

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Introducing the We Heart You App: An Easy-To-Use App that Connects People to Substance Use Recovery Resources in Calumet, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties

OSHKOSH, WIS. (March 31, 2023) — The Winnebago County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) team announced the launch of the We Heart You mobile app, a new regional platform for local substance use recovery resources. The app provides a quick and easy way to find help in Calumet, Outagamie or Winnebago County, whether it's for yourself, or you provide support for family or friends, or you are assisting a client or patient. The We Heart You app is available for immediate download and usage on all <u>Apple</u> and <u>Android</u> devices.



"If you're struggling and need help, we want you to know that you don't have to walk this path alone," said OFR Facilitator Jennifer Skolaski. "There are so many wonderful resources in our community to assist you. Together we can stop the cycle of overdose deaths."

The idea for the We Heart You app grew out of community conversations, including listening sessions at the 'We Heart You: Recovery in Our Community' event hosted last March by the OFR team. This event connected the recovery community to the broader community, bringing together over 350 people from all over the state to learn and connect. Based on what our community learned at that event and the hard work of Winnebago County Overdose Fatality Review partners, especially Solutions Recovery, Inc. and University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Police Department, and with behavioral health ARPA funding from the City of Appleton and Outagamie County, the OFR team came together to create the We Heart You App.

"We're grateful for the partnerships and relationships in our community that were key to moving this idea forward," said University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Acting Chief of Police and OFR Team Member Chris Tarmann and OFR partner. "This app makes it so easy to connect people to resources and, at the end of the day, it's going to save lives."



People accessing the We Heart You app can find substance use resources such as:

- Treatment options
- Support meetings
- Access to Narcan and harm reduction tools
- Support services including food, housing, employment and county services
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Mental and behavioral health screeners
- Live chat with a Peer Support Specialist through phone, text, chat or email
- And much more

"A big piece of this app that we're really excited about is the 'Talk to Someone' feature," said Trevor Fenrich, executive director of Solutions Recovery, Inc. and OFR partner. "Individuals struggling themselves, family members, friends, professionals or anyone who needs help has 24/7 access to a Peer Support Specialists who can walk them through whatever they're going through."



When the OFR team was asking the community what they wanted most out of the We Heart You App, they said they wanted to talk to someone who is real and had been through it. When you tap on the 'Talk to Someone' button, you can call, text, email, or chat with a Peer Recovery Specialist who will be there for you when you need them.

The OFR team will continue to update and improve the app, thanks to funding from the J.J. Keller Foundation.

The purpose of the Winnebago County OFR team is to prevent overdose deaths. The team accomplishes this by examining individual, organizational and system-level factors related to overdose deaths in the county. We Heart You has become the tagline of the team. It means we hear you, we love you, and we stand together as a community to help one another in times of need.

Download the app at <u>www.weheartyou.org/app</u>. Watch the launch of the app on Solution Recovery, Inc.'s YouTube channel or <u>youtu.be/QbUcrF2pLe0</u>.

Break the silence. Reduce the stigma. Save lives.

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Download Photos (Credit: Mirrorless Productions):

Image 1: Person viewing the new We Heart You app on a mobile device.

Image 2: University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Acting Chief of Police Chris Tarmann shares the history of the Winnebago County Overdose Fatality Review Team and how the idea of the We Heart You app came to be during the app launch event at Solutions Recovery, Inc.

<u>Image 3</u>: A room full of community partners and supporters listen to Trevor Fenrich, executive director for Solutions Recovery, Inc., explain how to access recovery resources on the new We Heart You app.