

Cook County Sheriff's Office



Criminal Justice Committee
December 18, 2024
Item 24-5416

Our Core Values, Oaths, and Commitments



- We remain committed to transparency and accountability in all aspects of our operations.
- We take a sacred oath to protect and preserve life. That oath is the foundation of all our work within the agency.
- We are sworn to uphold the rights and dignity of all detainees, even under the challenging conditions of a large county jail.
- We balance effective security measures with humane treatment, recognizing the complexities of managing a jail whose population is often very violent, suffering from mental illness or in poor physical health, and, in many instances struggling with crippling substance use disorders.
- When an in-custody death occurs, the impact of that loss of life reverberates throughout our agency.
- We remain committed to assessing the unique set of circumstances surrounding these incidents and promptly take the necessary steps to allow for a thorough and complete independent investigation.
- We hold our own staff accountable if an investigation determines that an employee broke the law or otherwise violated the Sheriff's Office's policies and procedures.
- We pledge to continue to adapt and evolve the Department of Corrections to meet the challenges we face—challenges which often reflect broader societal issues beyond our control.

Deadly Drug-Soaked Paper A National Epidemic



Texas

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Prisoner accused of selling drug-laced paper in alleged money laundering scheme at the Harris County Jail

Pennsylvania

Jury Finds Pittsburgh Man Guilty of Attempting to Obtain Drug-Soaked Papers while Incarcerated

Texas

LOCAL // CRIME

What to know about the influx of drug-laced paper smuggled into the Harris County jail

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Ex-federal prison nurse gets 6-year sentence for smuggling drug-soaked paper to inmates

Ohio

NEWS

Woman accused of smuggling drug-soaked papers into prisons

Federal prosecutors have alleged that a South African woman helped orchestrate a scheme to smuggle dozens of packages containing sheets of paper soaked in drugs into prisons in Ohio and elsewhere

Ft. Lauderdale

Jail mail soaked with drugs was a big 'hit' with inmates, feds say

New York

METRO

Feds bust gang that smuggled drug-soaked comics, court papers into Rikers

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Eleven Charged With Sending Drug-Soaked Paper to Inmates

Oregon

Drug use soars among inmates in Oregon's prisons; officials struggle to stop smuggling, offer treatment

California

CALIFORNIA

Woman soaked letter in liquid meth and sent it to inmate at California jail, cops say

Nevada

Las Vegas jail inmate accused of sharing fentanyl, killing cellmate, storing drugs inside himself

Miami

Corruption investigation reveals drugs being smuggled into Miami-Dade jails by crime ring

Cook County

LOCAL NEWS

Woman accused of smuggling drug-soaked paper into Cook County Jail in baby's diaper

4 accused of trying to smuggle drug-soaked papers into Chicago jail

Virginia

Drug-soaked paper spurs changes for inmates' legal mail

New York

Children's drawings, love letters among items used to smuggle drugs into Riker's Island

Stemming the Flow of Dangerous Drugs into the Cook County Jail



Cook County Sheriff's Office (By Year)	# of individuals charged for attempting to smuggle illicit drugs into the CCDOC
2023	27
2024	61
Total	87 (Indicted or Charged)

Early Intervention and Supportive Programming



Individualized Assessment and Strategic Assignment (IASA) establishes a proactive plan of engagement to meet individuals, regardless of criminal charge or security classification, where they are and offer a variety of services to support both the individuals who are incarcerated as well as their family members.

The primary component of the IASA program is the offender risk and needs assessment, an oral interview-based evaluation used to determine appropriate rehabilitative program interventions, and post-release needs. A comprehensive needs assessment is completed, and a discharge plan is generated and provided to individuals in custody during their first week of incarceration.

IASA identifies opportunities to connect individuals with crucial substance use programs and services:

- On a bi-weekly basis, IASA identifies IICs with a Detox, MAT and naloxone Alert and refers them to SMART or THRIVE.
- Individuals who self-report substance use during a preliminary hearing screening are referred to Specialty Courts and the SMART or THRIVE program.
- IASA tracks individuals in custody with drug-related charges to follow up to complete an IASA intake.

