



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, Southeast Health District, St. Simons by the Sea, Wayne County School System, Wayne County Sheriff's Office, and Wayne Memorial Hospital. 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.



All Recovery Meetings

Fridays at 6:30 PM | 177 N Brunswick St. Jesup GA

WCRC Meeting

August 12, 2025 | Sam Dryer Community Center

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, observed in July, raises awareness of the challenges that affect the mental health of people in racial and ethnic minority groups, particularly regarding substance use and addiction. It underscores the need for systemic change to improve health for future generations.

Racial and ethnic minorities face barriers like lack of access to culturally competent care and stigma, leading to under-diagnosed conditions and increased substance use. This month calls attention to how systemic inequalities contribute to rising substance use rates in marginalized communities, emphasizing the importance of equity in mental health treatment and recovery.

Mental Health Matters

Helping Your Child Avoid Risky Behaviors Involving Substances

Talk Often

Have open, honest conversations about alcohol and drugs.

Set Rules

Be clear about what is okay and what is not.

Stay Involved

Know your child's friends, activities, and hangouts.

Lead by Example

Show healthy ways to cope and handle stress.

You do not have to be perfect; you just have to be present. Your involvement, support, and open communication can help protect your child from risky decisions that can affect their future.



Anchored Junior Board Takes Georgia Teen Institute!

Through our Drug-Free Communities Support Program grant, the Wayne County Recovery Coalition (WCRC) had the opportunity to send two Wayne County High School students from the Anchored Junior Board (AJB) to the Georgia Teen Institute (GTI), an initiative of Gwinnett United in Drug Education, Inc. (GUIDE). GUIDE is a nonprofit community-based substance abuse prevention agency in Gwinnett County, GA.

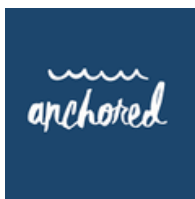
Youth teams attending GTI participate in a five-day residential camp to develop leadership skills and engage in the Strategic Prevention Framework planning process through workshops, team meetings, and team-building activities. The teams work together to plan and implement peer-focused prevention and community service projects.

AJB President Gabby Stubbs and Vice President Zaylee Drew, along with Renee Bolin—WCRC's DFC Coordinator and a staff member at Anchored—attended GTI from Monday, June 9th through Friday, June 13th. Through their involvement, the AJB will now receive ongoing support from GUIDE, which includes follow-up training and technical assistance, networking opportunities, and monthly reporting on their activities and progress.

The philosophy of the Georgia Teen Institute is built on these core beliefs:

1. Teenagers are capable individuals who, with the right guidance, become capable adults.
2. Health, safety, and wellness challenges (like substance use, crime, school dropout, or vehicle crashes) can be reduced through effective prevention strategies—especially peer-led ones.
3. Youth are valuable assets to their communities and should be empowered to make meaningful contributions.

With these principles in mind, GTI equips Georgia teens and their adult supporters with the tools and knowledge they need to tackle local issues and lead impactful change. Stay tuned next month for photos and firsthand stories from our youth about their experience at GTI!





Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) Training

On behalf of the Wayne County Recovery Coalition, Share Health Southeast Georgia secured a mini grant from Resilient Georgia and the United Way of Coastal Georgia to host a Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training at the Jesup-Wayne County Airport on Thursday, June 12th. Developed in Australia in 2007, Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) is an early intervention program that teaches adults how to recognize signs of mental health challenges in youth, respond with support, and connect them to appropriate resources. Designed for adults who regularly interact with young people, like parents, teachers, and service providers, the course covers common mental health issues, adolescent development, and a 5-step action plan for helping in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics include anxiety, depression, substance use, psychosis, ADHD, and eating disorders.

Facilitated by Unison Behavioral Health, 19 individuals from agencies such as GA Hope, Coffee County Youth Coalition, Jeff Davis Substance Abuse Coalition, Pineland BHDD, Wayne Memorial Hospital, and others completed the Youth Mental Health First Aid training. Participants are now equipped to recognize signs of mental health and substance use challenges in youth, respond appropriately using the ALGEE action plan and connect them to support services. **ALGEE stands for Assess for risk of suicide or harm, Listen non-judgmentally, Give reassurance and information, Encourage appropriate professional help, and Encourage self-help and other support strategies.** They also learned the importance of safety, privacy, early intervention, and self-care when providing Mental Health First Aid.



Thank you to Ali Lopez and Pete Bush from Unison for being amazing trainers! Thank you to the Jesup-Wayne County Airport for allowing us to utilize their space for these trainings! Thank you to Resilient Georgia and the United Way of Coastal Georgia for funding this training and supporting mental health and resiliency training in Southeast Georgia! Share Health looks forward to continuing to build the region's mental health capacity for our youth!

