

Medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) in jails program

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 an individual suffering from OUD will keep circulating back through the correctional system.

Although currently there are some jails offering MOUD, not all Washington state jails offer a full MOUD program. According to a recent Washington State University study, only 37% of WA state jails surveyed, provide MOUD to every individual identified as having an OUD. Barriers include funding, staffing, stigma, and logistics.

Overview

A full MOUD in jails program will provide incarcerated individuals the opportunity for an OUD assessment, evidence-based medication for OUD, 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).

Authority

2021 Washington State Legislation

- ESB 5476
- ESSB 5092

Budget

- \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2022
- \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2023

Timeline

09/16/21	Hired program administrator
12/29/21	Announcement of funding opportunity
01/28/22	Applications due
02/18/22	FY2022 contracts begin
07/01/22	FY2023 contracts begin

Key partners

- County, city, regional, tribal and correctional facilities
- Providers of MOUD services
- Indian health care providers
- Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC)
- University of Washington Addictions, Drug and Alcohol Institute (ADAI)

Oversight

Health Care Authority

For more information

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