When an individual self-reports suicidal ideation (with or without a plan) during their rapid mental health assessment, a high-risk alert is entered into our Jail Management System to flag the individual throughout the intake process and an interagency health inquiry is requested. Cermak performs an in-depth mental health evaluation to determine the level of care and need to petition for involuntary hospitalization if discharged from custody that same day.

Early Intervention and Supportive Programming (cont.)



The Cook County Sheriff's Office's behavioral health programs are centered in cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), which is an evidence-based approach to encourage participants to recognize their emotions and change their thinking, with the goal of participants adopting rational and constructive behaviors instead of making negative behavioral choices.

- **THRIVE:** The Therapeutic Healing Recovery Initiative for Vitality and Empowerment program (THRIVE) supports women who suffer from addiction while they are in custody through a curriculum designed to address the biopsychosocial factors related to addiction and incarceration. Although many participants are court-ordered to participate, individuals with substance use issues can request to participate.
- **SMART:** The Sheriff's Men's Addiction Recovery Treatment (SMART) program is a modified therapeutic community treatment program for men struggling with substance use and co-occurring disorders to equip them with support and tools they need to be successful in the community. Although many participants are court-ordered to participate, individuals with substance use issues can request to participate.
- **MHTC:** The Mental Health Transition Center (MHTC) is a voluntary program that serves individuals diagnosed with a substance use and/or clinical mental health disorder and offers a holistic array of services to support their transition back into the community and aid their long-term recovery.
- **SAVE:** The Sheriff's Anti-Violence Effort (SAVE) is a voluntary program that targets 18 to 25-year-old males who are likely to be victims of violence or to perpetuate violence. SAVE consists of two components: during the first component, SAVE participants are provided with daily therapy and programming. Upon discharge, participants are linked to intensive case management services and partner agencies in the community.
- **CARP:** The Clinical Assessment and Rehabilitation Program (CARP) uses a co-responder approach to cultivate a healthier outlook on mental health through evidence-based treatment modalities and to provide clinical support. CARP is designed to engage those in custody in individual and group programming to develop skills that will deter extreme behaviors.

Early Intervention and Supportive Programming (cont.)



Recovery Specialist

- Individuals in custody with a documented incident including substances are referred to the Recovery Specialist for an assessment. The specialist provides bi-weekly individual sessions and weekly group sessions through a structured 12-step program to develop coping skills and recovery plans to support their journey toward sobriety. Currently there are 37 individuals in custody receiving individualized recovery support sessions and 26 individuals in custody participating in group sessions.

CCDOC Naloxone Availability and Training

- Naloxone is available across the compound inside divisional safety response kits, living units, security offices, and in CCDOC vehicles.
- Every officer and civilian staff receive training on how to properly administer naloxone. 158 officers were trained in the FTO program this year.
- Annually, on National Overdose Awareness Day, CCDOC partners with community volunteers to train IICs on how to administer naloxone.

Our Proactive Response



- Strict adherence to the fundamentals around searches, sanitation, inspections, investigations & intelligence collection, and strict enforcement of longstanding policies around the accumulation of paper in the Department of Corrections.
- CCSO is the first law enforcement agency in the nation to initiate an expansion of Body Worn Cameras (BWC) to every sworn officer working within the Cook County Department of Corrections (CCDOC).
- Daily meetings with DOC leadership to review data and monitor operations within the jail.
- Bi-weekly meetings between leadership at CCSO and Cermak Health Services to assess needs of the CCDOC's most vulnerable detainees.
- A substantial expansion of the CCDOC's Video Monitoring Unit (VMU) to assist with strategic live monitoring.
This unit:
 - Identifies concerning behavior and alerts supervisors.
 - Flags opportunities for employee intervention and training.
 - Identifies detainee drug use and prevents the circulation of dangerous chemical compounds on living units; expedites naloxone deployments when an individual in custody is exhibiting symptoms.
 - Identifies individuals attempting to smuggle drugs into the jail.

Our Proactive Response (cont.)



