

FY26 Lee/Whiteside ROSC Council Impact Report

Lead Agency: Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery
Service Area: Lee and Whiteside Counties, Illinois

During Fiscal Year 2026, the Lee/Whiteside Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Council continued to strengthen a community-based system of recovery support by focusing on three priorities: **reducing stigma, increasing equity for rural populations, and expanding recovery opportunities for youth**. Through broad cross-sector collaboration, the Council advanced initiatives that improved access to services, strengthened partnerships, and increased community support for recovery.

To reduce stigma, the Council launched an ongoing public awareness campaign recognizing **one individual in recovery and one individual lost to substance use disorder each month** through local radio, newspaper, and billboard advertising. By sharing these stories, the Council helped humanize substance use disorder, honor lives impacted by addiction, and promote recovery as a visible and achievable outcome.

To improve equitable access to care, the Council strengthened referral relationships with healthcare providers, law enforcement, treatment organizations, and other community partners. These efforts resulted in an average of **22.5 monthly referrals** to Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery for detoxification and treatment navigation, demonstrating increased confidence in peer-led recovery services and improved access for rural residents.

The Council also made significant progress in addressing the needs of adolescents by convening a multi-sector workgroup to explore the development of a **Recovery High School**. This collaboration brought together education, healthcare, recovery, government, and community leaders to create a long-term vision for supporting youth in recovery while improving educational outcomes.

The Lee/Whiteside ROSC Council actively engaged people with lived experience, family members, treatment providers, healthcare organizations, criminal justice agencies, schools, local businesses, government, youth-serving organizations, civic groups, faith communities, and media partners. This broad participation strengthened coordination across systems and reinforced a shared commitment to recovery.

Perhaps the most meaningful outcome of FY26 has been the growth of community trust. The Council's success in recovery housing, peer support, and deflection initiatives has established credibility that continues to open doors for larger systems-change efforts. As a result, the Regional Office of Education has emerged as a champion for the Recovery High School initiative, demonstrating how recovery has become integrated into broader community planning.

The Lee/Whiteside ROSC Council remains committed to reducing stigma, ensuring effective service delivery, and promoting equitable access to recovery support so that every individual and family affected by substance use disorder has the opportunity to achieve lasting recovery.

