

**Cook County Government Behavioral Health Services Quarterly Report  
MARCH 2021 – MAY 2021**

**Name of Department: Circuit Court of Cook County, Adult Probation Department**

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**Clinical Interventions: Contracted substance use disorders and cognitive behavioral treatment**

- 1. General information on the population served, including how patients were identified or applied for services, a breakdown of where patients of the program reside in Cook County, and the number of patients served over the last 24-month cycle.**

The Cook County Adult Probation Department (APD) contracts with a number of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment providers throughout the county that provide detoxification, outpatient, intensive outpatient, residential inpatient, and recovery home services. The majority of these slots are reserved for probation clients in the Criminal Division Problem Solving Courts. Other probation clients who have a substance use disorder and are identified either through a drug test (urinalysis) positive for substances, a self-identified need, or a history of treatment may also be referred to these providers. APD contracts are a payer of last resort, if services are not covered by Medicaid, insurance, or state funding (SUPR). Contracts with Haymarket Center and Gateway Foundation are partly funded through state grants (Adult Redeploy).

During the quarter, many clients were referred to SUD treatment and services were paid through Cook County APD contracts. Clients may reside anywhere in the county; the majority of clients reside in the City of Chicago.

In addition, APD has a contract with WestCare Foundation for a pilot program to provide cognitive behavioral treatment (CBT) for pretrial defendants at high risk of being arrested for a new offense while in the community awaiting trial, as assessed by the Public Safety Assessment (PSA). CBT provided by WestCare is not mental health treatment but a life skills and problem solving curriculum, Moral Reconnection Therapy (MRT) that has been shown to reduce criminal recidivism. For this pilot program, 30 clients have participated in CBT over the past 24 months of whom 10 participated in the past quarter. The program is currently restricted to pretrial defendants residing in the City of Chicago. Program activities have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 2. Overall goals of behavioral health program including goals unique to the specific population served.**

Substance use disorders are highly prevalent in the probation population. An unpublished study conducted by Dr. Keiki Hinami of CCH and Jordan Boulger of APD found that probationers were 10 times more likely to die of an opiate overdose than the general Cook County population.

- 3. Information on the providers, managers, and/or operators of the behavioral health care program, activity or service and any overlap in funding, to the extent it is known.**

Currently APD has contracts with the following vendors for SUD treatment:

1. Behavioral Services Center, Skokie, IL
2. Catholic Charities of Archdiocese of Chicago, Chicago, IL
3. Gateway Foundation, Chicago, IL

4. Lutheran Services of Illinois, Des Plaines, IL
5. McDermott Center, Chicago, IL
6. Pilsen Wellness Center, Chicago, IL
7. TASC, Chicago, IL
8. Westcare, Chicago, IL

In addition as noted above, WestCare provides CBT for pretrial defendants. With the exception of the WestCare CBT contract, APD contracts with SUD treatment providers are meant to supplement treatment funding from other sources including Medicaid, private insurance, state SUD treatment funding, and state and federal grants.

**4. Key performance indicators measuring the results of the program.**

- Total number of participants referred
- Total number of participants served
- Total number of clients who do not complete the program
- Total number of participants completing the program

**5. Quality measures or expectations for contracts involved in the program, where applicable.**

All contracted vendors are required to be licensed by the Illinois Department of Human Services. This includes compliance with all relevant DHS mandates and protocols. Vendors are also expected to conduct an assessment upon referral; to provide minimum hours of treatment and counseling for each offender referred; and to prioritize clients referred to the program when there is a waiting list.

**6. Information on how the care being provided in this program serves the best interests of the patient/recipient of care, as well as the communities where the patient/recipient of care or services resides.**

Substance use is one of the four primary Criminogenic Needs identified by decades of research as contributing to involvement in the criminal justice system. Treatment of SUD is a basic need for these clients. Effective SUD treatment for clients on probation also helps their families and communities, helps them integrate into their communities, and impacts public safety and crime.

**7. Information on how the continuum of care may be addressed through this program.**

Upon referral to SUD providers clients are given a comprehensive assessment to determine their appropriate level of care. In addition, in the Problem Solving Courts, a clinical case manager helps determine appropriate care.

**8. Information on the best practices in this type of programming.**

APD follows best practices in referral. As part of the Comprehensive Opiate Abuse Program (COAP) grant, Cook County Health clinicians reviewed all APD policies and procedures with respect to clients with SUD. These policies were updated and new policies were issued by the department in 2019. CBT for pretrial defendants is a new and innovative practice, but MRT has been shown to reduce recidivism in other populations.

**9. Information detailing meetings and coordination on patient identification, programs and goals with other Cook County agencies, City of Chicago or other partners or entities on this program, where applicable.**

APD actively works with Cook County Health on a number of initiatives.

**10. An evaluation of the program and an overview of any overlap in outreach, communities served, and program with other Cook County and City of Chicago agencies, and an evaluation of the impact of the program and an overview of its effectiveness, particularly as it pertains to vulnerable populations, racial and ethnic minorities, and populations facing disparities in behavioral health outcomes, behavioral health care, and behavioral healthcare access.**

A formal evaluation of the impact of SUD treatment on probation outcomes is underway but has not yet been completed.

**11. Information with the costs associated with the program and funding sources.**

APD budgeted \$690,000 in FY2020 for substance abuse treatment. These costs are funded by statutory probation fees. The initial budget for WestCare CBT was \$150,000 but has been reduced because the pandemic limited the number of referrals.

**12. Any additional information which may facilitate the Committee's understanding of the program, initiative, or activity.**

Not applicable

**13. Any additional information which may foster a more accurate assessment of behavioral health care needs and opportunities for collaboration or growth within the Cook County Government entity's behavioral health care programs.**

The Office of the Chief Judge has collaborated with Cook County Health on multiple initiatives to improve behavioral health treatment for people involved in the justice system. The following programs have been funded by grants to Cook County Health from U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

- Justice and Mental Health Collaborative Program (2016-2020). This program led to screening and referrals to treatment of over 1,000 individuals prior to Bond Court (first appearance before the judge).
- Comprehensive Opiate Abuse Program (2017-present). This ongoing project will screen up to 16,000 individuals on probation for substance use and mental health disorders via a text message screening tool sent to clients' cell phones.
- BJA Partnerships to Support Data-Driven Responses to Emerging Drug Threats (2018-2020) This grant supported a research project to estimate the prevalence and correlates of opiate overdoses among clients on probation.
- Cook County Community Recovery Learning and Action Network (2021 – current) APD and Juvenile Probation are participating in this new project to develop recovery homes and supportive services for justice involved people.

**14. Any additional information if patients receive follow up care at a Cook County hospital including medication management as a part of aftercare.**

Per APD policy, any client with an opiate use disorder must be referred to a treatment provider that offers MAT.