

Nurse Care Manager project

Overview

The Washington Health Care Authority (HCA) Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) received funds in the state operating budget to develop the Nurse Care Manager project. The objective of the Nurse Care Manager project is to increase access to medication for opioid use disorder services. Funding for this project is part of [Governor Jay Inslee's Executive Order 16-09](#), addressing the Opioid Use Public Health Crisis.

Eligibility

For an individual to receive care through this project they must meet the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM 5) diagnostic criteria for opioid use disorder (OUD) and meet state and federal eligibility requirements for admission. Individuals who are pregnant and/or use drugs intravenously are priority populations for admission.

Budget

Table 1. 2023-2025 Nurse Care Manager budget

State	\$ 881,064
Medicaid	\$ 881,064
Total	\$ 1,762,128

Contracts

\$195,792 per year was provided to each organization through performance-based contracts to hire a Nurse Care Manager and provide services and care coordination to individuals. Every site is contracted to serve a minimum of 120 unique individuals per year by administering FDA-approved medications for opioid use disorder.

¹ Contracts ended on 6/30/2023.
82-0488 (10/23)

People served

Year	Unique Individuals
2019-2020	1702
2020-2021	1033
2021-2022	1273
2022-2023	1616

The decrease in the numbers of individuals served year over year (2020-2022) is due to state and federal restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The numbers are now increasing as the restrictions are being lifted.

Key partners

A DBHR Opioid workgroup and ADAI met and developed priorities for partnership based on organizations interest and/or currently offering medication for opioid use disorder services. Two Nurse Care Managers were placed in Eastern Washington and seven in Western Washington. They are located in Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHC), Community Mental Health centers (CMHC), medical clinics, a tribal health center and a jail.

Oversight

DBHR contracted with nine organizations to hire a Nurse Care Manager to provide care coordination for individuals with OUD and provide community outreach regarding OUD and medication for opioid use disorder.

- Olympia Medical Center, Port Angeles¹
- Cascade Medical Advantage, Bellingham
- Columbia River Mental Health, Vancouver
- Columbia Valley Community Health, Wenatchee
- Community Health of Central Washington, Ellensburg
- Cowlitz Tribal Health, Tukwila
- MultiCare Health Systems, Puyallup
- Peninsula Community Health Service, Port Orchard
- NW Integrated Health, Pierce County Jail²

² Contracts ended on 6/30/2023.

- Mid-Valley Hospital/Clinic, Omak³
- Peninsula Community Health Service, Bremerton⁴

More information

Contact: Linda Barker

Program manager

linda.barker@hca.wa.gov

³ Contracts started on 10/1/2023.

⁴ Contracts started on 10/1/2023.