

In October 2016, Muskegon County received a four-year federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to expand and sustain a system of care (SOC)—now called MYalliance—in the community. During the past year, MYalliance partners have worked together to enhance the SOC to better serve youth with complex needs and their families.

Infrastructure, Capacity Building, and Workforce Development

- The governance board expanded to include parents, youth, and community coalitions.
- An organizational/governance structure and memorandum of understanding were established.
- The MYalliance administration team implemented a calendar of family and youth events and trainings.
- The lead family contact developed a parent advisory council.
- The youth engagement specialist formed BOOM Youth SOC Leadership Team with 12 youth and young adults attending weekly meetings. Participating youth completed a strategic plan to influence systems change and increase mental health awareness.
- The cross-system MYalliance Evaluation Team created an evaluation framework for monitoring SOC progress and outcomes.
- HealthWest and the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD) are developing a comprehensive strategic plan for supporting student mental health in schools.
- To promote understanding of the SOC values and practices, a branding and social marketing plan was created for MYalliance with community involvement.
- The Trauma-sensitive Learning Community as well as other quarterly learning events have been offered to all county school districts by HealthWest and the MAISD.
- HealthWest and MYalliance administration staff offered free cross-system trainings for SOC partners on the following topics: adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), compassion fatigue, youth mental health first aid, the QPR Institute's suicide prevention, SOC orientation, and diversity and inclusion.
- MYalliance is working in partnership with local community colleges, the Muskegon Rotary Club's 1 in 21 initiative, the City of Muskegon Heights, and other local agencies and coalitions to bring Speaking Down Barriers—a community gathering process to increase cultural awareness and inclusive practices—to Muskegon County.

Services for Youth and Families

- The governance board completed a collaborative application and interviewing process with seven school districts to pilot a school-based behavioral health services model.
 - HealthWest is hiring and integrating mental health clinicians, Wraparound coordinators, and parent and youth peer support services into schools.
 - School teams meet biweekly with Pathways to Potential, Muskegon Family Court, Hackley Community Care Teen Health Centers, and MAISD staff.
 - This new, school-based behavioral health model has more than doubled capacity for Wraparound services in Muskegon County.
- HealthWest implemented a cross-system, countywide mobile response and stabilization team service model as a new access model for community mental health services.
- Partners in MYalliance are implementing the shared Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths and the Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment process to identify needs and strengths of children, youth, and young adults to promote a consistent assessment approach across systems.
- Cross-system staff are partnering with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) portal pilot. The ISD portal aims to help people access their benefits, services information, and referral information in one online location.
- The University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute committees are up and running with cross-system involvement headed by the Muskegon Family Court. Committees are working to redesign the juvenile justice system in Muskegon County to be more treatment oriented in order to reduce recidivism.
- SOC healthcare partners, including hospitals and federally qualified health centers, are working to incorporate the ACEs tool for children and families in primary care settings.