

Councilmember	In-Person	Remote	Absent	Notes
Amber Pulcifur			X	
Betsy Fitzgerald	X			
Darryl Stewart	X			
Deb Poulin		X		
Holly Stover		X		
Jamar Williams	X			
Joe Everett		X		
Liz Blackwell-Moore	X			
Maggie McLoughlin	X			
Melissa Hackett	X			
Pat Kimball	X			
Paul Vinsel	X			
Raegan LaRoche	X			
Tess Parks	X			
Todd Brackett			X	

**Date:**

9/11/2025

**The Maine Recovery Council**

Date: 9/11/25 Recorded by: Grayson H.

Councilmember	Yay	Nay	Abstain	Notes
Amber Pulcifer				absent
Betsy Fitzgerald	X			
Darryl Stewart	X			
Deb Poulin	X			
2 Holly Stover	X			
Jamar Williams	X			
Joe Everett	X			
Liz Blackwell-Moore	X			
Maggie McLoughlin	X			
1 Melissa Hackett	X			
Pat Kimball	X			
Paul Vinsel	X			
Raegan LaRochelle	X			
Tess Parks	X			
Todd Brackett				absent

Motion: To pass the minutes of the August Full Council meeting

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**The Maine Recovery Council**

Date: 9/11/25 Recorded by: Grayson H.

Councilmember	Yay	Nay	Abstain	Notes
Amber Pulcifur				absent
Betsy Fitzgerald	X			
Darryl Stewart	X			
Deb Poulin	X			
2 Holly Stover	X			
Jamar Williams	X			
Joe Everett	X			
1 Liz Blackwell-Moore	X			
Maggie McLoughlin	X			
Melissa Hackett	X			
Pat Kimball	X			
Paul Vinsel	X			
Raegan LaRochelle	X			
Tess Parks	X			
Todd Brackett				absent

Motion: To allow Franklin County's request to use \$125,000 of their planning grant funds for XRB in the Franklin County Detention Center, in accordance with the attached proposal, and to amend their planning grant contract to allow the expenditure.

# MRC Implementation Proposal for Franklin County Detention Center

**Prepared by:** LeeAnna Lavoie, Dr. Alane O'Connor and Sgt Ryan Close

8/27/25

**The Problem:** Franklin County is a rural area burdened by high rates of intergenerational poverty and trauma. Its residents have been deeply affected by the opioid epidemic over the last decade. In response, the County has invested significant efforts and resources into implementing evidence-based strategies to save lives. This includes harm reduction initiatives, expanded access to medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), stigma reduction campaigns, the establishment of a recovery center, and a syringe service program. A community that once hesitated to widely distribute Narcan now fully embraces its life-saving power. Yet, the challenges persist, especially for one of the most vulnerable groups: individuals who are incarcerated. Drug overdose is the leading cause of death post-release.

The Franklin County Detention Center (FCDC) has long operated under a punitive model that was developed in the 1970s. FCDC now recognizes that this approach is ineffective for individuals with substance use disorders (SUD) and/or mental health concerns. High rates of recidivism among those suffering from SUD have prompted a desire for systemic change. Numerous barriers remain, but the county has crafted a plan to transition FCDC to a facility that is focused on restorative justice.

**Our Approach:** Franklin County is embarking on a transformative journey to fundamentally reshape how FCDC operates. This includes training and education for correctional officers and overhauling both the reentry and in-house programming services. FCDC's goal is to ensure that every individual with OUD receives medical care rooted in evidence based best practice and compassion.

FCDC was recently awarded a Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) grant. The federal grant is \$1 million over three years and will support four essential pillars.

- The development of a robust reentry program for those incarcerated that supports individuals with SUD as they transition back into the community;
- The expansion of staff training to deepen understanding of substance use as a treatable chronic medical condition rather than a moral failing;
- An overhaul of FCDC's MOUD program that utilizes evidence based best practices to support successful reentry and prevent drug overdose deaths post-release;

- The introduction of data tracking and program evaluation to identify the many benefits of these improvements including an expected reduction in recidivism.

FCDC's programmatic changes have already yielded tangible results. A multi-sector community advisory committee and four active workgroups meet monthly, ensuring ongoing dialogue and collaboration. The appointment of Dr. Alane O'Connor as the Director of Addiction Medicine at FCDC brings expert oversight to the initiative. Two dedicated reentry staff have been hired, and the reentry program itself has grown stronger and more responsive to the needs of those it serves. Volunteer participation in FCDC programming has increased to eleven, and services offered to those in custody have expanded in both scope and impact. The MOUD program has been redesigned and implemented and now includes extended-release buprenorphine (XRB) which is a monthly injectable medication that has been shown to increase post-release treatment retention and reduce the risk of drug overdose. It is gaining widespread interest and acceptance among those incarcerated and community stakeholders.

Data tracking methodologies have been developed, and a partnership with USM will ensure rigorous analysis for program evaluation. Additional funding has been secured, including \$50,000 from the Maine Department of Public Safety, to launch the XRB program. The Maine Office of Behavioral Health has funding to support MAT in jails, and we submitted an application that was not funded. As the demand for XRB increases, the county continues to pursue new funding streams to best serve our community.

