



Wayne County Recovery Coalition

February 2025 Newsletter

About Our Coalition:

The mission of the Wayne County Recovery Coalition (WCRC) is to improve the health and safety of individuals and families in Wayne County through comprehensive, community-wide strategies that reduce and prevent youth and adult substance use, assure treatment services are available and accessible for all, and promote long-term recovery for everyone. WCRC was initially formed in 2019 when a task force was developed to look into the rising number of ER visits related to drug misuse and overdose deaths due to opioids in Wayne County. In September of 2023, the WCRC was awarded a Drug Free Communities Support Program (DFCSP) grant to prevent and reduce youth substance use.

Partners in Wayne County are uniting in health, safety, and well-being: Anchored, Boys and Girls Club of the Altamaha Area, City of Odum, City of Screven, Coastal Pines Technical College, Drug Court, Family Connections, Forward Digital Marketing, Jesup Police Department, Life, Inc., Mother's Against Substance Abuse, Press Sentinel Newspaper, Safe Kids, Shane's Crib, Share Health Southeast Georgia, Wayne County School System, Wayne County Sheriff's Office, Wayne Memorial Hospital, Southeast Health District, and St. Simons by the Sea. By combining resources and support as partners in prevention, Wayne County will become a safe and healthy place for youth and families to thrive and live life substance free.

Retail Alcohol Data (RAD) Collaborative

WCRC has been chosen to join the Retail Alcohol Data (RAD) Collaborative, initiated by Counter Tools to help communities address alcohol-related issues. The Collaborative equips coalitions and health departments with local data on alcohol availability, pricing, and marketing targeted at youth, enabling evidence-based policy strategies to reduce alcohol-related harms. *Interested individuals can contact Renee Bolin for participation or inquiries.*

Key points:

- Simplification of alcohol data collection with user-friendly tools and expert support.
- WCRC joins 38 other coalitions across 16 states, including the Jeff Davis Substance Abuse Coalition.
- Activities include forming a data collection team and surveying at least 50 alcohol outlets between January 10 and February 28, 2025.



RePack the Backpack Resource Expo

Wayne County Family Connection would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to all of our amazing partners, collaborative members, and attendees who made the **1st Annual RePack the Backpack Resource Expo** such a huge success!

Because of YOUR support, over 90 students were provided with **free** school supplies, and families received resources like medication lock boxes and Narcan to help keep their loved ones safe. We are especially grateful to the **Wayne County Farmers Market** for hosting this impactful event and providing the perfect space for our community to come together.

Thank you to all for braving the weather and showing the power of collaboration and care for our children and families. Together, we're making a difference



Upcoming Events:

• Wayne County Recovery Coalition Meeting

Location: Odum Recreation Center 7200 Odum Hwy, Odum, GA. 31555
February 11, 2025 | 9:30 am

Location: TBD

March 11th, 2025 | 12:00 pm

• Memory Cafe, Life, Inc.

Location: New Life Church, 1255 Joey Williamson Road in Jesup, GA.
February 11, 2025 | 1:00pm-3:00pm

• Year of the Youth Proclamation for Screven, GA

Location: 212 Sharpe Street, Screven, GA (next to the lodge)
February 21, 2025 | 10:00am

• Wayne County Family Connection Meeting

Location: 367 Bamboo St. Jesup, GA 31545
February 25, 2025 | 9:30am
March 25th, 2025 | 9:30 am

National Mentoring Month

National Mentoring Month is observed every January and aims to raise awareness about the positive impact of mentoring, highlight the importance of mentors in the lives of youth and adults, and encourage people to become mentors. This observance celebrates the role mentors play in helping individuals reach their full potential, whether in education, career development, or personal growth. In the context of substance use prevention and recovery, mentoring can be particularly significant. Mentors provide guidance, emotional support, and motivation, which are all crucial for youth and individuals in recovery from substance use disorders (SUD) or opioid use disorders (OUD). Mentoring can help youth and adults in recovery build a sense of community, overcome challenges, and stay focused on their life goals.





Drug Free Communities Support Program 2024 Accomplishments



Partner Trainings

- **Narcan Training:** 10 partners received 16 boxes of Narcan from the Georgia Overdose Prevention Network.
- **Drug Abuse Prevention Training:** 23 partners from 4 counties attended a training on emotional intelligence and culture's impact on substance use prevention.



Teen Topics 2024

- **285 7th graders** attended Wayne County's 1st annual Teen Topics event co-hosted by Wayne County Family Connection and WCRC. Teen Topics is a community initiative that helps teens make life decisions with guidance from trusted adults.



Pictured above are the Georgia Council for Recovery Staff, with Odum Mayor Greg Leggett, Jesup Mayor Ralph Hickox, Screven Mayor Jason Weaver, and Cameron Mattingly from Anchored.

Proclamation Celebration

- **121 community members, leaders, and family members** gathered for the Wayne County Recovery Month Proclamation, with mayors presenting proclamations for each city.



Youth Prevention Rally

- **105 youth and adults** joined a rally hosted by Anchored with support from WCRC partners, Safe Kids, AC HIDTA, and Jesup Church of God, that focused on mental health and substance misuse education.

