFFECT ON MENTA HEALTH AND ADDICTION RECOVERY WE OPTED TO:

## ... TALK ABOUT IT!



## A Message from the Director

Despite living with a full year of COVID-19 and all the accompanying restrictions, as a system we still managed to provide treatment to 8,557 Richland County residents, this is only 10% below our 6-year average. I consider that a win in such an unusual fiscal year.

During the summer of SFY 2020, we worked with our County Commissioners to access COVID CARES funds to purchase over \$90,000.00 in teleservice equipment including laptops, high quality cameras and conference set ups empowering the agencies with the tools needed to provide superior quality teleservices. The equipment helped to expand to hybrid groups allowing for face to face or at home care. We provided equipment to Catalyst Life Services, Family Life Counseling, Mansfield UMADAOP, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Community Action for Capable Youth and Healing Hearts Counseling Center. This allowed agencies to stay nimble throughout the year and adjust on the fly to make services available regardless of restrictions.

We developed a pilot project using K-12 State funding to place specially trained Critical Incident Stress Management teams in several of the school systems. By September of 2020 eight School Districts had opted into the program. We assigned one of five teams, two from Catalyst Life Services, two from Family Life Counseling and one from Appleseed Counseling, to collaborate with specific school systems to provide stress debriefings with students, faculty and administration. This allowed behavioral health staff to be available at the level that was needed by the school with out trying to implement a one size fits all. We hope to start next school year with more districts involved and a larger menu of available services as we fund these teams with local dollars, losing many of the State fund restrictions.

January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, saw the official "go live" day for New Beginnings Withdrawal Management. This added a significant service to the County's continuum of care for addiction treatment. We started the year operating at half-capacity due to COVID restrictions, but we quickly moved to full operations by spring and have not looked back. We will be working over the next year to expand the reach of the facility to be able to serve contiguous counties and make sure we are filling empty beds. This facility will provide a significant stride forward in our continued effort to address the opiate epidemic.

As life began to re-emerge in the spring, we wanted to make sure that we were encouraging our community to be safe, but to participate in society again. We collaborated with several community partners to promote the Be A Good Neighbor campaign. We supported this under our KnowItB4UNeedIt initiative and planned events and activities that would increase community interaction and education on how and where to turn for help if you or someone you love needs it. One of our new events was our Community Stretch. We began during May is Mental Health to do a weekly Yoga and wellness session at Marshall Park. This will continue throughout the summer, with the intent of providing a venue for people to come out, socialize and be healthy in a setting that will allow the distancing needed to feel comfortable.

In summary, SFY 2021 has allowed us to exercise our ability to be nimble and adapt to the communities needs as they arise. I have a sneaking suspicion that we will see another year or two like this, before we relax, but I feel confident that our Board and our agencies are up for the challenge.

The Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board made an intentional decision to focus on IT... What is IT? IT is "RESILIENCE". In the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic Richland County has demonstrated the four principals of Resilience: Perseverance, Adaptability, Increasing Knowledge, and the Strength to move forward.

In 2021, the behavioral health system "Persevered" despite restrictions created through this worldwide pandemic our publicly funded agencies provided services to over 8000 Richland County youth and adults for treatment of mental illness and substance use disorders. The system "Adapted" and agencies quickly developed new ways to deliver essential services to people in need, through telephone services, video chats and sanitized face-to-face meetings. We "Increased Knowledge" during this time of transition through electronic communication and greater reliance on media. We enhanced the "Know It Before You Need It" initiative and increase community knowledge of available services before people need them. Now we are building a new initiative referred to as "The Good Neighbor" movement, encouraging the community to begin "safely" expanding their social circles and sense of community as we emerge from the challenging time. And lastly, we are "Moving Forward" as we begin to deal with the impact of the pandemic, we find our services in greater demand. Access to care is the key. To that end we will be piloting, up to, two Behavioral Health Urgent Cares. These will allow access to initial assessments and brief, solution-focused counseling six days a week and up to four evenings per week on a walk-in basis. We know that when someone decides they need help it is essential that they can access care quickly and conveniently. We are still in the development stages but hope to have the doors open on these Behavioral Health Urgent Cares on August 2, 2021. As a community we encourage Richland County residents, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to recommit to our community. This can be done by increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, by communicating the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health and by filling the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.