



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.

Upcoming WCRC Meeting:

March 31st, 2026 | 9:30AM | Odum Recreation Center

Would you like to stay informed?

Email shaunamattnglyanchored@gmail.com to join our coalition email list and receive a calendar invitation for our upcoming meeting.

Teen Summit Recap

On February 10, Wayne County Family Connection attended the Resilient Georgia Youth Advisory Council Teen Summit. The event focused on mental health awareness, resilience, and youth leadership. Students engaged in meaningful conversations about thinking independently, practicing affirmations, using the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, and developing healthy coping skills, like box breathing. A powerful reminder shared during the event was that difficult experiences are temporary and that mental health conversations are important at every age.

Participants said they appreciated the interactive format, real conversations with adults, and learning practical tools they can use in everyday life. We are grateful to Wayne County School System and Wayne County High School for supporting this opportunity. Students returned empowered and inspired to help create a stronger, healthier Wayne County community.





Mark Your Calendar: National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week March 15–21, 2026

National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week (NDAFW) is a week-long observance dedicated to educating teens and young adults about the science behind drug and alcohol use. The goal? To bust myths and share accurate, science-based facts about substance use and addiction.

Why It Matters:

- Substance use disorder is a chronic disease that changes the brain and behavior.
- Early substance use increases the risk of long-term use.
- Education and support can help young people make healthier choices.

Did You Know?

- Teens who use alcohol or drugs are more likely to struggle with school performance and mental health issues.
- Prescription drug misuse is one of the fastest-growing substance use problems among young adults.
- Talking openly about drugs and alcohol can help teens make safer, informed decisions.
- Prevention programs that focus on facts and real-life consequences are proven to reduce substance use.

Take the week to learn, share, and help teens separate myths from reality - knowledge is a powerful tool in preventing substance misuse.



Pineland BHDD Community Service Board

Mental Health Community Coalition 2026 Meeting Schedule

March 20: In-Person (Jeff Davis Library)

May 15: Virtual

July 17: In-Person (Candler, Location TBD)

September 18: Virtual

November 10: In-Person (Toombs, Location TBD)

All Meetings Start at 10:30 AM

For questions, please contact:

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Anchored in Community Receives new CDC Foundation Grant!!



Anchored in Community is 1 of 18 organizations and community coalitions selected to participate in a new initiative by the CDC Foundation focused on strengthening overdose prevention efforts in rural communities across Georgia. The CDC Foundation helps the public health system, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), save and improve lives by unleashing the power of partnerships to protect the health, safety and security of all communities, everywhere. Since 1995, the CDC Foundation has launched more than 1,450 programs aimed at protecting communities across the country from a variety of health threats - from chronic disease conditions, including cardiovascular disease and cancer, to infectious diseases like malaria and HIV to emergency responses such as Ebola and Zika. The Georgia Overdose Prevention Project (GOPP) initiative builds on the Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) framework by fostering cross-sector collaboration, using real-time data to inform strategies and engaging multi-sector partners to tailor responses based on community needs. By investing in rural coalitions and providing hands-on capacity building support, the CDC Foundation aims to strengthen local infrastructure and improve access to prevention, treatment and recovery services across Georgia. Each coalition selected for this initiative received direct funding of up to \$250,000, along with tailored technical assistance over a 14-month implementation period ending March 2027.

Coalition programs may include activities such as:

- Peer-to-peer recovery support and one-on-one counseling
- Trauma-informed care and compassion fatigue training for first responders
- Expanded access to naloxone and fentanyl test strips through targeted community distribution and training
- School-based education to strengthen youth decision-making and refusal skills
- Culturally appropriate overdose prevention outreach; peer support specialist and first responder co-response models
- Evidence-based services for people who are incarcerated or recently released



For the official press release, and to learn more about the Georgia Overdose Prevention Project (GOPP), visit:

<https://www.cdcfoundation.org/pr/2026/Overdose-Prevention-Rural-Georgia>

Sponsors, Funders, and Key Resources



Wayne County
Recovery Coalition

Check out our website and
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<https://www.waynecountyrecovery.com>

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