



Addressing Workforce Challenges

21st Century Cures Act Investments

Ohio's behavioral health workforce functions in a wide range of prevention, health care, and social service settings. Examples include public and private prevention programs; community-based inpatient and outpatient treatment programs; primary care offices; hospitals; emergency rooms; criminal justice systems; and school-based or higher education institutions. The continuing opioid epidemic has outpaced available workforce resources despite the extensive and coordinated efforts of multiple state systems.

Ohio's Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) will leverage the 21st Century Cures Act to: implement evidence-based practices; improve care coordination for persons with opioid use disorder; recruit and expand the number of prescribers to provide medication assisted treatment (MAT); mentor new prescribers and maintain their level of MAT competence over time; and enhance child welfare system knowledge on opioid addiction. In addition, OhioMHAS will work with local leaders to address vicarious trauma experienced by child protection staff, first responders, foster parents and peer supporters. Our goal is to create a seamless system of care in which patients with opioid use disorder, and their families, can enter and be treated by an array professionals.

OhioMHAS will provide targeted recruitment and training of MAT prescribers, including physicians from behavioral health and specialty practices, physician assistants (PAs) and applicable advanced nurse practitioners (APNs), in 47 counties across the state that have experienced the highest number and / or greatest penetration of unintentional overdose deaths in recent years. Specific targeted activities include:

1. Promote MAT in emergency department settings as part of a continuum of care. In collaboration with the Ohio Hospital Association, OhioMHAS will work with hospital emergency departments to promote MAT through one of three models of care: initiation of MAT in emergency departments by professionals on site; initiation of MAT in emergency departments through telemedicine; or warm hand-offs to the appropriate Office-Based Opiate Treatment, Opiate treatment providers, or detoxification centers.
2. Provide promotional materials to encourage physicians to obtain DATA 2000 waiver certification.
3. Support newly waived physicians through quarterly mentoring.
4. Support newly waived PAs and APNs through quarterly mentoring.
5. Deliver a 12-month curriculum to enhance general MAT experience among existing DATA 2000 waived providers.
6. Provide training to help existing DATA 2000 waived physicians increase their competency with ASAM guidelines.

Specific statewide activities include:

1. Coordinate treatment for drug dependent pregnant women. In collaboration with Opiate Treatment Programs, OhioMHAS will develop six maternal care homes that will integrate obstetric care and MAT.

2. Develop a professional 21-part curricula to promote understanding of MAT, substance abuse, and vicarious trauma for all MAT prescribers, behavioral health professionals, and other parties interested in learning about prevention, treatment, and consequences of substance use disorder. Curricula will be developed by a panel of experts from the appropriate fields. All curricula will be freely available in perpetuity for continuing education and/or continuing medical education through our state's e-based academy.
3. Facilitate access to recovery support and intensive child welfare case management through expansion of the Annie E. Casey Foundation evidence-based program, Sobriety, Treatment and Recovery Teams (START), and develop a statewide cross-training interdisciplinary collaboration and planning process for the improvement of treatment service delivery to child welfare families impacted by the opioid epidemic.
4. Promote MAT understanding in systems serving children. Develop education, training programs and technical assistance strategies to be offered by Ohio Child Welfare Training Program Substance Abuse Training Partnership to professionals in behavioral health, child welfare, primary health care and the juvenile justice systems to support an increased understanding of opioid use disorder, and of the importance of MAT and the correlation between trauma and addiction.
5. In collaboration with local prevention and treatment coalitions, OhioMHAS will contract to host MAT Symposiums for criminal justice entities. There will be at least 10 education and training sessions per year of the grant for these entities on the nature, application, efficacy, and implementation of Medication Assisted Treatment.
6. Provide MAT to communities with limited access. Expansion of telehealth services is key for rural and Appalachian areas with little or no MAT services. Four telehealth hubs, in locations to be determined, will be funded to provide MAT for rural and Appalachian communities.