



Maine Department of Corrections

CORRECTIONAL PROGRAM DIVISION

Medication Assisted Treatment

For more information:

Ryan Thornell, Deputy Commissioner
Ryan.Thornell@maine.gov • (207) 458-3033

In July 2019, Maine Department of Corrections began treating opioid use disorder with Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in three adult correctional facilities.

Maine DOC's response to the opioid crisis in our State

Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is considered one of the highest standards of care for people who have a history of opiate addiction. The purpose of MAT is to reduce cravings for opiates to better allow individuals to manage personal triggers and engage in counseling/treatment more effectively.

In the months leading up to initial rollout, careful planning took place between DOC, Well Path (DOC's comprehensive medical care provider), and Groups Recover Together (a community agency serving those with opioid addiction). On July 1st, treatment was initiated at Maine Correctional Center, Southern Maine Women's Reentry Center, and Bolduc Correctional Facility. The pilot treatment targets both male and female offenders who meet eligibility criteria, who understand the risks and benefits of treatment, who are willing to enter treatment, and who are within three months of discharge from DOC. Treatment starts in facility, and continuity of care upon discharge is assured with DOC's community partner, Groups.

Pilot Expansion Plans

DOC continues to work with its comprehensive medical care provider, Wellpath, and Department of Health and Human Services, SAMHS, to explore options to expand the MAT work to clients residing at Mountain View Correctional Facility (MVCF) and Maine State Prison (MSP). Funding for MVCF has been identified and MAT will be offered there starting November, 2019. Plans for expansion to MSP continue, with a tentative start early 2020.

Progress during first three pilot months (July-Sept. 2019):

Currently active in Facility MAT

- Average of 58 clients active
- 56 clients currently participating
- 21 women
 - * 10 Southern Maine Reentry
 - * 11 Maine Correctional Center
- 35 men
 - * 7 Bolduc Correctional Center
 - * 28 Maine Correctional Center

Successful Facility MAT Completions

This is defined as clients who began MAT treatment in a facility, and continued treatment until discharged to the community.

- 22 women
- 40 men

Groups Recover Together– Community

At completion of first quarter:

- 38 successful transitions from services in prison continue with Groups community, plus 10 DOC non-pilot continue
- All pilot program participants have been engaged with Groups prior to discharge
- 97% surveyed post d/c report satisfaction with Groups and plan to stay
- 100% offered Narcan upon release
- 97% offered free cell phone upon release/ and report safe housing
- 94% currently employed

Other Substance Use (SU) Programming at Maine DOC

Men's SU Programming 2019

- 30% of pop have controlling sentence of drugs (primarily trafficking related)
- 245 in SU treatment
- 672 are on a waitlist for SU treatment
- 78 are active in a therapeutic treatment community (residential)
- 167 active in SU group treatment
- 19 are active in peer recovery

Women's SU Programming 2019

- 47% of pop have controlling sentence of drugs (primarily trafficking related)
- 85 women are active in SU treatment
- 71 are on a waitlist for SU treatment
- 18 are trained and provide recovery coaching to peers
- 42 are receiving recovery peer support through a coach