- CCSO is poised to initiate drug testing at intake to proactively identify individuals who require closer observation and detoxification assistance.
- Expanded use of K-9 initiated searches throughout the DOC compound.
- Expanded staff training to identify signs of overdose and administer naloxone.
- Secured a new laboratory to identify chemical compounds that are not detected by standard tests. This includes household chemicals, pesticides, and other dangerous compounds.
- Additional staff dedicated to review all mail entering the CCDOC and expanded training to assist staff in identifying toxic substances and prevent those illicit chemicals from being introduced into the CCDOC.
- Establishment of a new digital printing system that allows the families of the incarcerated to print photos and letters for loved ones at a low cost. This provides an easier alternative to sending items through the USPS, while also allowing our staff to more efficiently screen incoming mail.
- A revamping of family notification processes and adding a licensed social worker to accompany staff to provide a wide range of support to the families.

An Independent, Multi-Jurisdictional Investigative Process



Cook County Medical Examiner- Conducts autopsy and determines cause/manner of death.

Illinois State Police Public Integrity Task Force (PITF)- Oversees the independent investigation into the death of an individual in custody.

Department of Investigations and Intelligence (DII)- A unit within the Cook County Sheriff's Office that conducts investigations and files criminal charges against detainees who are suspected of having committed a homicide.

Cook County State's Attorney's Office (CCSAO)- Receives and reviews findings of PITF and DII investigations and determines if criminal charges will be filed.

Office of Professional Review (OPR)- A unit within the Cook County Sheriff's Office that conducts administrative investigations into employee misconduct.

Item 24-5416

**Cook County Health
Cermak Health Services**

An Introduction to Cermak Health Services at the Cook County Jail

December 2024



**COOK COUNTY
HEALTH**

What is Cermak Health?

- An affiliate of Cook County Health
- Intersection of health care system and criminal justice system
- Largest single site correctional health service in the U.S.
- Provides primary, specialty, dental, mental health, rehabilitative and infirmary-level care to individuals in the custody of the Sheriff at the Cook County Jail.
- Provides infirmary-level care for patients needing regular monitoring or support. Patients needing acute care are transferred to local hospitals, primarily Stroger Hospital.
- Only correctional health provider in the State of Illinois to offer Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) to support patients experiencing substance use disorder.
 - Maintain patients who began MAT in the community and initiate new patients on MAT

A Leading Correctional Health Provider



- Earned accreditation under the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) for services provided in Cook County Jail in early 2024
 - To earn this voluntary accreditation, Cermak underwent a rigorous survey during the summer of 2023
 - Survey topics included patient care and treatment, health promotion, safety and disease prevention, governance and administration, personnel and training, special needs and services, and medical-legal issues
- NCCHC accreditation signals a constitutionally acceptable level of care, which supports the wellbeing of patients and improved population health when patients return to the community
- Cermak also participates in a collaborative with other public correctional health providers across the country and our practices are regularly adopted by peers, e.g. COVID, mpox, substance use disorder care







































What is Cermak Health Services?



Cermak Health Services has a presence throughout the ~100 acres on the Cook County Jail campus.

Cermak Health has clinics (dispensaries) in almost every building on campus.

Cermak Clinical Services

Locations	Avg. Daily Population 5,056 (11/29/24)	Primary Care	Mental Health	Dental	MAT	Med, Detox	Restrict. Unit	Nursing Service
Div. 2	460							 24hr
Div. 3 Annex	225							 24hr
Div. 6	952							 16hr
Div. 9	895							 16hr
Div. 11	1,504		 telehealth					 8hr
Div. 16	17		 telehealth					 16hr
Residential Treatment Unit	881							 24hr
*Cermak 2 nd Floor	65	Daily Chart Review						 24hr
*Cermak 3 rd Floor	56		Daily Rounds					 24hr

