

Sauk County
**ADULT TREATMENT
COURT**

Should you add a nurse to your team?

Presentation by Michelle Bauer and Amanda Hanson

What: Inviting a nurse from your local public health department to join the team.

Why: Assist in navigating the medical world and help to medically stabilize participants. This supports the overall success of participants in recovery after years of medical neglect and active use.

Public health is a natural partner that also recognizes the overall impact of substance use and works to implement preventative measures to have a healthier community.



How it started

- Met Amanda as a PO when partnering with a pregnant participant in 2015.
- Watched ATC from the gallery with the participants as a support person.
- Personal nurse—partners 1:1 with a pregnant person until the baby turns 2 years old meeting every other week.



Joining ATC

- Public Health Sauk County joined ATC as an active team member in 2018.
- Natural partnership
- Working with the same population.
 - Primary prevention: Already focusing on overall community health and increase community knowledge of addiction and treatment as a chronic illness & advocate for policies that support therapeutic treatment.
 - Secondary: Implementing harm-reduction programs and provide respectful care without stigma.
 - Tertiary: Continued care and recovery support services providing care coordination and peer recovery support (WisHope).



Why collaborate?

- Improve the overall health & wellbeing of our participants.
- Allows communication between professionals to be at a medical level.
- Nurses can attend appointments with the participants and help them understand what is going on.
- Nurses can help advocate for the participant's health with other providers with less resistance.
- Provide access to Narcan & lock boxes.
- Provide education & access to contraception.

Examples



- Dilutes affected by health
- How health impacts the participants
- Advocacy with clinics & providers

Open heart surgery after infection d/t drug use

Diabetes/kidney function

Uncontrolled high blood pressure

Hernia

Hepatitis C

Abdominal mass


Dental infections

Mental health diagnosis

Intimate partner violence

Disordered eating

TAKE AWAY

- **IT SAVES TIME FOR THE CASE COORDINATOR.**
 - The case coordinators are not left to try to translate medical information from one person to another.
 - Nurses are knowledgeable about medications, medical language and navigation of the medical system.
 - They are more likely to get a call back from other medical professionals.
 - They can attend appointments with participants and translate information from medical terms to common language.
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- The bottom of the slide features decorative wavy lines. A light tan wave is positioned above a darker, navy blue wave, creating a layered, organic effect.

Benefits to the Team

Nurses help the team understand more about:

- Medical diagnoses
- How the medical diagnosis can impact the wellbeing of the participant
- How medications can cause certain side effects

We, as a team, can make more informed decisions based off information that is provided. For example, we have added important information to our Policy and Procedure Manual and referrals to outside resources like Hope House.

THANK YOU!

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