



CBHC

Colorado Behavioral
Healthcare Council

golden
light bulb

Program Title: Jail Utilization of Substance Use Disorder Treatment (JUST NOCO)

Organization: SummitStone Health Partners

Program Abstract (50 words max, please):

SummitStone Health Partners worked collaboratively with the Larimer County Jail and the Health District of Northern Larimer County to develop a successful process for treating incarcerated persons for opioid use disorder with medication assisted treatment coupled with psychosocial treatments, community-based treatment, and recovery supports. This project demonstrates successful implementation of MAT in a county jail and data analysis showed reductions in substance use as well as improvements in housing, employment, and mental health symptoms.

Program Description (Include program development, program information, staffing requirements, pertinent data and start-up costs.): *Please limit to 2 pages, and remember to address all criteria specified.

Program Development

SummitStone Health Partners convened a multi-stakeholder group of addiction specialists, community providers and public health experts to assist the Larimer County Jail in the development of a jail-based MAT program offering all three FDA-approved medications (Methadone, Buprenorphine, Naltrexone); in-house MAT counseling; care coordination and Naloxone training and kits distributed prior to release. This MAT program was the first jail-based MAT program in Colorado to offer all three medications to such a large number of incarcerated individuals.

Program Information

JUST NOCO aims to treat incarcerated individuals with opioid use disorders using MAT coupled with psychosocial treatments and community-based treatment and recovery supports that begin in the MAT jail setting. Universal screening at the time of booking allows individuals with OUDs incarcerated in the Larimer County Jail to enroll in the MAT program. They can also elect to receive psychosocial treatments provided by SummitStone Health Partners, including group therapy, individual therapy, and case management services. Once an individual is enrolled, Larimer County Jail contacts a local care-coordination program, Colorado Opioid Synergy Larimer and Weld (CO-SLAW), to transition care for the individual when they are released from jail. The JUST NOCO program partnerships among Larimer County Jail, SummitStone Health Partners, and CO-SLAW aim to treat people with OUDs within the jail and improve the transition of care from the jail to the community to increase post-release treatment retention.

Staffing Requirements

Key staff for this program includes personnel from Larimer County Jail's contracted health services provider (.6 FTE Nurse Practitioner, 1.0 FTE Registered Nurse, 1.0 FTE Medical Assistant), SummitStone Health Partners (1.0 FTE Clinician) and North Colorado Health Alliance's CO-SLAW team (1.0 Care Coordinator). Grant management and evaluation services were provided by the Butler Institute and funded by a Denver Foundation Health Access Fund grant. Funding for MAT medications is another key requirement for this program.

Pertinent data

The JUST NOCO program served 253 clients with opioid use disorder from September 1, 2020, to February 28, 2021. Demographics were reported for 187 clients.¹ In this time frame, 93.6% of clients identified as White, followed by 4.3% who identified as Black, 1.1% who identified as Asian, and less than 1% who identified as American Indian/Alaska Native. One client did not report their race. Almost one-fifth (17.6%) of clients identified as Hispanic while 74.9% of participants identified as “not Hispanic” and 7.5% did not specify their ethnicity. Most clients identified as male (69.5%), and clients who identified as female made up 30.5% of program participants. Clients’ mean age was 33.6 (SD = 8.27) at the time of intake into LCJ with a range of 19 to 70 years of age. JUST NOCO achieved its first two goals to develop and implement the first jail-based MAT program in Colorado that offers all three MAT medications (methadone, buprenorphine, naltrexone) and to distribute naloxone to individuals at risk of overdose upon release from jail. JUST NOCO is making steady progress towards its third goal to improve transitions of care in Larimer and Weld County Jails through care-coordination services for incarcerated individuals with opioid use disorders. Key client outcomes include:

- 253 clients were served. Of these, 63.5% were induced and 36.5% continued with MAT. One client who was pregnant accounted for 0.4% of the cohort.
- There was an average of 12.33 days (SD = 13.82) between intake into the LCJ and the date the client first enrolled in JUST NOCO. 70% of clients enrolled within 2 weeks of entering the jail while 30% enrolled after 2 weeks.
- 50 clients (19.8%) engaged in psychosocial treatment with group therapy being the most common form of treatment (66%).
- 37.8% of clients documented at least one return to custody.
- 149 (58.9%) clients self-reported no overdose in the past six months. The number of individuals reporting an overdose in the last six months was slightly higher among clients with at least one return to custody.
- 41.8% of clients attended at least one community-based treatment provider appointment. Average time to this appointment was 5 days.

Start-up costs

JUST NOCO cost approximately \$533,500 to initiate and is supported through a variety of braided and blended funding from Signal Behavioral Health Network (202 dollars), OBH (JBBS and MAT in Jails), Alkermes (Vivitrol samples) and the Denver Foundation Colorado Health Access Fund. In-kind care coordination is provided by North Colorado Health Alliance’s CO SLAW team through a SAMHSA grant.

¹ Due to a change in the jail identification system, demographic data was not available for clients without a new identification number (JMSID; *n* = 65).