

Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) in Jails

Overview

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

Background

Individuals releasing from incarceration are at an increased risk of death, largely due to risk of opioid overdose. The current state of fentanyl has increased this risk substantially. MOUD reduce the risk of overdose and have been identified as an important intervention. Untreated opioid use disorder (OUD) perpetuates the cycle of incarceration, making it highly likely that individuals who use opioids will circulate back through the correctional system.

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).

Eligibility Requirements

Jails who receive funding for the MOUD in jails program must provide the following:

- OUD Screening
- MOUD continuation or induction

- Offer all three FDA approved medications; buprenorphine, naltrexone and methadone when available.
- Screen for and treat acute withdrawal symptoms.
- Reentry coordination/transition services
- Naloxone

Authority

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

Budget

- \$2,500,000 GF-S fiscal year 2024
- \$2,500,000 opioid settlement fiscal year 2024

People Served

The following are people served in State Fiscal Year 2023:

- Inductions: (newly prescribed MOUD) 3,411
- Continued: (were taking MOUD upon booking) 904

Key Partners

- Clark County Sheriff
- Cowlitz County Corrections
- Enumclaw City Jail
- Grays Harbor Public Health (Aberdeen, Hoquiam, Grays Harbor)
- 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
- Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) (Ferry, Stevens County Jails)
- Whatcom County Sheriff's Office (Downtown Jail/Work Center)

Technical Assistance and Training provided by University of Washington Addictions, Drug, and Alcohol Institute

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

360.643.7080