

DeWitt County Community Mental Health Board Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024 (December 1, 2023-November 30, 2024)

Prepared March 2025

Our Mission

The DeWitt County Community Mental Health Board's mission is to provide access to comprehensive, community-based services in an efficient and effective manner to all residents of DeWitt County with mental illness, substance misuse, and developmental disabilities.

Established August 22, 1967, by voter referendum, the DeWitt County Community Mental Health Board is the mental health authority of the county government operating under the provisions of H.B. 708, Illinois Revised Statutes, also known as the Community Mental Health Act (405 ILCS 20/) for mental health and developmental disabilities. For a full copy of the Act, see <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1499&ChapterID=34>

The role of the DeWitt County Community Mental Health Board is to ensure residents of our County have access to the mental health services they need. It is our goal these services are provided close to home without unnecessary barriers.

Meetings, Members, and Funding

The Mental Health Board meets on the second Monday of each month through April 2025 at 5:00 pm in the Vespasian Warner Library Activity Room. The monthly meeting date will move to the third Tuesday May 2025, at 5:00 pm, in the same location. All meetings are open to the public.

Including one vacancy, the seven-member Board includes the following members:

Ms. Katy Arnold, President

Ms. Sandra Beecher, Vice President

Ms. Kristina Deerwester, Secretary and DeWitt County Board Liaison

Ms. Tina Harrison

Ms. Nicole Lowers

Mr. Ted Lowers

The source of funding for the Mental Health Board is a tax levy collected by the DeWitt County Board. Mental Health Board members review requests for funding annually from eligible providers of mental health, substance use, and intellectual and developmental disability services. The Mental Health Board submits an annual budget request to the DeWitt County Board for review and approval of a levy rate and amount during the County's annual budget process in the fall.

Nonprofit and governmental organizations can obtain written funding criteria from the DeWitt County Community Mental Health Board. For information, please contact Sharon Mills, administrator, at 309-830-0696 or smills@dewittcountymhb.com, or see the Board's Website at www.dewittcountymhb.com.

Fiscal Year 2024 Funded Providers and Highlights

The DeWitt County Mental Health Board provided funding to 11 organizations for mental health, substance use, and intellectual and developmental disability programs and services serving County residents in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 (December 1, 2023-November 30, 2024). The following narrative briefly highlights each funded provider and their use of tax-levied funds to serve DeWitt County residents.

Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)

The CAC provides necessary services to children suspected of being victims of maltreatment or witnesses to violence. Through a multi-disciplinary team approach, our team provides criminal justice advocacy, crisis intervention, mental health services, medical services, and conducts forensic interviews with children in cases of child abuse and neglect. For the 2024 fiscal year, the DeWitt Mental Health Board provided funding to support the DeWitt County CAC rent and utilities in Clinton which allowed the organization to continue its presence in the County and reduce any barriers families may experience if they had to find transportation to travel to Bloomington, Illinois for services. Funding also covered professional development costs for staff members serving DeWitt County and therapy supplies.

In 2024, the DeWitt County CAC interviewed 37 children regarding allegations of child sexual and physical abuse. In addition, the CAC staff provided 24 hours of ongoing criminal justice advocacy services to victims who were involved in court cases to aid them in understanding the court process. The CAC also provided emotional and technical support through preparation for their testimony in trial. Furthermore, CAC staff provided 120 hours of general advocacy services. These services include, day of interview, crisis intervention and victim's rights education, among others. In 2024, Staff referred 2 clients for free counseling services and 7 clients for specialized medical exams. The CAC staff provided training in Central Illinois to their multidisciplinary partners, including team members, forensic interviewers, and law enforcement serving DeWitt County, and provided community training.

Clinton Community YMCA

Funding helped to support the Clinton Community YMCA in providing health and wellness services to DeWitt County residents. In FY 2024, the YMCA used funding to provide membership scholarships to behavioral health clients (55 scholarships supporting individuals and families, 120 people) and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (34 people). The YMCA also used funding to support several children with special needs who enrolled in their Y-Zone program and Camp Osage Summer Camp.

Dove, Inc.

Dove, Inc., headquartered in Decatur, serves five counties including DeWitt County. The Domestic Violence Program used funding in FY 2024 to cover the DeWitt County coordinator’s salary and benefits, emergency shelter in a motel, and basic client needs. The Domestic Violence Program crisis hotline and Clinton office with full-time staff allowed DeWitt County to offer accessible crisis and supportive domestic violence services, including individual advocacy, legal and medical advocacy, counseling, domestic violence education, crisis shelter, housing, economic, and employment advocacy/assistance, transportation assistance, and services for children and teens.

