



Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT

through support of the 21st Century Cures Act

John R. Kasich, Governor
Tracy J. Plouck, Director

Increasing Access to Medication Assisted Treatment

The 21st Century CURES Act enacted by Congress in December 2016 recognized that states need significant help to combat the opioid epidemic across the nation. It is designed to modernize health care through enhanced innovation, research and communication, leading to better patient outcomes. The Act also makes new funding available to states to combat the prescription opioid and heroin crisis through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). SAMHSA will provide up to \$970 million to states and territories over the next two years, beginning in 2017.

As one of the states hit hardest by the opioid epidemic, Ohio is among the largest recipients of grant funding. Over the next two years, Ohio will receive \$26 million per year that will focus on several core principles, one of which is increasing access to medication assisted treatment (MAT). Among the various barriers to increasing access to MAT, there is a growing need for treatment and services for pregnant mothers with an opioid use disorder. In order to more effectively treat this population, integrative care is a critical piece to ensuring that opioid dependent pregnant women are appropriately linked with MAT in addition to other maternal and behavioral health services. Integrative care is also significant in providing access to MAT for individuals that come into the emergency department, as there is a need for referrals to treatment as well as immediate MAT induction in order to help reduce continued opioid use among addicted patients. Additionally, rural counties face challenges in finding MAT prescribers within their communities and struggle to meet the treatment needs of their residents. A main goal in increasing access to MAT is to implement a system of care in which patients that come into contact with various healthcare providers, are able to also receive immediate access to MAT and other addiction treatment resources as appropriate to client need.



Case Managers for Clinical Care Coordination in the Emergency Department

Case manager positions will be created within three hospital emergency departments that offer MAT induction with buprenorphine or Vivitrol. Participating emergency departments include: Summa Health, located in Summit County; Coshocton Regional Medical Center; and Metro Health, located in Cuyahoga County.

Patients with opioid use disorders will receive clinical care coordination from the case manager in order to assist in implementing a seamless system of care. Case managers will engage with physicians to coordinate interim MAT for clients that are unable to receive immediate services through a community treatment program. Clients that are

not clinically appropriate to receive MAT or prefer to be prescribed methadone will receive referrals to behavioral health treatment services appropriate to their needs.

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Case managers will not only coordinate opioid treatment and withdrawal services for clients, but will also provide follow up



services to the client and the referral agency to monitor treatment follow-through. Clients that do not follow-through with treatment will be encouraged to participate in harm reduction programs and offered assistance with linkage to services, should they request them in the future. Case managers will also provide linkage to community resources as appropriate to each client's need.

Expansion of Maternal Opiate Medical Supports (MOMS) Programming

Six opioid treatment program (OTP) providers will implement and provide Maternal Opiate Medical

Supports (MOMS) services to pregnant women with an opioid use disorder. OTP providers that will be implementing the program include: Central Community Health Board, located in Hamilton County;



CommQuest Services, located in Stark County; The Crossroads Center, located in Hamilton County; Health Recovery Services, Inc., located in Athens County; Meridian Health Care, located in Mahoning County; and the Zepf Center, located in Lucas County.

MOMS is an approach targeted at improving maternal and fetal health outcomes, improving family stability, and reducing costs of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) by providing treatment to pregnant mothers with opiate issues during and after pregnancy. The program utilizes a Maternity Care Home (MCH) model of care, which emphasizes team based healthcare delivery, focusing on care coordination and wrap-around services that engage expecting mothers in a combination of counseling, MAT, and case management. Care coordination will include collaboration between OTPs, women's healthcare providers, and social service providers. Clients involved in the MOMS program will receive timely access to appropriate addiction and mental health services, including intensive home-based or residential treatment, during and after their pregnancy.

CompDrug, located in Franklin County, will provide training and technical assistance to help implement and sustain the MOMS model of care. OTPs will be able to access live and online trainings as well as timely consultation, support, and technical assistance. Training opportunities will include both administrative practices and patient care strategies and practices.

Filling the Gaps in Rural Communities through Telehealth

OhioMHAS is sponsoring the implementation of telehealth services for patients with opioid use disorders in an effort to combat the barriers related to access to MAT within rural communities throughout Ohio. Telehealth utilizes telecommunication technology to provide access to healthcare services remotely. It is a helpful tool for

addressing the lack of resources for treating individuals with opioid use disorders, particularly in rural communities. Telehealth will be offered through the establishment of telemedicine hubs that provide MAT services, including induction and maintenance, to individuals living in rural counties with high overdose rates and fentanyl deaths. Telemedicine hubs will link with behavioral health agencies located within the counties of service in order to provide integrative care and coordinate services among each client. The hubs will also provide other treatment services for clients that do not have access to a provider in the community or if there is a long waitlist for services.