

BSCC MAT Grant Narrative – DRAFT REVISED

Proposal Summary

Siskiyou County Public Health/Correctional Health Services in collaboration with Modoc County strive to ensure consistent, whole-person care within our Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs established within our correctional facilities by providing dedicated program staff to address the recovery needs of incarcerated individuals grappling with opioid addiction.

Project Need

Both Siskiyou County and Modoc County are frontier counties that are situated in the northernmost region of California along the borders of California, Oregon, and Nevada, which face their own distinct demographic and health challenges. Siskiyou County ranks as the fifth largest county in terms of geographic size in California, with approximately 44,000 residents, translating to a population density of 7 residents per square mile. Similarly, Modoc County, the twelfth largest county geographically, with roughly 9,000 residents, has a population density of around 2 residents per square mile. However, despite their vast geographical size, both counties struggle with health disparities, as evidenced by their low rankings published by the 2023 County Health Rankings and Roadmaps. Siskiyou County placed 57th and Modoc County 55th out of the 58 California counties, indicating their position as the second and fourth least healthy communities in the state. Notably, Siskiyou County residents particularly suffer from significantly poorer health outcomes compared to the state average, with a premature death rate nearly double that of the state average. According to our 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment, the county's drug-induced death rate of 17.7 per 100,000 residents exceeds the state benchmark of 14.3 per 100,000. Overall, residents of Siskiyou County and Modoc County encounter greater challenges in accessing healthcare and experience more pronounced disparities related to social determinants of health compared to other California counties.

Frontier and rural counties face inherent challenges, including limited access to healthcare providers and no access for specialty healthcare or narcotic treatment programs (NTP), resulting in significant service gaps. This leads to residents needing to travel significant distances for specialty healthcare and NTP, with no public transportation for daily NTP, those seeking this programming are faced with additional barriers. When our Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) program was introduced in the Siskiyou County Jail in 2017, we initially contracted with our Behavioral Health department, part a division of Health and Human Services Agency, to offer Substance-Use-Disorder (SUD) Counseling. However, due to counselor turnover and overwhelming caseloads, counseling sessions for MAT program participants were

unavailable in 2023, rendering the program less effective without this essential component. This leads to Siskiyou County Public Health needing to contract with SUD Counselors outside of our agency to ensure participants in our jail MAT program receive the expected level of care. Conversely, Modoc County Jail has been successful in establishing and maintaining counseling/group sessions for an average of 14 clients, roughly 1/3 of their jail population, receiving SUD counseling. However, there is a desire to expand these services by introducing a MAT program. Funding would enable Modoc County to collaborate with Siskiyou County in developing their MAT program and assessing its impact on recidivism rates. In turn, Siskiyou County would be able to develop and maintain a robust counseling program to pair with the MAT services already in place.

In 2022, the Siskiyou County Jail saw 2,293 detainees and housed an average daily population of 98 detainees, with a total of 147 detainees reporting opioid use, 269 reporting Methamphetamine use, and 78 reporting fentanyl use. In contrast, Modoc County, with an average jail population of 30-40 detainees, saw approximately one-third of these individuals participating in counseling/group sessions in 2023. Given the significant engagement with their current services, we anticipate a high level of interest in the MAT program once introduced within the Modoc County Jail.

According to the FDA, Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) combines medication with counseling and behavioral therapies, proving effective in treating opioid use disorders (OUD) and supporting sustained recovery for some individuals. With additional funding, we would enhance the efforts of the Siskiyou County Jail MAT program by offering comprehensive whole-person treatment that is defined by the FDA for an effective MAT program. This includes employing dedicated staff, SUD Counselors, and implementing improved data tracking and evaluation for recidivism rates and program effectiveness.

Project Description

In the current MAT program at the Siskiyou County Jail, managed by Siskiyou County Public Health (SCPH), detainees are asked upon intake about their use of methamphetamine/stimulants (including amphetamines, cocaine, and prescription stimulants) and opioid use (including prescription opioids, heroin, and fentanyl), and when asked whether they are interested in participating in the MAT program that includes daily dosage of MAT medication. Those who express interest receive relevant materials, should be scheduled to meet with an SUD Counselor, and have their MAT medication appointments arranged after completing a withdrawal assessment with a registered nurse. However, due to the absence of an SUD Counselor, detainees in the MAT program consistently only receive the MAT medication. This is one specific area where Siskiyou County Public Health intends to allocate these funds, by incorporating SUD Counselor(s) within Siskiyou County Jail, most likely means of telehealth, to deliver counseling and behavioral therapies to MAT program participants during their incarceration. SUD Counselor(s) under contract will provide regular biweekly counseling sessions and guide participants through the program workbooks throughout their treatment

journey. This addition to the program will ensure the provision of a comprehensive, whole-person approach to detainees within the program.

Individuals enrolled in the Siskiyou County Jail MAT program are furnished with The Change Companies Medication Assisted Treatment workbook, designed to embrace a comprehensive approach to treatment and recovery. This workbook not only educates participants about medication as a treatment modality but also equips them with skills and insights to foster positive life changes and establish healthy goals. Additionally, program participants will receive six other workbooks from The Change Companies, covering topics such as Recovery Maintenance, Self-Management, Reviewing My Drug Use, Getting it Right, Substance Use, and My Personal Journal. The duration of this program segment is flexible, contingent upon the participant's willingness to complete the course.

