

## Addiction Program for Women

Currently, there is no gender-responsive addiction treatment program for women in Rock County .



### Why it matters in Rock County?

- In 2020, there were 28 drug overdose deaths per 100,000 people, which is higher than the Wisconsin rate (20 deaths per 100,000 people) or the optimal national rate (12 deaths per 100,000 people).
- In 2019, opioid overdoses in Rock County made up 67.6 hospital visits per 100,000 visits. This is almost 50 percent higher than the state hospitalization rate for opioid overdoses (43.9 visits per 100,000 visits).
- Rock County ranks #6 among counties in the number of inpatient hospital visits related to alcohol abuse occurred. In 2019, there were 1,043 hospital visits in Rock County related to alcohol abuse.

Traditional addiction treatment and recovery programs are not always suitable for many women. Research has continued to show that women develop medical or social consequences of addiction faster than men, often find it harder to quit, and are more susceptible to relapse. A gender-responsive treatment program would fill a programmatic gap in Rock County and complement existing services.

In 2019, the Board of Directors for HealthNet authorized a Behavioral Health Taskforce to determine future services that the organization would need to provide to meet community need. This taskforce, led by Stephanie Knueppel of Stateline Mental Health Services, determined that HealthNet of Rock County would need to begin a medication assisted treatment (MAT) program for women suffering from addiction.

In this new setting, HealthNet of Rock County will have therapy rooms and a counselor and a prescribing provider who will exclusively develop an addiction treatment and recovery group for women. Currently, HealthNet of Rock County cannot provide this service because there are no therapy rooms available in our current structure. HealthNet of Rock County's new building will also have a group therapy room that is suitable for peer support for women undergoing this program.