Dove’s Domestic Violence Program directly touched the lives of 43 DeWitt County residents in 2024 and services to them rippled outward among their families, friends, and the communities where they live. Also under the DeWitt County coordinator’s supervision, Dove’s Food Pantry provided food and household items to 827 DeWitt County families, totaling 2,302 individuals in FY 24. The DeWitt County coordinator and the Committee Against Domestic Violence provided outreach and education which included community presentations and sponsoring a High Tea with Friends event in August and a community Candlelighting Service for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

“Funding from the DeWitt County Community Mental Health Board in 2024 was vital to Dove and the DeWitt County communities it served. The funds helped us provide a lifeline to those dealing with domestic violence.”

-Joyce Kirkland, Dove Domestic Violence Program Director

An example of this work and its impact follows: “During FY24, a woman contacted Dove for assistance completing an Order of Protection against her partner due to mental, emotional, and physical abuse. The Dove advocate provided emotional support and information on victims’ rights and services available. The advocate completed Intake, Order of Protection paperwork, and appropriate releases of information, and e-filed the Order of Protection. The advocate did extensive safety planning with the survivor and helped her complete a service plan and set personal goals. The advocate accompanied the woman to court and provided emotional support during the hearing. An Emergency Order of Protection was granted. During the next two weeks, the advocate helped the survivor with preparation for the hearing for Plenary Order of Protection, providing explanations of courtroom procedures and protocols. The advocate provided emotional support and accompaniment on the day of the Plenary hearing. The Plenary Order of Protection was granted for a period of two years and the survivor expressed gratitude for the advocacy and support provided by Dove. Since completing the Order of Protection, the survivor has been attending DV 101 classes at Dove with the advocate. She has been able to identify relationship red flags and fine-tune her safety plan. She expressed to the Dove advocate that she is starting to feel safer and more confident.”

-Ashlyn Burrus, Dove Domestic Violence Program Coordinator

Encore Developmental Services

Fiscal Year 2024 Mental Health Board funds were used to support 10 people in Encore's Employment Services (ES) Program which works with people who may be struggling with traditional employment, and those who qualify for, but who do not yet receive funding from, the State of Illinois Division of Developmental Disabilities. Funding provided for staffing to support individuals in acquiring skills to reach personal goals and to improve the ease of creating personalized plans for each employee. Funding also helped to support the design and installation of a new fire alarm system making the facility safer for everyone.

People who participate in Employment Services primarily work in one of Encore's two businesses: Encore Thrift Store and Landscape Services. The ES Program helps people gain the skills they need to seek community employment and succeed in it. Each person receives individualized instruction and skill development to help them develop the skill sets they choose. Skills may include resume development, job coaching, interview skills, work attendance, following instructions, safety, co-worker and supervisor relationships, money management, customer service, and social integration.

Farmer City Outreach

Farmer City Outreach aims to enrich the lives of all age groups through support, social opportunities, education, and connections to services and resources in Farmer City and the surrounding area. In FY 2024, the Mental Health Board provided funding to Farmer City Outreach for 16 gas cards, 4 gift cards for car cleaning, and 4 gift cards for oil changes. Outreach provided cards to volunteer drivers who help seniors with transportation to meet essential needs.

Growing Strong Sexual Assault Center

Growing Strong advocates offer free, confidential support to survivors of sexual violence—and their significant others and family members—throughout DeWitt, Macon, Moultrie, Piatt, and Shelby Counties.

In 2024, Mental Health Board funding supported a lease for space in Clinton at the Dove office allowing Growing Strong to maintain a local presence. In the office, counselors provided sessions, an advocate met with clients to prepare protective orders or get ready for court, and the prevention educator who worked in Clinton schools used the space during school breaks and to prepare for education sessions. Funding also covered staff mileage reimbursement, program supplies, and a portion of the prevention educator's salary.

“Without these funds many residents would not get the support from Growing Strong they need because we wouldn't have a place to use to meet with clients, and transportation to Decatur would be an obstacle more clients could not overcome. Also, our advocate meets regularly with the Clinton Police Department to work together to provide best services to survivors in Clinton.”

-Cathy Byers, Growing Strong
Executive Director

With DeWitt County Mental Health Board FY 24 funds, Growing Strong provided 113.25 hours of counseling services to 36 people and 160.25 hours of advocacy services to 11 clients. They also provided 16 hours of crisis intervention to DeWitt County residents who were not Growing Strong clients and presented prevention education sessions in all DeWitt County Schools throughout the year totaling 82 hours.