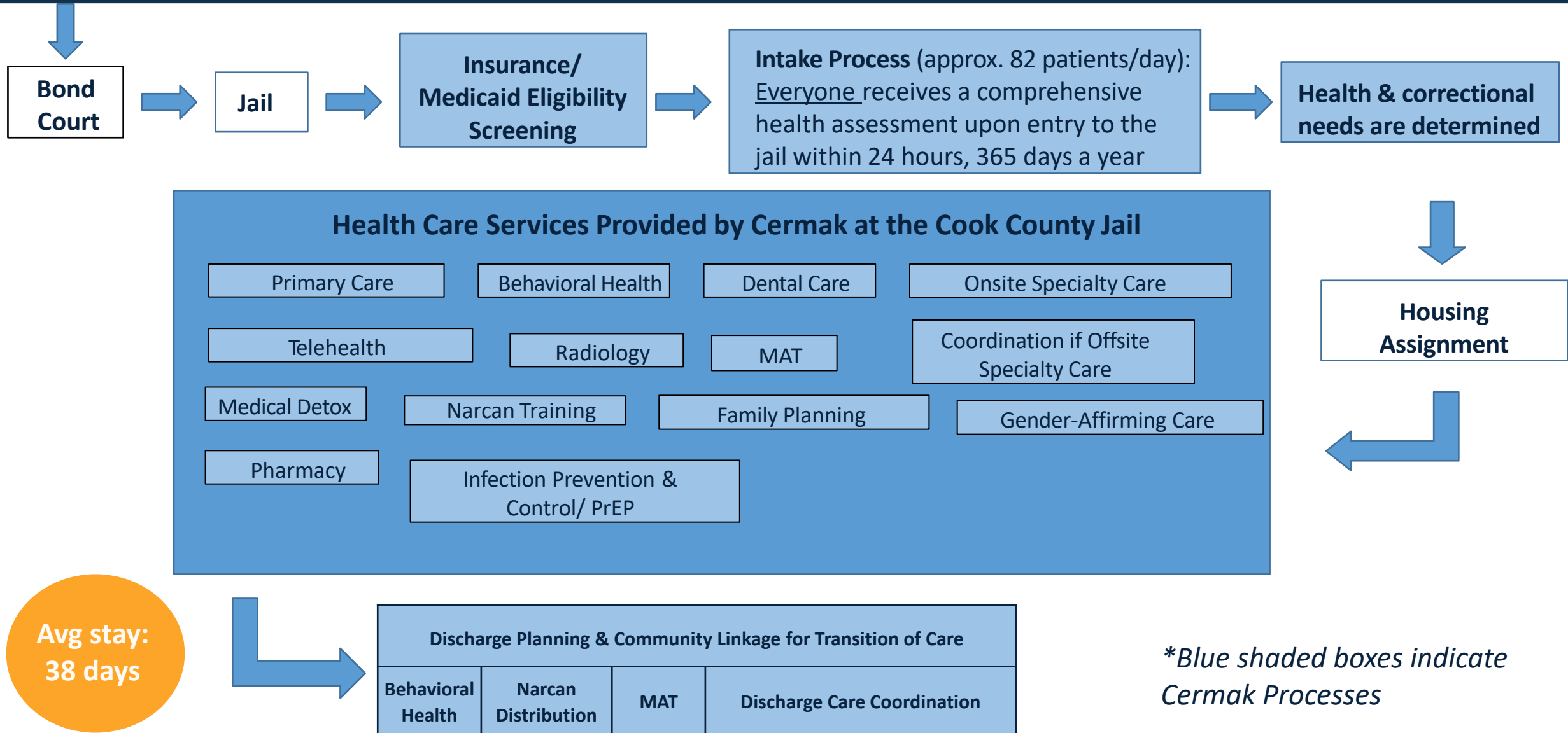
On-site services

- Cardiology
- Detox/Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) Program
- Dental (general)
- Gynecology/Obstetrics
- Infectious Diseases
- Laboratory
- Mental Health (24/7)
- Nephrology/Dialysis
- Nursing Care
- Optometry
- Orthopedics
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Podiatry
- Radiology
- Respiratory Therapy
- Telehealth
- Urgent Care (24/7)
- Urology

* Patients in need of services that are not offered on-site are transported to primarily to Stroger Hospital for care.

