

Marshfield Clinic Health System starting new program to curb drug abuse

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A new program from Marshfield Clinic Health System will be launched in September to help people suffering from substance abuse in northern Wisconsin.

MCHS Recovery Corps program is a part of AmeriCorps, a national service network launched in 1994 under the Clinton administration as part of the National and Community Service Trust Act. Since then, nearly 1 million AmeriCorps members have contributed approximately 1.2 billion hours in service across the country.

The new program is recruiting 20 full-time AmeriCorps members to work as recovery coaches throughout the area served by the HOPE Consortium, a partnership of 10 different organizations working to address issues related to opioid abuse. It's active in Oneida, Vilas, Forest, Price, and Iron counties, as well as in Forest County Potawatomi, Lac du Flambeau Chippewa, and Sokaogon Chippewa Tribal Nations.

"Substance abuse, particularly opioid abuse and methamphetamine use, is crippling our communities," said Danielle Luther, substance abuse manager for the Marshfield Clinic Center for Community Outreach. "The positive news is that there are solutions. There is hope, and people do recover."

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