Heritage Behavioral Health Center

Headquartered in Decatur with an office in Clinton, Heritage Behavioral Health Center provides access to mental health, substance use, and psychiatry services to children, adolescents, and adults residing in DeWitt County. FY 2024 Mental Health Board funding helped to cover staff positions, training, travel, and non-Medicaid billable services for DeWitt County residents.

Heritage provides access to treatment to any resident of DeWitt County experiencing a mental health or substance use diagnosis who are unfunded or underfunded. Services provided include individual and group therapy, school-based counseling or therapy, community-based case management, psychiatric and medication management services, nursing services, crisis intervention, and community outreach and engagement. Heritage participates in community collaborations to partner and contribute to the overall wellness of individuals and families in DeWitt County.

Heritage has expanded the options for how individuals receive services to ensure they can access treatment including in-person at the Clinton office, by telehealth if transportation or accessing the office is a barrier, or in their home. Heritage provides training to youth, adults, community partners, and the community on how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health challenges and crises.

In FY 2024, Heritage served 539 DeWitt County residents across various mental health (MH) and substance use (SU) services. Residents were aged 4 to 77 and comprised a nearly equal number of males and females. For MH, individual therapy was the most frequently provided service, with a total of 2,033 sessions conducted. Providing community support for individuals followed closely with 767 instances of support provided, emphasizing the importance of personalized, community-based care.

In addition to these services, Heritage provides mental health case management and crisis intervention to help individuals navigate immediate crises. Individualized assessment and treatment planning are client-centered and help to determine the level of care a client needs. Family and group therapy are also available to support individuals in group settings for healing and coping strategies.

In 2024, Heritage also supported individuals with medication administration, monitoring, and training to educate them about prescriptions and how to manage them effectively. These services and psychiatric services delivered—464 times in FY 24—by nurse practitioners and physicians are a comprehensive approach to mental health care focused on both immediate support and long-term wellness.

Like mental health services, substance use treatment relies on assessment, treatment planning, individual and/or group therapy, and potentially, medication. This combination of services addresses both the immediate and ongoing challenges faced by individuals with substance use issues. See the table below for all services provided to DeWitt County residents in FY 2024.

Number of Mental Health, Psychiatry, and Substance Use Services Provided by Heritage Behavioral Health Center to 539 DeWitt County Residents in FY 2024 (Dec. 1-Nov. 30, 2024)

Service: Mental Health, Psychiatry, and Substance Use	Number of Services Provided (e.g., Sessions, Times)
MH CASE MANAGEMENT	250
MH CLIENT CENTERED CONSULTATION	40
MH COMMUNITY SUPPORT INDIVIDUAL	767
MH CRISIS INTERVENTION	56
MH FAMILY THERAPY	18
MH GROUP THERAPY	181
MH INDIVIDUALIZED ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT PLANNING	738
MH INDIVIDUAL THERAPY	2033
MH LOCUS ASSESSMENT	246
MH MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION	125
MH MEDICATION MONITORING	185
MH MEDICATION TRAINING	10
PSYCHIATRY	464
SU ASSESSMENT	44
SU CASE MANAGEMENT	1
SU COMMUNITY INTERVENTION	4
SU GROUP THERAPY	45
SU INDIVIDUAL THERAPY	64
SU TREATMENT PLAN	28

Macon County CASA

In 2024, the Macon County CASA Child Victim Advocacy Program provided advocacy for 9 children in foster care in DeWitt County and represented them in court. Each child received a minimum of 10 hours of advocacy per month. Advocacy includes health, mental health, educational, legal, and familial advocacy depending on a child’s needs. Mental Health Board funding helped to cover staff positions involved with recruiting, training, supervising, and retaining volunteer advocates.

Regional Office of Education 17

Olympia CUSD 16 used Mental Health Board funds for Youth Mental Health First Aid training for 11 teachers and staff. Olympia serves students from DeWitt County. Increasing the number of teachers and staff trained in YMHFA in any district equips adults to recognize and respond when a student may be struggling or need additional support. It also can help reduce stigma, increase access to services, and create a more supportive environment for all students.

Piatt County Mental Health Center (PCMHC)

In FY 2024, Mental Health Board funding supported staff benefits and mileage for travel for two PCMHC programs: the DeWitt County Recovery Oriented System of Care; and Substance Use Prevention Services in Blue Ridge CUSD 18 and Clinton CUSD 15 school districts.

The **DeWitt County Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC)**, now in its second year, provides recovery support services in DeWitt County. The ROSC Coalition meets monthly at the Health Department in Clinton and online. The ROSC Coalition and its coordinator, Maggie Memmott, actively supports those in recovery by identifying barriers to treatment and bringing recovery support services to residents in need.

