



Wisconsin
Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division
Medication-Assisted Treatment Pilot Project

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

Overview

Wisconsin has been hit hard by the opioid epidemic, experiencing a 300 percent increase in drug overdose deaths since 2000. The number of overdose deaths due to prescription opioids increased 600 percent, from 81 deaths in 2000 to 568 deaths in 2016. Heroin overdose deaths increased twelvefold, from 28 deaths in 2000 to 371 deaths in 2016. Among all counties, Milwaukee County has the highest rate per 100,000 people of opioid deaths and hospital visits because of substance misuse. Recent data from the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office demonstrate that narcotic deaths represent 73 percent of all drug deaths. Fentanyl deaths have continued to climb since 2012, now representing 70 percent of all narcotic deaths in Milwaukee County. The Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) grant will target incarcerated offenders in Milwaukee County. Deaths from opioid overdoses have significantly increased among offenders, with 34.6 percent of deaths occurring while under Department of Corrections supervision.

Within three months of release from custody, 75 percent of people who were incarcerated with an opioid use disorder (OUD) experienced a relapse.

Grant Focus

- Expand jail-based treatment and effective reentry programs.
- Expand peer support services and recovery housing.
- Increase access to naloxone.
- Prioritize real-time data collection, analysis, and dissemination.
- Link data sets to identify trends and focus resources.
- Expand models of public health, behavioral health, and public safety information sharing and collaboration at state and local levels.
- Expand public awareness about opioid abuse.
- Educate public safety and criminal justice stakeholders about substance abuse.

Program Approach

The proposed medication-assisted treatment (MAT) pilot project includes the following components:

- **Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Programming:** Treatment may include individual sessions, group sessions, intensive outpatient programming, or relapse prevention sessions.
- **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy/Group Sessions:** Participants will participate in Thinking for Change, a cognitive-behavioral curriculum delivered by Wellpath Community Medical Services (CMS) that concentrates on changing the criminogenic thinking of offenders.
- **Mental Health Counseling:** Offenders with co-occurring disorders who are participating in the MAT pilot project will have access to crisis management and relapse prevention services through the Behavioral Health Division Provider Network upon release.
- **Naltrexone (Vivitrol) Injection:** Participants will receive monthly injections of naltrexone. Up to three injections per offender will be grant-funded.

The following series of trainings for Milwaukee County House of Correction officers, Wisconsin Department of Corrections agents, Wellpath medical and behavioral health staff, CMS peer specialists, behavioral health clinicians, and the Milwaukee Clinic manager will occur prior to pilot project implementation.

- **“Effective Use of MAT in an Opioid Dependent Population”:** on-site training to provide guidance in the treatment of OUDs, including the effective use of all U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved medications
- **“MAT for Peer Recovery Coaching”:** e-learning training providing certified peer specialists with information about MAT

- **“Improving Cultural Competence in Substance Abuse Treatment”:** on-site training providing strategies to serve diverse clients, families, and communities
- **Motivational Interviewing (MI):** beginning-skills on-site training of the MI spirit, practitioner behavioral skills, structure, and strategies
- **MI Refresher Training:** on-site skills training for contextual, role-centric skill development
- **MI Peer Learning Groups:** on-site trainings to establish an ongoing community of practice for all who have completed the MI beginning-skills training
- **Matrix Model Training–Basic Core:** on-site training on the “Evidence-Based Matrix Model of Intensive Outpatient Treatment”
- **Matrix Model Training–Criminal Justice Settings:** on-site training on using the Matrix Model to meet the unique needs of law-involved clients
- **Matrix Model Supervisor Training:** on-site training for individuals responsible for implementing the model

Project Partners

- Milwaukee County House of Correction
- Wellpath
- Community Medical Services
- Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Division of Community Corrections
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Contact Information

Project Director: Alisha Nelson

Email: alisha.nelson@milwaukeecountywi.gov

Phone: (414) 257-7909

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