

DASH PROJECT PROFILE

White Earth Nation WECARE Implementation Project

White Earth, MN



“There is no wrong door into the WECARE system. A client can walk into any of the tribal programs and upon admission into that program, they can have a WECARE assessment completed.”

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Target Population	People living on or near the White Earth Reservation
Health Objective	Reduce health risks by improving the quality and coordination of care
Geographic Scale	Tribal reservation spanning three counties
Sectors	Tribal government agencies, education/schools, clinical health care, social/human services, mental/behavioral health care
Data Types	Service (EHR, case management), outcomes, administrative
Data Integration	Expand the WECARE model to other tribal and non-tribal partners
Project Expertise	Forming collaborations to provide client-oriented, efficient services across tribal programs

OVERVIEW

The White Earth Reservation Tribal Council is expanding implementation of WECARE (White Earth Coordination, Assessment, Resource and Education), a care coordination database system that provides an efficient and effective way to link families on or near the reservation to the services they need. The project is using RiteTrack software to improve care coordination, enabling connections between primary care, home health, education, early childhood programs, and human services in an accountable care-like organization. Clients complete a universal intake assessment indicating their interest in a wide range of community services, creating an electronic alert referral for appropriate programs to address the social determinants of health.

PROJECT APPROACH

The White Earth Nation WECARE Implementation Project will:

- **Implement WECARE with new partners:** WECARE is expanding to tribal and non-tribal partners, including the Indian Health Services Clinic and the Circle of Life Academy school, to improve the quality and coordination of care.
- **Enhance the software platform:** The project team will continue to configure the RiteTrack software, creating customized interfaces to meet the needs of partnering sectors.
- **Use data to inform future planning:** The client-driven data that is collected will be used to analyze existing programs and services so that leaders can make well-informed decisions that reflect community needs.

LEAD AGENCY

White Earth Reservation Tribal Council promotes mino bimaadiziwin (the good life) for all the people of the White Earth Nation, promoting a shared vision of creating a safe place where all people will have access to quality employment, housing, education, health and human services. The role of White Earth Public Health is to provide leadership to the WECARE partnership, conduct evaluation and data integrity/reviews, provide case management and referrals, and develop policies, procedures, and operating protocols.

PARTNERS/COLLABORATORS

White Earth Behavioral Health Services acts a referral agency, provides case management, and has representation on the Advisory Council.

Circle of Life Academy School makes referrals, completes the Universal Intake Form and Releases when clients are at school (with appropriately signed parent/caregiver releases), participates in solving any challenges to full integration presented by school systems, and has representation on the Advisory Council.

Indian Health Service (IHS) Clinic provides EHR access as appropriate, makes referrals, enters information directly into RiteTrack and complete the Universal Intake Form and Releases when patient is at clinic, participates in solving any real or perceived federal barriers to full collaboration, and has representation on the Advisory Council.

White Earth Early Childhood/Child Care Program makes referrals, completes the Universal Intake Form and Release when client is at child care/early childhood programming (with appropriately signed parent/caregiver releases), participates in solving any challenges to full integration, and has representation on the Advisory Council.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

The ultimate goal of the WECARE program is to enable all agencies to work in partnership with the client at the center of the care team. Staff across agencies will be better equipped to provide the necessary referrals, supports, and services to reduce health risks and increase overall health and well-being on the White Earth Reservation. Coordinating care will reduce confusion and inefficiency involved with different systems working with clients. Because clients are actively involved in developing their care plan, there is heightened accountability for all stakeholders involved, including partner agencies, Indian Health Services, clients, and their families. Client-driven data will also help analyze their existing programs and services to help them continue to make decisions that reflect what the community needs.

USE CASE SUMMARY

USE CASE	ACTOR	SYSTEM	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Coordinated service provisionCase managementPlan, implement, evaluate interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Primary care (Indian Health Services Clinic)Home health providersEducationEarly childhood and human services	<p>Integrated data system (RiteTrack web-based, integrated enterprise software)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Automatic referralsUniversal intake form	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved quality and coordination of care

ABOUT DASH

The White Earth Reservation Tribal Council is a grantee of Data Across Sectors for Health (DASH) — a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, with direction and technical assistance provided by the Illinois Public Health Institute in partnership with the Michigan Public Health Institute. DASH aims to identify barriers, opportunities, promising practices and indicators of progress for multi-sector collaborations to connect information systems and share data for community health improvement. DASH is a partner of All In: Data for Community Health, a national network of projects with the common goal of improving multi-sector data sharing and collaboration.