The recovery network of providers and community members is growing in DeWitt County. In FY 24 and into FY 25, the ROSC has worked to accomplish the following:

- Strengthened partnerships with Blue Ridge High School, Clinton Junior High, Clinton Police Department, DeWitt County Housing Authority, DeWitt County Mental Health Board, DeWitt County Probation Office, DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department, Dove, Farmer City Library, Farmer City Outreach, Kenny Fire Department, Vespasian Warner Library, Village of Weldon, Wapella Fire Department, and Weldon Springs State Park Foundation.
- Provided 8 Naloxone trainings and assisted with installing 5 Naloxone boxes in Clinton, Farmer City, Kenny, Wapella, and Weldon with a sixth location to be determined. The ROSC will work with host sites to monitor cabinets and supplies.
- Held weekly groups for people in recovery in Farmer City and Clinton and met with people in the jail.
- Supported 3 people going to doctors' appointments; 9 people to get into inpatient rehabilitation; and 5 people with their court dates.
- Helped with resume development and job searches for 10 people.
- Celebrated 12 sobriety birthdays.
- Organized educational events and fun family events including hosting a candlelight vigil for those lost to addiction (25 participants); Thanksgiving Dinner (35 participants); Trivia Night (20 participants); Recovery Walk (30 participants); and Recovery Speaker Jam (25 participants).
- Shared resources with small businesses and participated in the Business Expo which had around 300 people.

“With Mental Health Board funding and support, the DeWitt County ROSC has been able to invite, recruit, maintain, and expand a supportive network for those in recovery. We believe that relationship building is essential to those in the recovery process and makes it much easier to encourage those to actively enter treatment.” -Maggie Memmott, DeWitt County ROSC Coordinator

The PCMHC also provided Substance Use Prevention programming in DeWitt County in FY 2024. Programs and outcomes include the following:

- Youth Prevention Education (YPE) included an 11-week Too Good for Drugs and Opioid curriculum for 184 6th grade students and 154 high school students with expansion to over 150 7th grade students in FY 2025.
- YPE also included My Generation RX campaign messages and activities to inform and teach youth about the dangers of misusing prescription and over the counter medications, and safe medication practices.
- Communication Campaign II, the anti-vaping media campaign at Blue Ridge Junior High School, serves about 215 students. The educator posts materials in the school along with underage drinking campaign materials used at Monticello High School.
- Administration of the 2024 Illinois Youth Survey working with Clinton and Blue Ridge CUSDs and the University of Illinois. Schools, prevention and mental health professionals, and others can use survey results to address issues that DeWitt County youth face. See <https://iys.cprd.illinois.edu/> for survey results on mental health, substance use, and the school environment for 314 8th, 10th, and 12th grade DeWitt County students.
- Drug Take Back Day events are advertised to all DeWitt County residents.

Prairieland Service Coordination, Inc.

The mission of Prairieland Service Coordination, Inc. (PSCI) is to provide lifespan individual service coordination to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Staff members help people with disabilities receive the assistance they need, want, and deserve to navigate daily living and connect to their communities. In 2024, PSCI served 72 people in DeWitt County. This is an increase of 14 Individuals that PSCI provides support for, compared to 2023. There are an additional 7 residents on the PUNS (Prioritization for Urgency of Need for Services) list who are waiting for State of Illinois funding for services.

Mental Health Board funding helped to cover PSCI staff members' professional development fees and personnel expenses for the Square 1 program which launched in DeWitt County in 2023. Square 1 helps individuals in DeWitt and Macon Counties who are facing life struggles. Program staff members address access barriers and help connect those who need assistance with local agencies and organizations who can help. In 2024, Square 1 staff assisted 23 people from DeWitt County; this is an increase from 5 people served in 2023. The Square 1 program director continues to network with local organizations, agencies, and coalitions to increase awareness of the program.

Mental Health Board Education and Collaboration

In addition to reviewing applications and contracting with organizations to serve DeWitt County residents, the Mental Health Board sponsors and provides training and education in DeWitt County and participates in community-based projects and coalitions.