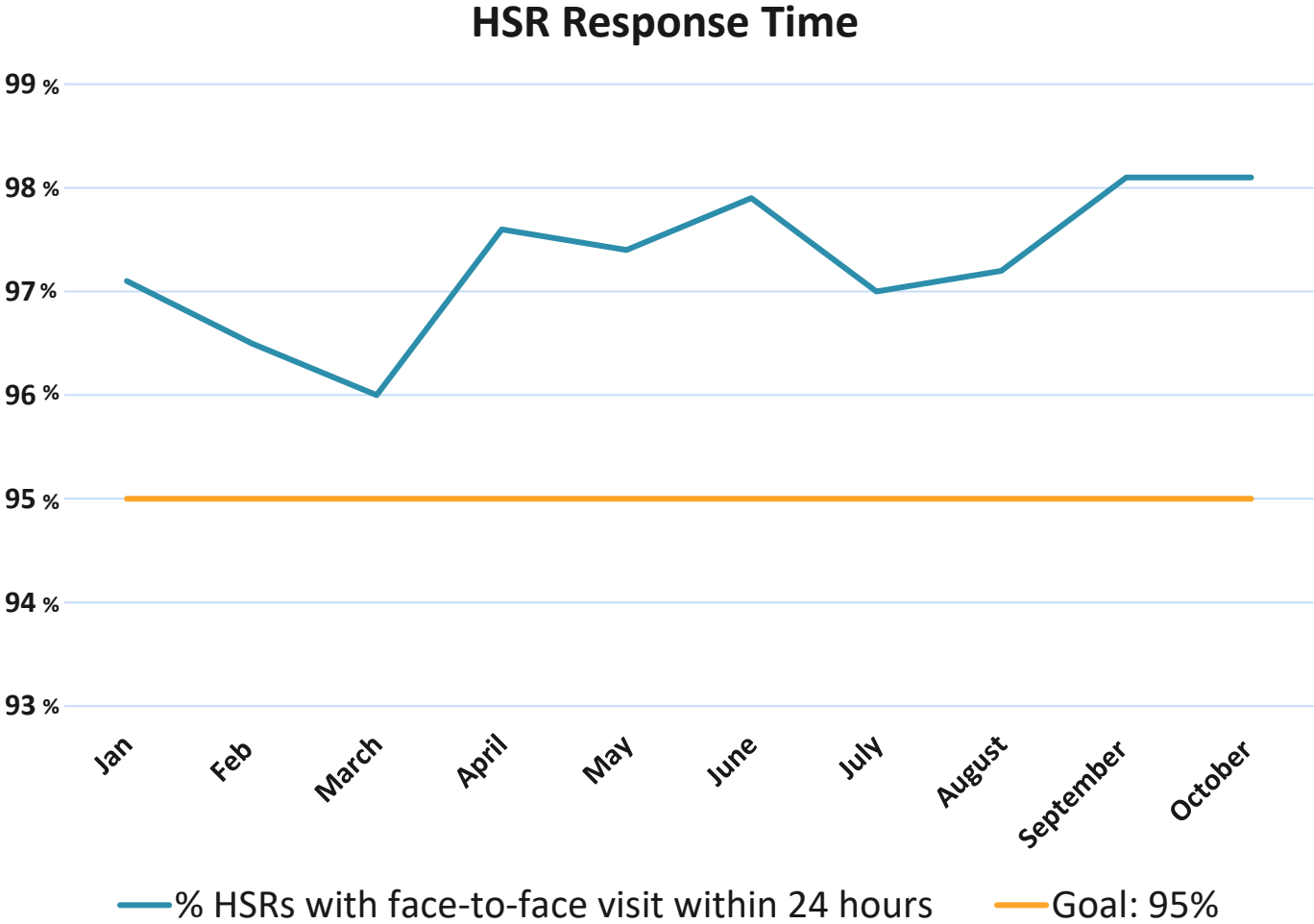


The Patient Experience



Health Service Request Forms

- Patients can request medical care by submitting a health service request (HSR) form
- Paper forms are collected in receptacles in the tiers
- Goal is for 95% of all requests result in a face-to-face nurse visit within 24 hours
- Nursing team receives 5,300 – 6,700 HSRs forms every month
- For emergent health needs, patients should alert the officer on their tier immediately





