

Recovery navigator program

Background

The Recovery Navigator Program (RNP) provides behavioral health services to individuals who intersect with law enforcement because of simple drug possession or other alleged criminal activity, individuals who have frequent criminal legal system contact, and others who are referred from community sources. These programs serve individuals who are at risk of arrest, or already have been involved in the criminal legal system due to unmet behavioral health needs.

Overview

The Recovery Navigator Program is a statewide effort, in partnership with Behavioral Health Administrative Organizations (BH-ASOs), to provide community-based outreach, intake, assessment, and connection to services for individuals referred through pre-arrest diversion and community referral. These services support individuals with substance use disorder (SUD), including individuals with co-occurring substance use disorders and mental health conditions.

The RNP framework incorporates harm reduction and trauma-informed care principles to support the individual throughout their recovery journey. Coordination and communication between regional RNP staff, law enforcement, prosecutors, medical providers, and community partners is essential to the success of program participants. RNP staff facilitate and coordinate connections to a broad range of community resources for youth and adults including treatment and recovery support services (RSS).

Uniform program standards

From June to the end of August 2021, HCA convened an ad-hoc committee to develop Uniform Program Standards (Standards) modeled upon Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) core principles. Consideration for the nature of referrals into the RNP are outlined in the Standards and individuals can engage in a referral to appropriate

supportive services or light to intensive case management if they choose to participate in the RNP.

Recovery navigator program strategic plan

Before receiving funding, each BH-ASO submitted a regional recovery navigator program plan that demonstrated the ability to implement statewide program standards. With dedicated funding, the BH-ASOs hired a regional Recovery Navigator Program Administrator and collaborated with LEAD National Support Bureau to ensure adherence to the Standards in regional program plan development.

Each recovery navigator strategic plan addresses requirements to provide intake and referral services. Recovery navigator teams specialize in conducting assessments and delivering light to intensive case management. Recovery navigator staff encompass the skills necessary to provide warm handoffs to treatment and recovery support services along the continuum of care. HCA arranges for and ensures that technical assistance is provided by the LEAD national support bureau, and available to all BH-ASOs.

Next steps

- Develop workforce capacity to provide 24/7 response to law enforcement referrals.
- Share program information with the Substance Use Recovery Services Advisory (SURSA) Committee to support the committee's ability to monitor program effectiveness and make recommendations for program improvement.
- Establish a schedule for the regular review of the BHASO regional programs.

Authority

Enacted through Engrossed Senate Bill 5476: Drug Possession- State V Blake Decision, codified as [RCW 71.24.115](#).

Funding

- \$25 million General Fund-State SFY22
- \$22 million General Fund-State SFY23

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Key partners

BHASO Recovery Navigator Program Administrator:

- Beacon Health Options- Pierce (Ahney King),
- Beacon Health Options- Southwest (James Jensen),
- Beacon Health Options- North Central (Dina Goodman),
- King (Susan Peacey),
- Salish (Jolene Kron),
- Thurston-Mason (Jason Bean-Mortinson),
- Great Rivers (Lisha Coates),
- Spokane (Cara Reidy),
- Greater Columbia (Cameron Fordmeir),
- North Sound (James Dixon).

LEAD National Support Bureau/Public Defenders Association

- Lisa Daugaard (Director)

Oversight

HCA is responsible for the Recovery Navigator Program administration. This is a cross-divisional effort between the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR), Medicaid Programs Division (MPD), and Clinical Quality Care Transformation (CQCT). The Behavioral Health Service Organizations provide regional oversight and sub-contract with licensed private, non-profit community behavioral health agencies and community-based organizations to provide direct services.

Questions?

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