

**DeWitt County Community Mental Health Board Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report  
(December 1, 2022-November 30, 2023)  
March 2024**

**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 abuse, 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—or third Monday if that day is a holiday—at 5:00 pm in the Vespasian Warner Library Activity Room. All meetings are open to the public.

The seven-member Board includes the following members:

- Ms. Katy Arnold, President
- Ms. Nicole Barber
- Ms. Sandra Beecher, Vice President
- Ms. Kristina Deerwester, DeWitt County Board Liaison
- Ms. Tina Harrison
- Mr. Ted Lowers, Secretary
- Mr. Tim Mollet

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 disorder, 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, board administrator, at 309-830-0696 or [smills@dewittcountymhb.com](mailto:smills@dewittcountymhb.com), or see the Board's Website at [www.dewittcountymhb.com](http://www.dewittcountymhb.com).

## **Fiscal Year 2023 Funded Providers and Highlights**

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

### ***Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)***

The CAC provides necessary legal, medical, and other support and conducts forensic interviews with children in cases of child abuse and neglect. Mental Health Board funding in FY 2023 covered CAC facility rent and utilities in Clinton which allowed the CAC to continue its presence in the County and reduce any hardship a family may experience if they would have had to find transportation to Bloomington, Illinois, for services. In 2023, the DeWitt County CAC interviewed 22 children regarding suspected child sexual and physical abuse. The CAC provided to victims who were involved with court cases ongoing court advocacy services, free of charge, to aid them in understanding the court process. The CAC also provided emotional and technical support through preparation for their testimony in trial. Referred children and young adults received free counseling services through the CAC.

Funding also helped to provide professional development for staff members and covered the costs of therapy supplies. The CAC provided training in Central Illinois to their multidisciplinary partners in 2023, including team members, forensic interviewers, and law enforcement serving DeWitt County. In addition, the CAC was able to send eight multidisciplinary team members to the Crimes Against Children international child abuse conference in Dallas, Texas.

### ***Clinton Community YMCA***

Funding helped to support the Clinton Community YMCA in providing health and wellness services to clients of Heritage Behavioral Health Center and Encore Developmental Services, and to children with special needs that enroll in their programs. The YMCA also offered pool use one day per month to the Clinton Junior High School for students participating in the special education program.

### ***DeWitt County Probation/Drug Court***

The Drug Court Program utilized FY 2023 funding to help cover Unity Point Wellness counseling services for Drug Court participants.

### ***Dove, Inc.***

Dove, Inc., headquartered in Decatur, serves five counties including DeWitt. The Domestic Violence Program used funding in FY 2023 to cover the DeWitt County coordinator's salary and

benefits, emergency shelter in a motel, and basic client needs. The Domestic Violence Program provides support groups, counseling services, legal advocacy, residential shelter in Decatur, motel stays, referral to other services, and education to victims of abuse. Staff members can assist someone in obtaining an Order of Protection and determining legal options. Legal advocates can accompany a person as they work through the court system. In FY 2023 in DeWitt County, Dove assisted with 25 Orders of Protection and served 41 adults and 2 children through domestic violence services, totaling 473 hours of service provided.

### ***Encore Developmental Services***

FY 2023 Mental Health Board funding supported an agency administrative position and the Employment Services Program whose staff served 14 DeWitt County residents with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Employment Services staff members help participants reach their employment goals and gain new skills. Staff members also provide support for individuals to meet their financial, mental health, and physical health needs which helps them be more secure. Capital funding helped to support the design and installation of a new fire alarm system making the facility safer for everyone.

### ***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 2023, Mental Health Board funding supported a lease for space in Clinton allowing the Center to maintain a local presence. Funding also covered staff travel, program supplies, and a portion of wages and benefits for a health prevention educator. In DeWitt County, Growing Strong served 77 individuals and family members through counseling and advocacy services. Growing Strong provided 120 hours of education to schools in DeWitt County for students in kindergarten through high school. They also provided seven hours of training for clergy members, law enforcement agencies, and criminal justice and medical personnel.

### ***Heritage Behavioral Health Center***

Heritage provides access to mental health, substance use, crisis, and psychiatry services for DeWitt County residents. Additionally, Heritage can provide residents with access to in-patient substance use treatment, in-house crisis stabilization, and medication assisted recovery (MAR) services at its Decatur location. In FY 2023 Mental Health Board funding helped to cover staff positions, training, travel, and non-Medicaid billable services for DeWitt County residents. Funding also helped Heritage to purchase and renovate a building in Clinton in 2023. With the new building and a full staff, Heritage was able to expand services and increase space for private confidential services and hosting community meetings. Heritage also created a dedicated nursing office which allows for on-site visits with a psychiatric provider.

During FY 2023, Heritage's DeWitt County Clinical Services provided services to 406 individuals. Of those 406, 329 people reported mental health concerns only; 28 persons reported substance use concerns only; and 49 presented with at least one mental health diagnosis and one substance use diagnosis. Heritage provided services to people of all ages with 29 percent of those served being children and the remaining persons adults and senior adults. Most

participants in the program had addresses in Clinton (83%) although Heritage served people from communities County-wide.