5,990 medical encounters



11,932 mental health encounters



685 dental visits



215,598 medication doses administered



299 off-sites visits

Chronic Disease Prevalence

Condition	Count	% of Population
Obesity	1,305	32.5%
Asthma/COPD	845	21.1%
Hypertension	598	14.9%
OUD – Opiate Use Disorder	486	12.1%
Dyslipidemia	240	6.0%
Seizure Disorder	171	4.3%
Diabetes – Type 2 (Non-Insulin)	148	3.7%
HIV	68	1.7%
Diabetes – Type 2 (Insulin)	42	1.0%
Blood Thinner/Bleeding Disorder	38	0.9%
MH Fit on Medications	31	0.8%
Hepatitis C	12	0.3%
Diabetes – Type 1	10	0.2%
Sickle Cell Disease	7	0.2%
Cirrhosis	5	0.1%
AUB - Abnormal Uterine Bleeding	3	0.1%
Hemodialysis	3	0.1%

OTP/MAT Program

- Cermak is the only NCCHC Certified Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) within a correctional facility in the State of Illinois, and only one of a few in the U.S.
 - Accredited since 2009
 - Also accredited by IL-DHS Substance Use, Prevention and Recovery (SUPR), and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- During the Intake health screening process, all patients are assessed for substance use disorders (SUD) and potential withdrawal
 - First of several touchpoints where patients with SUD receive information about MAT and overdose prevention, including Narcan (naloxone)



SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

Key Medications Offered:

- Methadone for opioid use disorder
- Buprenorphine (Suboxone) for opioid use disorder
- Buprenorphine extended-release (Sublocade) for opioid use disorder
- Extended-release Naltrexone injection (Vivitrol) for opioid use disorder or alcohol use disorder

Patients who come into the jail on MAT can maintain their medication regimen while detained

Patients newly starting MAT work in collaboration with their physician to determine which medication would best meet their needs

Cook County Jail Emergency Response



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Emergency Called	Respond and Act	Follow-up Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DOC alerts of an emergency situation.• CHS team responds to the emergency. <p>(Trained sworn staff have access to AED and Naloxone and begin life support measures while awaiting Medical response)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment of the scene is done.• 911 is activated if primary assessment determines need for advanced life support.• CPR is initiated if unresponsive, no pulse, or no respirations.• Nursing will decide in collaboration with medical if a patient needs to be sent out, and the appropriate level of transport to provide.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaboration with the Urgent Care or hospital to ensure care plan is followed for the patient upon return.• DOC leadership conducts an internal quality improvement review of major incidents.

CCJ/CHS Emergency Response



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

IN | CASE OF EMERGENCY: OFFICER GUIDE

1. Begin Emergency First Responder Care - **CALL 911 (CFD)**
2. Start Basic Life Support if indicated
3. Call CERMAK via RADIO: Jail Med Channel 1
4. State the EMERGENCY CODE (**Red, Blue, or Black**)
5. Give the Division and Location

CODE RED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OPEN WOUND and/or EXCESSIVE BLEEDING• TRAUMA
CODE BLUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UNRESPONSIVE / PULSELESS / BREATHLESS• SEIZURE• OVERDOSE (THINK NARCAN)
CODE BLACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SUICIDE (Use of CUT DOWN TOOL)

**All CHS staff have this information on a card attached to their IDs*

Overdose Prevention

- Cermak collaborated with CCSO to make Narcan (naloxone) widely available across the compound both via medical and CCSO staff on the tiers
 - Medical staff trained correctional officers on how to identify early signs of overdose
 - Narcan (naloxone) is an antidote for opioids, but not other substances
- Joint campaign with CCH, CCSO and CDPH to education patients on overdose prevention
- Harm reduction education, Narcan (naloxone) training and distribution for patients at discharge
- Narcan (naloxone) soon to be available for free in vending machines in jail visitor waiting rooms



Cermak Health Services' Goals

- Provide constitutionally appropriate, compassionate care to patients in the custody of the Cook County Sherriff
- Adapt services to meet our patients' evolving health needs
- Support continuity of care for patients when they return to the community



Questions?



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH