

Lake County ROSC Council Needs Assessment

I. Overview of the Needs Assessment and Project Partners Involved

The following information was gathered in a community needs assessment conducted in the Lake County, IL area, beginning November 2024 and February 2025.

II. Methods Used To Gather Information

Methods used to collect data included written surveys and electronic access.

III. Participation

The written surveys were distributed during Lake County, IL community events as well as events hosted by NIRCO.

In addition, written surveys were distributed to our Hispanic/Latino Recovery service providers, Waukegan Township and housing providers.

IV. Strengths and Limitations of Needs Assessment

A strength of this assessment includes our partnership with Renacer Latino, Inc., which provides bilingual and bicultural mental health, partner abuse intervention and anger management services. Renacer Latino, Inc. assisted us with distribution of written surveys.

An additional strength existed in the ability to survey current participants of NIRCO's services as well as community members that may not be aware of Recovery and Substance Use Disorder.

V. Key Findings

Our data concludes that Lake County should provide prevention and education on substance use for the youth population.

Our data also indicates that there should be a 24-hour physical facility open and available to serve those in recovery.

VI. Recommendations

As a result of this needs assessment, NIRCO will address the needs to provide prevention and education in substance use for the youth population.

NIRCO will also strengthen our partnership with Lake Behavioral Health to promote and bring about the awareness of their 24-hour physical facility that serves those in recovery.

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NIRCO has begun to focus on questions 11 and 17.

Q11. Lake County should provide prevention and education in substance use for the youth population.

Our plans to achieve this goal:

NIRCO's newly implemented projects, *Justice Impacted Families* and *Warm Hand Offs* will serve to be instrumental in providing both education and prevention services to our communities.

Justice Impacted Mission services include:

- Individualized Case Management and resource support
- Individualized Recovery/Reentry Support
- Weekly Anger Management Group
- Monthly Parenting Support Group
- Monthly Youth Development
- Quarterly Educational Events
- Quarterly Family Support Events

The Justice Impacted Families Project will provide education in the following areas:

- Reintegration Management
- Recovery Management
- Narcan Training
- Grief/Trauma Support
- Employment Readiness

Warm Hands Project offers the following services:

NIRCO's Warm Handoff Program offers peer support to individuals with Opioid and Polysubstance Use Disorders, especially those transitioning from jail, treatment centers, or homelessness.

Services include the following:

- Peer Recovery Support: Connect 1:1 with trained Peer Recovery Coaches who have walked a similar path.
- Seamless Transitions: Support for individuals moving from facilities (jail, inpatient treatment) to the community.
- Community Resources: Links to essential services, such as housing, employment support, and health care.
- Personalized Assistance: Guidance to help you build a stable and fulfilling life in recovery.

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NIRCO will provide Mental Health First Aid training.

NIRCO will continue to partner with *Planning For Purpose* a youth mentoring program. They have hosted a Dream Board lesson and Understanding and Embracing Love As A Teen.

We will also reach out to other youth service providers, while creating our own in-house youth services.

By meeting these goals, NIRCO will expand its services to the much challenged in reaching youth.

Also, by adding the term “wellness” to our tagline, we are removing the stigma the youth population associates with recovery.

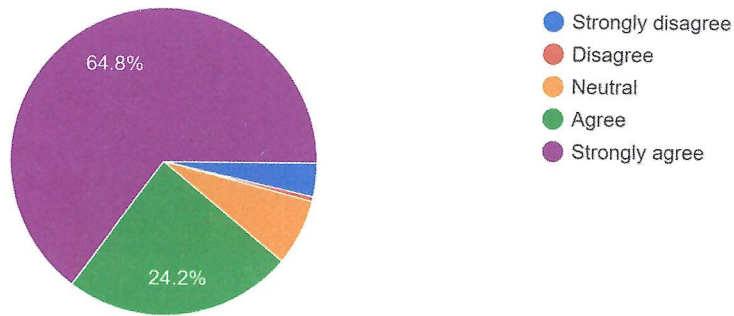
By combining the two projects, *Justice Impacted Families* and *Warm Hands*, establishing a sturdy partnership with Lake Behavioral Hospital in addition to LC ROSC’s demonstrated history of effectively serving the community, will enable us to do address the needs indicated in the community needs survey.

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Based on the responses of LC ROSC Community Needs Assessment, listed below are the top four highest ranking questions.

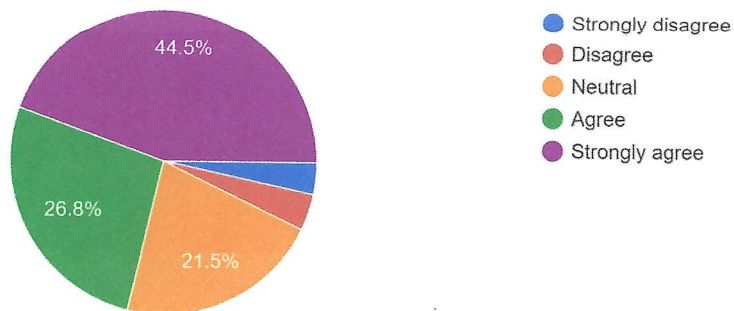
11. I think Lake County should provide prevention and education on substance use for the youth population.

418 responses



17. There should be 24-hour physical facility open and available to serve those in recovery.

418 responses



Q#1 Lake County should provide prevention and education on substance use for the youth population.

S

STRENGTHS

NIRCO is equipped to provide education that will help prevent substance use.

W

WEAKNESSES

Currently, we do not have a dedicated person to mentor the youth.

The youth do not relate to current language being used. We have added Wellness to our literature. (Recovery and Wellness)

O

OPPORTUNITIES

Partner with other youth focused organizations to provide education and prevention for substance use.

By using the term "wellness" we can gain the interest of the youth in the recovery community.

T

THREATS

The youth is a challenging demographic.

We want to have a strategic plan in place to prevent inconsistency.

Q#3 There should be a 24-hour physical facility open and available to serve those in recovery.

S

STRENGTHS

We are building a partnership with Lake Behavioral Hospital's Business Development and Community Liaison. Our Warm Handoff and Justice Impacted Projects will assist us in doing so.

W

WEAKNESSES

89.4 % of responses from the Community Needs Survey agree/strongly agree that there should be a 24-hour physical facility open and available to serve those in recovery. Perhaps they are unaware of Lake Behavioral's Hospital. By partnering with LBH we can promote their services.

O

OPPORTUNITIES

*Our growing partnership with Lake Behavioral Hospital will help to make known their services while serving our participants.
Create and build partnership with other 24-hour physical facilities that serve those in recovery.*

T

THREATS

Coordinating schedules may be a challenge. But with effective communication this can be resolved.