Heritage provided a total of 5,759 services to people at DeWitt County Clinical Services. Staff members provided most services in the mental health program including mental health case management, community support, and counseling services (75%). The remaining services comprised psychiatric and medication services (16%); crisis intervention services (3%); and substance use treatment services (7%). The total amount of services provided increased from 4,486 in FY 2022 to 5,759 in FY 2023. Heritage staff members also provided Ending the Silence (ETS) training to students in Clinton Schools about signs of mental health challenges and how to address them. Last year, approximately 100 students at the high school and 125 students at the junior high school participated in ETS training.

### ***Macon County CASA***

In 2023, the Macon County CASA Child Victim Advocacy Program provided advocacy for 12 children in foster care in DeWitt County and represented them in court. Each child received a minimum of ten hours of advocacy per month. Advocacy includes health, mental health, educational, legal, and familial advocacy depending on what a child needs. Mental Health Board funding helped to cover staff positions involved with recruiting, training, supervising, and retaining volunteer advocates.

### ***Piatt County Mental Health Center (PCMHC)***

Mental Health Board funding supported two PCMHC programs: development and launch of 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 PCMHC is serving as the fiduciary agent and supervisor for the DeWitt County Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC). Coalition meetings began in January 2023 with an official ROSC launch in July 2023. The ROSC Coalition actively supports those in recovery by identifying barriers to treatment and bringing recovery support services to residents in need. With its coordinator and the involvement of people with lived experience, local providers and health care professionals, school officials, and law enforcement, the ROSC accomplished the following in 2023:

- Developed a needs assessment, priorities, goals, objectives, and a communication plan.
- Partnered with the DeWitt County Drug Court to provide support services for participants.
- Assisted individuals to access nearby inpatient rehabilitation.
- Expanded the number of support groups in DeWitt County with two new groups, one in Clinton each Saturday and one in Farmer City each Sunday night.
- Held community events such as a Recovery Walk, served as an Apple and Pork exhibitor, and distributed training on use of NARCAN and the NARCAN nasal spray throughout DeWitt County to local first responders and other community stakeholders to combat overdose from opioids.

Funding also helped PCMHC provide substance use prevention programming in DeWitt County in FY 2023. Prevention education in the schools expanded by 30 percent compared to FY 2022 as the Center is now serving Clinton Junior High School and another class at Blue Ridge High School, in addition to serving Clinton High School. Programming included the following:

- Prescription Drug Safety class for 167 students from Blue Ridge High School and Junior High, and 72 students from Clinton Junior High School.
- Evidence-based prevention education for 63 10<sup>th</sup> graders at Clinton High School, 183 Blue Ridge High School students, and 72 Clinton Junior High School students.
- Vaping campaign material distributed to 392 students in Blue Ridge School District.
- Over 700 Resource Guides were distributed directly in DeWitt County, with more distributed by others.
- Working with Clinton and Blue Ridge CUSD administration to ensure registration for the 2024 Illinois Youth Survey.

### ***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 to connect people with disabilities to their community. In 2023, PSCI served 58 people in DeWitt County. There are an additional 11 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 PCSI 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 address access barriers and help connect those who need assistance with local agencies and organizations who can help. In 2023, Square 1 staff members assisted five people from DeWitt County. The Square 1 program director continues to network with local organizations, agencies, and coalitions to increase awareness of the program.

### ***Tri-County Special Education Association***

Funding from the Mental Health Board helped to support the Tri-County Special Education Association Youth and Family Teams coordinator position in 2003. The position is in Clinton CUSD 15 but serves all of DeWitt County. The coordinator facilitates wrap-around services with students and their families who have significant needs.

## **Mental Health Board Education and Collaboration**

In addition to contracting with organizations to serve DeWitt County residents, the Mental Health Board helps to sponsor and coordinate training and education in DeWitt County and participates in community-based projects and coalitions.

In 2023, the Board administrator coordinated a bi-monthly DeWitt County Children's Mental Health Forum by Zoom which is open to anyone. Health and human service providers regularly attend the meeting for professional development, networking, and resource sharing.

The Mental Health Board co-sponsored, provided, and/or participated in these 2023 programs:

- Working Together for Health: DeWitt County Needs and Resources for Mental Health, Substance Use, and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities presentations in March and April to share results of the assessment report released January 2023;
- May Mental Health Awareness Month event at Weldon Springs;
- Community Health Fair at Warner Hospital in May; and
- A Time to Connect, Renew, and Appreciate You Self-care Workshop for health and human service providers in October.

The Mental Health Board also participated in these local coalitions and projects:

- Community Together Project led by Heritage Behavioral Health Center to strengthen the system of care for DeWitt and Macon County individuals from birth to age 21 and their families;
- Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Council to enhance substance use prevention programming, increase access to treatment, and provide support for those in recovery;
- DeWitt County Social Service Coalition which meets monthly for networking and resource sharing; and
- the Association of Community Mental Health Authorities of Illinois quarterly meetings and its Children's Behavioral Health Committee.

