

## History and Purpose of Access to Health & Human Services Survey

**Why am I receiving this email?** You are receiving this email because, as part of your job responsibilities and on behalf of the clients you serve, you attempt to access services or programs that are administered by the Winona County Health and Human Services (HHS) Department. We would like to use your professional experience and expertise to further clarify gaps that were identified in a Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) Report.

**What is the history and purpose of a SIM Report?** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation, which is operated by Policy Research Associates, awarded a Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) workshop to the Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. The objective was to discover resources, gaps in services, and opportunities for adults with mental health and substance abuse disorders. The SIM Workshop took place in March of 2021.

**What's in the SIM Report?** Among numerous other findings, the final SIM report for Winona County identified several gaps in areas generally within the responsibility of the Winona County Health and Human Services (HHS) Department. The SIM report lists findings about connections between the criminal justice system and the HHS Department. The gaps emerge from the review of the first Intercept - the Prevention/Early Intervention – pre-crisis stage. In its report to the County, the SIM report identifies these “Gaps/Challenges.”

- “Navigating the county system is difficult; county needs to improve access to mental health and substance use treatment.”
- “Warm handoffs for direct linkage to treatment and support services and assistance with navigating behavioral health and criminal justice systems-chemical health case management, housing stabilization services.”
- “Lack of information about available resources to members of the community; no accessible local resource directory.”
- “Health insurance – getting and keeping.”

**How are the gaps or challenges being addressed?** The Advisory Committee of the HHS Department and the CJCC have formed a joint subcommittee<sup>1</sup> to determine the accuracy of the statements made in the SIM report and, if it finds them to be true, to suggest how deficiencies can be corrected. The subcommittee will be using several strategies to gather, information, one of which is a survey.

**How can I help?** Based upon the work being done by other committees and to simplify the findings listed above, the subcommittee has condensed the above gaps/challenges into three main areas of inquiry: lack of knowledge, challenges with access, and issues maintaining eligibility. We have incorporated these questions into a Google Forms survey which we would like you to complete. If you desire, we can also conduct follow-up interviews for further clarification.

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<sup>1</sup> Called a workgroup in the CJCC structure but a subcommittee for the HHS Advisory Committee

All of your comments will be held in confidence. Our report will not enable anyone to identify the author of any statement made in the document. Because the number of invitees to participate in this project is relatively small, we will not publish the names or affiliations of participants.

**Where can I get more information?** For more information, please visit the SIM webpage of the Winona County CJCC website at <http://winonacountycjcc.org/sim-mapping/> or contact Kalene Engel, CJCC Executive Director at [kalene@engellawoffice.com](mailto:kalene@engellawoffice.com).