



## **Who are we?**

Connections for Mental Wellness is a community initiative and collaborative partnership formed to address mental health needs in our community. It currently consists of fourteen local agencies including nonprofits, government, education organizations, and health systems. Foundational activities for this initiative include: convening community stakeholders to build consensus, developing a shared community vision and agreed upon outcomes based on data and research, and facilitating community efforts. The goal is to improve mental healthcare and access to care in communities in order to support and foster the mental health of individuals of all ages.

## **Our vision**

We envision a community that values and embraces the need for mentally healthy children, adults, and families.

## **Our mission**

To transform the mental health of our community through collaboration, education, and enhanced systems of care.

## **Our Current Steering Partners**

- American Foundation of Counseling Services
- Aurora BayCare
- Bellin Psychiatric Center/Bellin Health
- Brown County Dept. of Human Services
- Brown County Board of Supervisors
- Brown County United Way
- Catholic Charities
- Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin
- Hospital Sisters Health System/Prevea
- Howard-Suamico School District
- Jackie Nitschke Center
- JOSHUA
- Medical College of Wisconsin- N.E.W. Psychiatry Residency Program
- Samaritan Institute

## **Contact Information:**

Website: [www.connectionsMW.org](http://www.connectionsMW.org)

Executive Director

Email: [director@connectionsMW.org](mailto:director@connectionsMW.org)

Phone: (920) 606-9162

Bree Decker, Community Engagement Manager

Email: [Bree@connectionsMW.org](mailto:Bree@connectionsMW.org)

Phone (920) 437-8256 x 115

## **Our Current Initiatives**

### **School Based Mental Health**

#### **School Based Mental Health Services Working Group**

**Goal:** To provide Brown County students with barriers to traditional mental health clinical care, access to mental health services in their schools.

### **Workplace Mental Wellness**

#### **Mental Wellness and the Workplace Working Group**

**Goal:** To create supportive workplace environments by engaging workplaces to assist in identifying, adopting, or enhancing policies or practices that are supportive of employee mental health and their seeking of mental healthcare services when needed.

### **Non-Mental Health Professional Role & Education Development**

#### **Embedding Education Working Group**

**Goal:** To take advantage of and enhance existing relationships between individuals and organizations to deliver mental health content, resources, and tools that individuals can act on. By providing non-mental-health professionals (HR professionals, managers, librarians, vocational resource experts, Medicaid professionals, etc.) with education and other resources about mental health and mental healthcare access, they can become trusted, informed, and supportive access points for mental health support and care especially for those who are more at risk of poor mental health, such as the unemployed, those unable to work, and the working poor.

#### **Faith Leader Working Group**

**Goal:** To assist faith leaders in growing their knowledge, attitudes, and practices about mental health and mental health access to better support their parishioners' mental health and mental health needs.

### **Improved Access and Community Capacity**

#### **Interagency Relationship Working Group**

**Goal:** To develop "No Wrong Door" access to mental healthcare in our community, which means that frontline staff of mental healthcare organizations direct those seeking services to appropriate services beyond their own organization if their organization cannot accommodate a particular need in a timely manner.

#### **On-line Information and Access Working Group**

**Goal:** To identify and implement a comprehensive information system about mental health services in our community and mental health concerns and topics to allow the providers as well as individuals with mental healthcare concerns to be able to identify the most suitable care from the most appropriate provider.

#### **Trainee Working Group**

**Goal:** To create a robust homegrown workforce of employment-ready therapists. By working together, training programs will be expanded in the community and will alleviate the backlog of graduated MSW and clinical students who have not been able to complete their training requirements and lead to more trained providers in the community.