



New Jersey
Monmouth County
Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program

10/01/19 Grant Start → 09/30/22 Grant End

Overview

In 2017, 1,969 overdose deaths involving opioids occurred in New Jersey. This rate of 22 deaths per 100,000 persons is significantly higher than the national average (14.6 deaths per 100,000). Monmouth County experienced 172 of the 1,969 deaths. The 54 municipalities of Monmouth County that may lawfully commit an adult to the Monmouth County Correctional Institution (MCCI) fall within the purview of the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) grant. MCCI has an occupancy rating of 1,328 inmates and is fully accredited with the American Correctional Association and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. The facility is among the ten largest county correctional facilities in the nation. It operates a full-service medical unit that includes medical treatment, infirmary, dialysis, x-ray, dental, constant watch, and mental health services. MCCI also provides substance abuse counseling services, social services, library services, religious services, and GED and vocational educational services.

MCCI currently provides medication-assisted treatment (MAT) as a continuation upon incarceration for inmates already on MAT. COSSAP funding is being used to initiate MAT for inmates identified as having opioid use disorders.

Grant Focus

- Expand jail-based treatment and effective reentry programs.
- Increase access to naloxone.
- Prioritize real-time data collection, analysis, and dissemination.
- Link data sets to identify trends and focus resources.
- Build capacity in underserved regions impacted by the opioid epidemic.

Program Approach

MAT will be used to reduce withdrawal symptoms, relapse, and the potential for overdose during incarceration and upon release. Any adult legally incarcerated within Monmouth County with an opioid addiction will be medically assessed and started on MAT in lieu of detoxification.

A registered nurse (RN) will serve as project coordinator and is responsible for the following:

- Providing screening and assessment
- Taking a detailed drug use and treatment history
- Administering medication
- Verifying medication
- Referencing the New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program
- Providing oversight for the narcotic MAT
- Referrals to medical and mental health providers
- Coordinating appointments between clinics
- Connecting to community providers and updating them on their patients' progress
- Referrals to the supervising counselor penal institution
- Maintaining logs of controlled substances and disposal
- Generating statistics
- Working in close collaboration with the medical director
- Participating in interdisciplinary meetings

A nurse practitioner will work closely with the RN/project coordinator on clinical treatment and will consult with the medical director, who will have clinical oversight of the entire MAT program and will audit all charges and logs.

A certified alcohol and drug counselor will be responsible for all patients in the MAT program, coordinate with the medical team, and follow American Society of Addiction Medicine criteria. The counselor will make referrals to mental health, employment, housing, and government assistance resources, as well as connect clients with community resources for continued treatment upon release.

MCCI will conduct an annual program evaluation to provide insight into the effectiveness on the population. The evaluation will examine several factors, including whether the individual relapsed, when the relapse occurred, the length of time the individual was clean, the substance used during relapse, whether MAT was continued upon release, attendance at therapy, recidivism, employment status, medical treatment, housing status, mental health treatment, and other major life issues.

Project Partners

- Jersey Shore Addiction Services
- Resa Treatment Center
- Middletown Medical
- Visiting Nurse Association

Contact Information

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