The significance of introducing XRB cannot be overstated. For those whose lives have become so unmanageable that they find themselves in the correctional system, access to this form of MOUD is a crucial step toward stability and hope. The long-term nature of XRB creates a meaningful bridge to sustainable treatment and empowers residents to reclaim their lives and find more effective pathways to recovery upon reentry.

**Franklin County Planning Grant:** Prior to the COSSUP award, the work at FCDC began when Maine Recovery Council awarded Franklin County \$400,000 in planning and implementation grant funds nearly two years ago. At that time, we were actively pursuing resources to overhaul our correctional facility, with a priority focus on allocating a portion of planning grant implementation funding toward expanding access to XRB. Despite delays in the contracting process and modifications to the approval procedures, our team consistently pursued funding to support FCDC. These efforts are intended to facilitate the implementation of comprehensive systems-level changes that aims to achieve sustainable improvements and safeguard lives.

Once our contract was fully executed in June 2025—after months of continuous collaboration with USM in preparation—we made swift progress. Within just two months, we successfully designed and distributed an organizational survey to gauge current practices and gaps at FCDC. Through this effort, we discovered important insights related to the use of long-acting injectable medication for the treatment of OUD related to community capacity; 91% of community organizations who provide MOUD reported they prescribe XRB. We are seeking sufficient funding to maintain our XRB program through the next county funding cycle, which would provide time to evaluate its cost effectiveness. Both the county and the community have expressed support for this initiative, and our robust data collection plan will allow us to evaluate the effectiveness of the initiative.

We are requesting that \$125,000 from the implementation funds be allocated to continue the XRB program for an additional five months.

**Budget**

	Total Cost	Narrative
Salary	\$0	
Benefits	\$0	
Equipment	\$0	
Supplies		
Medications	\$116,400	15 XRB shots/month for 5 months @ \$1552/shot
Medical Supplies	\$8,600	\$1,720/month to cover medical supplies like lidocaine, urine drug screening tests
Indirect	\$0	
Total	\$125,000	

**The Maine Recovery Council**

Date: 9/11/25 Recorded by: Grayson H.

Councilmember	Yay	Nay	Abstain	Notes
Amber Pulcifer				Absent
Betsy Fitzgerald	X			
Darryl Stewart	X			
Deb Poulin	X			
Holly Stover	X			
Jamar Williams	X			
Joe Everett	X			
Liz Blackwell-Moore	X			
2 Maggie McLoughlin	X			
Melissa Hackett	X			
Pat Kimball	X			
1 Paul Vinsel	X			
Raegan LaRochelle				Absent @ time of vote
Tess Parks	X			
Todd Brackett				Absent

Motion: That members of the Programs and Grants committee review and score the grant management RFP applications independantly ahead of the Sept. 30 P+6 committee meeting, and deliberate / review scores at the Sept. 30 meeting. The committee will bring a recommendation to the Full Council at the Oct. 9th meeting.

**The Maine Recovery Council**

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Jamar Williams	X			
Joe Everett	X			
Liz Blackwell-Moore	X			
Maggie McLoughlin	X			
Melissa Hackett	X			
Pat Kimball	X			
1 Paul Vinsel	X			
Raegan LaRoche	X			
Tess Parks	X			
Todd Brackett				Absent

Motion: To terminate the MRC contract with the Church of Safe Injection for the operation of Maine CDC certified syringe service programs (\$225,000 in years one and two), effective immediately, on the basis of revocation of Maine CDC certification. And to direct Council staff and legal counsel to pursue appropriate remedies to recover any or all unspent or misspent opioid settlement funds.

The Maine Recovery Council

Date: 9/11/25 Recorded by: Grayson H.

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Darryl Stewart	X			
Deb Poulin	X			
Holly Stover	X			
Jamar Williams	X			
Joe Everett	X			
Liz Blackwell-Moore	X			
Maggie McLoughlin	X			
Melissa Hackett	X			
Pat Kimball	X			
Paul Vinsel	X			
Raegan LaRoche	X			
Tess Parks	X			
Todd Brackett				absent

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Motion: To delegate the authority of the Recovery Council to its Programs and Grants committee to review, and approve or deny, the updated contract budget of Council grantee MD3. This authority is granted on a one-time case-by-case basis in order to allow for the finalization of the contract before the drafting deadline set by OAG Finance, which is before the next full Recovery Council meeting.

**The Maine Recovery Council**

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Deb Poulin	X			
Holly Stover	X			
Jamar Williams	X			
Joe Everett	X			
1 Liz Blackwell-Moore	X			
Maggie McLoughlin	X			
2 Melissa Hackett	X			
Pat Kimball	X			
Paul Vinsel	X			
Raegan LaRochelle	X			
Tess Parks	X			
Todd Brackett				absent

Motion: To approve the updated contract budget of Council grantee Preble Street

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