

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Inpatient and Residential Treatment Regional Capacity Stakeholder Meeting Summary

**January 7, 2020
Golden**

Meeting slides and additional information are available on the
[Department's Ensuring a Full Continuum of SUD Benefits webpage](#)

Participants

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Department: Kim McConnell, Shingo Ishida, Victoria Laskey

Goals for Regional Stakeholder Meetings

- Share information gathered by Department on treatment programs in the state
- Elicit feedback on the data and mapping
- Collect additional information about regional needs from stakeholders

Presentation by Kim McConnell, ACC SUD Administrator

- Overall goals for the Department's capacity work
- ASAM Treatment continuum
- Current and future Medicaid coverage of SUD services in Colorado
- Review of work to date - Section 1115 SUD demonstration waiver
- Data mapping
 - Demand represented by density of Medicaid members with SUD diagnoses
 - Supply represented by Providers per 10000 Medicaid members with a SUD diagnosis (by ASAM level)
 - Future work on capacity mapping

Discussion: Audience feedback

RAE 6 Capacity Challenges and Opportunities

There is a lack of services in the following areas:

- Youth outpatient and IOP programs that take Medicaid
 - There are some private options
 - Important that IOP is offered when participants are not in school
- Youth inpatient programs

- Current options are often wilderness or therapeutic boarding school, the need is for services in the community
 - Spanish-speaking services
 - Peer support services
 - Transportation to services
 - Limited broadband availability in rural area limits access to telehealth
 - All services in rural areas (Gilpin and Clear Creek counties)
 - Childcare for parents who need treatment
 - MAT in correctional settings (county jails)
- Strong desire for more peer recovery coaches, especially at MAT clinics
 - Uncertainty about qualifications to become a peer recovery coach
 - MSO has a state contract to provide trainings for peer coaches, including scholarships
- People in recovery state that their greatest need is for advocates and educators to inform them of their rights involving MAT, educate providers and law enforcement about MAT and other SUD-related topics
- Desire to expand community-based services; let patients recover in their own communities
- Correctional/criminal justice needs
 - Have MAT available when individuals are released from prison and enter treatment
 - Making sure individuals' Medicaid coverage is active when they are released
 - Some individuals are not eligible for Medicaid even though they are outside of prison, but still classified as "incarcerated"

Challenges with delivery of SUD services currently covered by Medicaid

- Providers enrolled in multiple RAEs find that some RAEs credential providers faster than others.
- There are significant differences in authorization process by RAE; for example, one RAE may require a phone call and another requires multiple pages of paperwork. Desire for consistency across RAEs.
- Providers' reluctance to take Medicaid for these services
 - Administrative challenges
 - Challenges with billing and income (cannot bill for 15 min. phone call, talking to a patient's parent, need to participate in collaboration that is not billable)
- Concerns about the efficacy of SUD treatment that also addresses co-occurring disorders.
- It is difficult to run groups for IOP with children/kids for the minimum # of hours
- Identified barriers:
 - How can providers bill more flexibly for youth IOP services?
 - Providers may not be inclined to accept Medicaid patients, because:
 - Myths about the difficulty or barriers to billing Medicaid exist
- Recovery supports are needed:
 - Housing insecurity: People on MAT without housing
 - Child care for adults entering recovery process
 - Transportation to/from treatment and care
- Documentation requirements for taking Medicaid patients
 - OBH vs. Medicaid requirements



- Can requirements be streamlined and matched? Is it possible to include documentation in the rates?
- More Peer recovery coaches needed
 - Bringing more peer recovery coaches at clinics

Questions about changes to coverage of SUD services

Additionally, questions about the changes to Health First Colorado's SUD benefits were recorded and will be included in a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) resource that will be posted on the Department website.