

HMA OPIOID TEAM:

Experts Leading Crisis Response

Focused on developing robust and comprehensive solutions to the national opioid crisis, the Health Management Associates (HMA) team of experts has been on the front lines—addressing this epidemic head-on and advancing statewide strategies for maximum impact. We are clinicians, thought leaders and substance use disorder (SUD) experts, and we have led engagements in multiple states and across all areas of the crisis response. We have led work to build ecosystems of care, train front-line providers and partners, and develop and implement health system, health plan, and provider responses to create sustainable infrastructure and programming.

HMA has partnered with states and counties to provide unmatched insight, experience, and program leadership.

OUR WORK INCLUDES:

- Assessing and remediating gaps in county-based systems of SUD/opioid use disorder (OUD) assessment, treatment, and transitions of care
- Standardizing statewide treatment of pregnant women with OUD and evidence-based care of their newborns
- Organizing and deploying state opioid crisis response teams, strategic plans, and action-oriented training
- Expanding access to medications for addiction treatment (MAT) in jails and sustaining treatment across the criminal justice system
- Supporting statewide prison-based MAT implementation and expansion

We have the know-how and hands-on experience from successfully navigating federal grant programs and securing funding through programs including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response (SOR) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Data to Action grants.

Our team is ready to help clients create state-specific, actionable, and sustainable programs to address the opioid epidemic and addiction treatment in their states.

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OUR WORK:

California Department of Health Care Services: Opioid Ecosystems of Care

A comprehensive, county-focused effort aimed at strengthening the overall addiction treatment ecosystem in 16 counties so far, the Opioid Ecosystems of Care project provides process improvement work, technical assistance, and direct coaching through a multi-pronged approach.

HMA convenes county SUD stakeholders in two-day events for addiction treatment didactics, identification of system gaps and barriers, and consensus on a road map designed to improve the future of the treatment system. HMA also organizes and facilitates ongoing quarterly stakeholder convenings to drive collective action and impact.

After providing technical assistance, the team continues work for one year to address the gaps and barriers and conducts direct coaching to increase the number of MAT provider sites. Through this program's activities, HMA is building a consistent knowledge base across the system to provide high-touch, evidence-based MAT and behavioral therapies for SUD patients.

The team built a website of opioid addiction treatment resources including a robust data dashboard with county-level SUD data for the state.

California Perinatal MAT Expansion: Mother & Baby Substance Use Exposure Initiative

HMA worked to address opioid use in perinatal populations by leading the Perinatal MAT Expansion Project. Along with our partners, we focused on improving access to addiction specialty care, synthesizing information, platforms, and standards, as well as standardizing and improving obstetric, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), and post NAS pediatric addiction services.

Carried out in 11 counties, HMA facilitated county-wide educational events, developed patient education materials, coordinated hospital learning collaboratives, provided technical assistance, developed a NAS online toolkit (NASToolkit.org), and created a robust online resource library.

In addition, our work focused on reducing the stigma of MAT by promoting accurate public information, providing live dissemination of relevant information, and developing an information repository for non-grantee locations. The toolkit remains operational as an ongoing resource to the field with plans for periodic updating of content to keep all standards of care and information current.

OUR WORK:

Delaware Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health: Expanding Evidence-Based Approaches to Engagement and Treatment for OUD

HMA supported the development and implementation of a statewide opportunity for providers to apply for funding to implement evidence-based approaches to screening, engagement/re-engagement and expansion of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) across the care continuum. As part of engagement of providers, HMA aided in the development of a vision and strategy to build the Opioid Response Providers Network (ORPN). As part of that vision, the ORPN will sustain beyond SOR and serve as a learning community that promotes the identification and implementation of best practices for prevention, treatment, and recovery. The network will also facilitate collaboration and information-sharing across the network to enhance treatment and recovery services across Delaware.