The Mental Health Board sponsored, provided, and/or participated in these 2024 programs:

- Empowering Parents to Talk to Kids about Mental Health and the Dangers of Drugs, Vaping, and Alcohol, March 6-7, 2024, presented by Tim Ryan and Jennifer Gimenez to Clinton and Blue Ridge High School students and the community, with Marissa's Purpose, ROSC, Heritage, and schools.
- Darkness to Light Stewards of Children, April 4, 2024, Clinton, with Children's Advocacy Center presenting.
- May Mental Health Awareness Month video released with Warner Hospital Wellness Center.
- Struggling with Gambling? Understanding Gambling and Its Impact on Behavioral Health, September 17, 2024, Clinton, with Heritage and Gateway Foundation presenting.
- Winter/Holiday Blues and Coping Strategies presented at Memory Cafe, December 2, 2024, Clinton, with Warner Hospital Wellness Center and Community Cares Systems, Inc. hosting.

The Mental Health Board also participated in these local coalitions, projects, and a Statewide Association in 2024:

- DeWitt County Children's Mental Health Forum, coordinated by MHB administrator, meets bi-monthly by Zoom and is open to anyone. Health and human service providers regularly attend the meeting for professional development, networking, and resource sharing.
- Community Together Partnership led by Heritage Behavioral Health Center to strengthen the system of care for DeWitt and Macon County individuals from birth to age 25 and their families. Participation included regular meetings, assessment, training, and setting up for and working at the Gallery of Hope, April 20, 2024, Rock Springs Nature Center, Decatur.
- Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Council to enhance substance use prevention programming, increase access to treatment, and provide support for those in recovery, meets monthly. The ROSC participated in Mental Health Board-sponsored events and visa-versa. The Mental Health Board purchased six 24/7 accessible weatherproof Naloxone cabinets and worked with the ROSC to secure host sites throughout DeWitt County.
- DeWitt County Social Service Coalition, hosted by the University of Illinois Extension, meets monthly for networking and resource sharing.
- Association of Community Mental Health Authorities of Illinois quarterly meetings and bi-monthly Children's Behavioral Health Committee meetings. The administrator also attended ACMHAI-sponsored Webinars and a Mental Health Transportation Summit, September 20, 2024, in Carlinville, Illinois, hosted by two area Mental Health Boards.

DeWitt County Community Mental Health Board Revenues, Expenses, and Year End Account Total for Fiscal Year 2024 (December 1, 2023-November 30, 2024)¹

Revenues		Expenses	
Tax levy	\$509,724.30	Children’s Advocacy Center	\$10,317.12
Memorial ²	955.00	Clinton Community YMCA	2,500.00
Interest	<u>17,755.11</u>	Dove, Inc.	15,000.00
		Encore Developmental Services ³	103,500.00
		Encore Developmental Services Fire Alarm System Design and Installation	27,541.75
		Farmer City Outreach	1,060.00
		Growing Strong Sexual Assault Center ³	15,859.54
		Heritage Behavioral Health Center ³	296,511.95
		Macon County CASA ³	52,375.03
		Piatt County Mental Health Center ³	26,167.70
		Prairieland Service Coordination	3,519.21
		Regional Office of Education 17	263.45
		Tri-County Special Education Association ³	4,000.00
		Education and Training	6,000.00
		Board Expenses	12,066.89
		Administrator Position ⁴	<u>34,450.00</u>
Total	\$528,434.41	Total	\$611,132.64
Year End (November 30, 2024)		Bank Account Total	\$554,837.08

¹The DeWitt County Community Mental Health Board uses a cash basis for accounting. DeWitt County released Mental Health Funds, totaling \$637,535.31, to the Mental Health Board for reinvestment in a new account with DeWitt Savings Bank starting December 1, 2023. The County Treasurer now deposits tax disbursements levied for mental health directly into the Mental Health Board’s DeWitt Savings interest-bearing account. The Mental Health Board applied for and was assigned its own Federal Employer Identification Number October 23, 2023. The Board’s application to create a not-for-profit corporation in the State of Illinois was approved November 12, 2024. The DeWitt County Mental Health Board is pursuing Federal Recognition of Exemption under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

²The Estate of Phillip Charles Schmid made a memorial donation to the Mental Health Board in FY 2023 (June). The donation could not be deposited with the County’s Mental Health Fund. The Mental Health Board’s request to establish a special County fund for donations was not approved. The Mental Health Board deposited the donation into the DeWitt Savings account upon its opening December 1, 2023.

³These FY 2023 service expenses were paid out in FY 2024 (December 2023) and are included in totals above: Encore Developmental Services (\$7,500.00), Heritage Behavioral Health Center (\$106,022.93), Growing Strong Sexual Assault Center (\$6,442.58), Macon County CASA (\$27,375.03), Piatt County Mental Health Center (\$1,511.96), and Tri-County Special Education Center (\$4,000.00).

⁴Sharon Mills, MS, serves as the part-time administrator for the Board.