

Medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) in jails

Background

According to a recent survey of Washington state jails, approximately sixty percent of those incarcerated have known or suspected substance use disorders (SUD) including opioid use disorder (OUD) at intake. The high prevalence of OUD among incarcerated individuals can lead to increased risk of early death, hepatitis C and HIV. Untreated OUD perpetuates the cycle of incarceration, making it highly likely that individuals who use opioids will circulate back through the correctional system.

Overview

The MOUD in jails program provides incarcerated individuals the opportunity for an OUD assessment, OUD medication, sustained treatment throughout incarceration and connection to continue treatment upon release or transfer. Overall benefits may include reduction in morbidity and mortality due to overdose, reduced re-offenses, reduced complications during withdrawal, improved jail staff safety, cost savings, reduced transfers to emergency departments, custodial costs, and overall improved relationships.

The MOUD in jails program contributes to the [Washington State Opioid and Overdose Response Plan](#) under goal 2 by expanding low-barrier access to MOUD in state jails (2.2.1), providing alternative funding to address the Medicaid gap for incarcerated individuals (2.2.10), and expanding access to and utilization of behavioral health services, including opioid use disorder medications in the criminal legal system, and improve effectiveness and coordination of jail re-entry services across the state (strategy 2.4).

Services Provided

- Opioid Use Disorder Screening, Clinical Opioid Withdrawal Scale (COWS)
- MOUD continuation or induction: offer all three FDA approved medications; buprenorphine, naltrexone and methadone when an OTP is available.

- Screen for and support acute withdrawal
- Reentry coordination/transition Services
- Naloxone and release kits
- Staffing: medical, case management, SUDP, peer specialists, and correctional officers

Authority

2021 Washington State Legislation

- [RCW 71.24.599](#)
- Engrossed Senate Bill 5476
- Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5693

Budget

- \$3,900,000 GF-S for fiscal year 2022
- \$6,100,000 GF-S for fiscal year 2023

Key partners

- Clark County Sheriff
- Cowlitz County Corrections
- Valley Cities (Enumclaw City Jail)
- Grays Harbor Public Health (Aberdeen, Hoquiam, Grays Harbor)
- City of Issaquah
- Kittitas County Jail
- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Okanogan County Jail
- Olympic Peninsula Community Clinic (Clallam County Jail)
- Public Health Seattle King County
- South Correctional Entity dba SCORE
- Pierce County Alliance (Pierce County Jail)
- Walla Walla County Corrections
- Whatcom County Sheriff's Office (Downtown Jail/Work Center)
- Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) (Ferry, Island, Stevens County Jails)
- University of Washington Addictions, Drug and Alcohol Institute (ADAI)

Oversight

Health Care Authority- Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery

For more information

Rachel Meade
MOUD in Jails Program Administrator
Rachel.meade@hca.wa.gov
360.725.2009