**Fiscal Year 2023 Revenues and Expenses (December 1, 2022-November 30, 2023)**

<b>Revenues</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Tax levy	\$461,781.88	Children’s Advocacy Center	\$12,702.44
Interest	<u>6296.98</u>	Clinton Community YMCA	6,850.00
		DeWitt Couty Drug Court <sup>1</sup>	30,000.00
		Dove, Inc.	37,500.00
		Encore Developmental Services	88,708.50
		Growing Strong Sexual Assault Center	2,500.00
		Heritage Behavioral Health Center	135,828.74
		Macon County CASA <sup>2</sup>	0
		Piatt County Mental Health Center	16,447.56
		Prairieland Service Coordination	11,528.00
		Tri-County Special Education Association	4,000.00
		Board Expenses	10,462.21
		Administrator Position <sup>3</sup>	<u>32,052.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$468,078.86</b>	<b>Total<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>\$388,579.45</b>

<sup>1</sup> DeWitt County Drug Court was reimbursed \$30,000 in FY 2023 for Unity Point Counseling Services provided to Drug Court participants: \$15,000 for FY 2022 contract paid out in December 2022 and \$15,000 for FY 2023 contract paid out in November 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Macon County CASA was reimbursed \$27,375.03 for FY 2023 services in FY 2024 (December 2023); thus, there are no expenses shown for FY 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Sharon Mills, MS, serves as the part-time administrator for the Board through independent contract.

<sup>4</sup> FY 2023 expenses paid out in FY 2024 (December 2023) totaling \$153,676.65 are not shown above. The ending 2023 balance for the Mental Health Fund invested at DeWitt Savings Bank and managed by the DeWitt County Treasurer was \$623,805.52. An additional \$14,844.51 was held in the County’s General Fund for the Mental Health Fund. The County released both amounts totaling \$638,650.03 to the Mental Health Board for reinvestment in a new account with DeWitt Savings Bank starting December 1, 2023. The County Treasurer will deposit future tax disbursements directly into this Mental Health Board account.

## 2023-2025 Strategic Plan

The DeWitt County Community Mental Health Board (MHB) identifies one- and three-year directions and goals. The 2023-2025 plan includes the following:

Directions	Goals
<p><b>Increasing use of technology, outreach, and access to information</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update and maintain Website.</li> <li>• Create a link from DeWitt County Website to MHB Website.</li> <li>• Ensure Website access by MHB members.</li> <li>• Participate in IRIS (interagency referral system).</li> <li>• Use social media to share information about community resources, services, and events.</li> <li>• Update marketing materials.</li> <li>• Increase awareness of 988, 211, and Square 1.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Expanding knowledge, understanding, empathy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide and promote mission-relevant training in DeWitt County.</li> <li>• Participate in education and awareness campaigns with other providers.</li> <li>• Help develop and distribute resource guides such as the DeWitt-Piatt Resource Brochure created by the Piatt County Mental Health Center and the Substance Use Resource List created by the ROSC Council.</li> <li>• Encourage and recognize providers.</li> <li>• Invite funded providers and other organizations to monthly meetings.</li> <li>• Sponsor the DeWitt County Children’s Mental Health Forum bi-monthly to provide professional development and networking.</li> <li>• Outreach to areas and organizations throughout DeWitt County.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Responding to community and organizational needs, barriers to access</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect and review plans and assessments produced in the County and public data to identify trends and priorities.</li> <li>• Outline plans for the next MHB assessment.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Identify barriers to access and strategies to address them.</li> <li>• Review priorities annually and build them into annual funding process.</li> <li>• Implement annual funding process.</li> <li>• Submit an annual budget to the County Board for generation of levy supporting mental health.</li> <li>• Support infrastructure development for Heritage Behavioral Health Center and Encore Developmental services.</li> <li>• Participate in and develop collaborative agendas with other organizations and coalitions, e.g., DeWitt County Social Service Coalition, Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) Council, Community Together project, and DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support for workforce development.</li> </ul>
<b>Transition Mental Health Board as separate entity of County</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire FEIN number.</li> <li>• Open DeWitt Savings Bank account and transfer mental health funds from the County-based mental health account.</li> <li>• Seek and maintain legal counsel for the Board.</li> <li>• Revise by-laws, file articles of incorporation with the State, and apply for tax-exempt status.</li> <li>• Secure auditor for FY 2024 audit.</li> </ul>
<b>Sustaining the Board</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board operating documents are reviewed and updated as needed.</li> <li>• Annual report is completed and distributed.</li> <li>• Orientation manual for Board members is completed.</li> <li>• Strategies outlined for Board recruitment and development to ensure full, active Board.</li> <li>• Participate in the Association of Community Mental Health Authorities of Illinois quarterly meetings and the Children’s Behavioral Health Committee.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Review the 2022 DeWitt County Needs and Resources Assessment for Mental Health, Substance Use, and Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities, released January 2023, at [www.dewittcountymhb.com](http://www.dewittcountymhb.com)