

Peer Pathfinder Project

Program overview

The Peer Pathfinder Projects built on the already established Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program to provide substance use disorder (SUD) peer recovery support in emergency rooms and homeless encampments. The project links individuals to treatment options including Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD).

Peer Pathfinder SUD Peers assist individuals in navigating and obtaining services to address barriers to independence and recovery. These services address housing, financial resources, transportation, habilitation and rehabilitation services, prevocational and vocational services.

Eligibility

Adults (age 18 or over), with one of the following conditions:

- Individuals with Opioid Use Disorders (OUD) or Stimulant Use Disorder (SUD) and at risk of overdose
- Individuals who are suspected of opioid or stimulant use and who may be experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness.
- Individuals experiencing an opioid or stimulant use health crisis and are utilizing emergency room settings.
- Outreach and engagement for individuals experiencing Opiate Use Disorders and/or Stimulant Use Disorders at risk of overdose.

Authority

The Peer Pathfinder program is funded by the State Opiate Response (SOR) grant administered by the Center for Mental Health Services, a component of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Budget and funding FFY 2022-2023

Peer Pathfinders Outreach services received \$1,520,972. This amount was divided among 11 teams across the state and included \$15,000 specifically dedicated to harm reduction supplies.

82-0542 (10/23)

Number served FFY 2021-2022

- SAMHSA annual enrollment target: 500
- Total outreached clients: 1014
- Total enrolled clients: 946

Services provided FFY 2021-2022

- Peer engagements: 8,233
- Referrals to services: 1,720

MOUD outcomes 2017-2022

- Accessed treatment within three months of enrollment: 31%

Key partners

Fundamental to the success of the Peer Pathfinder program is the dedication and support of community partners across the state. This includes establishing Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with local hospitals, emergency departments, county jails, and treatment facilities.

Oversight

The Health Care Authority's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) is the state Peer Pathfinder funding recipient and administrator of the project. There are nine locations in the state where contracts are issued directly with licensed community behavioral health agencies, and two locations where the Behavioral Health Service Organizations (BH-ASOs) provide local oversight and sub-contract with local, state-licensed private, non-profit mental health agencies to provide services directly.

There is a Peer Pathfinder site in all regional purchasing areas. Two of the eleven sites have two Peer Pathfinder Teams due to the large urban population.

For more information contact

Meta Hogan
Homeless Outreach Stabilization and Transition
Program Manager
meta.hogan@hca.wa.gov