In addition, HMA provided technical assistance to ORPN's SOR projects through the development of a learning collaborative, tailored implementation coaching, training, and asynchronous training videos in collaboration with DSAMH and SAMHSA's Opioid Response Network. In addition, HMA has helped with the development of the Addiction Treatment Resource Center (ATRC)—a new website that will provide resources to providers across Delaware and function as a forum for ORPN providers to share information and connect to build knowledge and skills in addressing opioid use disorder.

California Department of Health Care Services: MAT in County Criminal Justice Learning Collaborative

In this Learning Collaborative, participating county teams access technical assistance and ongoing guidance from HMA experts to expand access to MAT for OUD, evidence-based treatment for psychostimulant use disorder, and OUD in jails and drug courts. Multidisciplinary teams from 37 California counties participate and thousands of detainees are receiving MAT while incarcerated and upon release. As of January 2022, more than 21,000 incarcerated individuals in county jail have received MAT. Counties may elect to apply for implementation grants to expedite SUD screening, assessment, treatment, MAT, and community engagement while local sustainable funds are secured. HMA project coaches facilitate in-person learning collaboratives (virtual during the pandemic), conduct monthly coaching calls with county teams to help teams customize approaches to their unique jails and healthcare systems, and provide topic-specific webinars, podcasts, and ongoing technical assistance. This program has been replicated and expanded in multiple states and counties across the country.

OUR WORK:

County Touchpoints in Access to Medications for Addiction Treatment for Justice-Involved Populations

This project was developed as an outgrowth of the Jail MAT Expansion project to address the practice of criminal justice and child welfare personnel urging or requiring clients to terminate the use of MAT in order to qualify as “clean.”

Education and training about opioid addiction and treatment in county criminal justice and child welfare systems was developed specifically for stakeholders in probation, adult collaborative courts, public defenders, district attorneys, child welfare, and youth and dependency courts. Retired, well-known “Stakeholder Champions” from each profession developed discipline-specific workbooks and case studies and helped to recruit participants.

The HMA team offered training across the state—both live and virtual—and more than 1,500 people from 55 counties participated. Training content was professionally video recorded, and content has been segmented into 9 web-based modules available on addictionfreeca.org. The material is intended for use by stakeholder organizations in training employees and other partners. It is simple to use, and each module includes a facilitators guide. Facilitators need not be subject matter experts. The HMA team is currently working with professional associations for each stakeholder group to further advance access to the training through association venues and with continuing education credits.

County Touchpoints: Effective Child Welfare and Justice Systems for Families Impacted by Opioid & Stimulant Use – The “Touchpoints Child Welfare” Program

HMA is providing thirteen multi-agency county teams in California with technical assistance support to improve the outcomes of children and parents affected by OUD and methamphetamine/stimulant use in the Child Welfare and Justice Systems by building sustainable, family-centered, evidence-based, and integrated practices across local justice, child welfare, and behavioral health systems. County teams are building processes that incorporate evidence-based practices for addiction treatment and national professional justice and child welfare standards for supporting medications and treatment for addiction. This includes support for all FDA-approved medications for treatment of OUD. County teams in the Learning Collaborative receive monthly coaching calls to support development of and progress toward their goals and participate in virtual learning collaborative meetings and training sessions, monthly coaching calls, technical assistance, and webinars.

OUR WORK:

● California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation: MAT Expansion in the State Prison System

HMA has provided expert consulting for the planning and ongoing implementation of MAT statewide in the California prison system. The team's work has been, and continues to be, nimble and responsive to needs of the California Correctional Health Care Services as they initiate a system-wide effort to increase access to MAT for individuals in need of treatment while in prison.

The initiative kicked off with a statewide summit of prison healthcare stakeholders at which HMA presented vital SUD didactics and facilitated strategic input and buy-in for the plan. Additional work has included support for, and participation on, a steering committee and offering clinical and operational advice and materials development.

The team has also developed and secured approval of a correctional health-specific DATA 2000 waiver training and provided onsite staffing to deploy and staff the program throughout all state prisons.

Additional work to develop training curriculum and provide a system-wide program of staff training is also currently underway.