

What is Wiser Choice?

In August 2004, the State of Wisconsin received a notice of a grant award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to fund its application for the **Wisconsin Supports Everyone, Recovery Choice (The Wiser Choice)** program. Wiser Choice was implemented as part of a compete redesign of the AODA system in Milwaukee County.

Wiser Choice intends to improve outcomes of service delivery through:

- Enhancing and expanding the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division (BHD) Central Intake System to improve initial engagement, access and treatment retention.
- Providing recovery support services and recovery support coordination in addition to treatment, thus addressing needs that are directly related to substance abuse and achieving better outcomes.
- Identifying and developing a broader provider network, including a focused outreach to the faith-based community.
- Developing a comprehensive continuum of low/no cost natural supports in the community to help sustain recovery. This would include organizing faith congregations to provide such resources as mentors, employment opportunities, housing, child-care and transportation.
- Fostering genuine, free and independent choice by making available Provider Profiles, including Provider Score Cards.
- Coordinating multiple systems and encouraging improved client choice and a client empowerment and self-determination model using the Single Coordinated Care Plan (SCCP)
- Establishing a data-driven, results-oriented management system to monitor and improve outcomes.
- Rewarding results by implementing an innovative system of provider incentives.
- Enhancing the county's existing Management Information System so that the bulk of performance and financial indicators and measures will be reported on and maintained electronically. This will enhance accountability of both the provider and the system.

Client Eligibility

Wiser Choice Services can be provided to individuals who:

- Reside in Milwaukee County;
- Are at least 18 years of age (pregnant females of any age are eligible)
- Meet diagnostic criteria (as specified by BHD) for a substance use disorder
- Are screened and authorized for services by a BHD Central Intake Unit, and
- Are part of the target population:

- 1) The General Population of Milwaukee County. With a special emphasis on families with children.
- 2) Criminal Justice Population:
 - a) Individuals who are reentering the Milwaukee community from an institution and
 - b) Individuals at-risk of returning to the institution. This includes persons on probation or parole supervision who are facing revocation proceedings and imprisonment, and who can be safely supervised in the community while benefiting from AODA treatment and recovery support services as an alternative to revocation.

Specifically, the Corrections population includes:

- Females re-entering from any prison
- Prison-bound alternatives to revocation
- Males entering from short-term sentence after revocation to MSDF
- Felony institutional alternative to revocation (eligible as a re-entry)
- Pretrial (agent involvement starts when probation starts)