The administration of Buprenorphine to MAT program participants in Siskiyou County Jail will be overseen by a dedicated registered nurse holding their Certified Addiction Registered Nurse (CARN) credentials. The registered nurse is responsible for administering the doses of buprenorphine in 32mg, 24mg, 12mg, 8mg, 4mg, and 2mg or Sublocade (buprenorphine) injectable in 300mg and 150mg doses to participants. Oral buprenorphine medication is taken daily, however due to it being taken orally it leads to an increased chance of diversion of the medication. Therefore, the funding will be utilized to procure injectable buprenorphine (Sublocade), which is administered monthly, providing a consistent dosage throughout the month. Additionally, this dedicated registered nurse will oversee the drug testing policy for Siskiyou County Jail MAT participants, ensuring adherence to program requirements. Allocating funds to move from daily oral dosage to monthly injectable dosages along with funding for the MAT program will enhance its effectiveness by ensuring consistency, facilitating communication with providers, and improving care coordination.

Upon release, MAT program participants who wish to continue with the services are referred to a provider at our local hospital and tribal clinic to receive ongoing care and medication. This coordination involves collaboration among program staff, the jail discharge planner, the local hospital, and tribe. Once the CalAIM Justice-Involved Initiative is implemented statewide, it will assist with current efforts by assigning newly released inmates a Care Manager to facilitate the establishment of MAT services post-release.

By leveraging the staffing resources facilitated by this program across both counties, we intend to establish a coalition for our MAT in Jails programs. This coalition will consist of SCPH, the Modoc County MAT program, community partners, treatment centers in Redding, CA (where individuals from Siskiyou County and Modoc County seeking Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment are referred), and other collaborators. The primary aim of this coalition will be to promote and collaborate to improve the whole-person approach that MAT programs are designed for and enhance the transition process for individuals receiving MAT in jails to access services beyond the jail environment once released.

Additionally, this program will involve the Director of Public Health/Director of Correctional Health Services, who will oversee and ensure accurate reporting and data collection, complete the Local Evaluation Plan, and prepare the Local Evaluation Report. The Admin Services Manager will be responsible for creating and managing contracts with the

collaborative county, handling invoices for both counties, and assisting in progress reporting. The Staff Services Analyst assigned to the program will oversee ongoing data collection, maintain day-to-day communication with the collaborative county, manage grants, and handle invoicing in coordination with the Admin Services Manager.

As Modoc County will utilize funding to implement a Jail MAT Program in addition to their current counseling program, Siskiyou County will collaborate with them to develop policies, procedures, and provide any necessary assistance for implementation. Both programs will model after each other and will be based on best practices for a Jail-based MAT program in alignment with the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) Standards for Health Services in Jails.

Organizational Capacity and Coordination

The Siskiyou County Public Health Department has a proven track record of effectively implementing and managing various competitive funding opportunities, along with prior experience in collaborative work with other counties. Should the department receive the grant funds, it possesses the internal infrastructure necessary to handle contract execution, funding management, successful activity implementation, and the recruitment of experienced personnel. Currently, the department is overseeing a small MAT grant through Health Management Associates, Inc which was created under laws governing the State of California, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). It is from this guidance that valuable lessons have been learned regarding program optimization and enhancement of data collection and analysis, highlighting the potential for further improvement with additional funding.

As a learning organization, the department places great value on internal collaboration, knowledge sharing, and staff development. Regular competency and skills-building opportunities are provided for staff, reflecting significant investments made in recent years. Following a Public Health Core Competencies self-assessment in 2020, the need for department-wide training on data collection and evaluation was identified. Consequently, multiple training courses, including a data training series hosted by the National Association of City and County Health Officials, have been implemented for staff. Clear Impacts Results Based Accountability (RBA) Scorecards have been introduced and integrated department-wide for quality improvement, with four staff members holding professional certifications in RBA. Additionally, with this funding the registered nurse hired for the program would have the opportunity to complete the Certified Addiction Registered Nurse exam.

With both counties possessing robust grant writing and fund development infrastructure, efforts to secure funding for program sustainability beyond the grant term will be initiated well before the end of the three-year grant period. The departments are confident in their ability to successfully manage and implement the program, as well as to identify funding sources to

sustain it beyond the initial grant opportunity. Furthermore, the CalAIM Justice Involved Pre-Release Services will offer reimbursement for up to 90 days of medical services provided to inmates in county jails prior to their release. Both counties have dedicated staff actively engaged in understanding this process to ensure efficient utilization of reimbursement opportunities once they become available in the Fall of 2024, thereby aiding in sustaining the program.

Data Collection and Evaluation

Continuous data collection for the programs will be carried out by designated positions within the program staff. In Siskiyou County, this responsibility will fall to a Staff Services Analyst, while in Modoc County, it will be handled by their Admin Specialist. Both counties already conduct ongoing data evaluations across all their programs. In Siskiyou County, we utilize Clear Impact's Results Based Accountability Turn the Curve framework to analyze historical data trends and assess areas for improvement, supplemented by available training to enhance data collection and evaluation. As part of the collaborative effort between counties, we will have the opportunity to present evaluation results during meetings to review lessons learned and identify areas for enhancing both data collection and the delivery of MAT services.

Siskiyou County Public Health's (SCPH) existing MAT program meticulously tracks de-identified data metrics for program participants. Given the relatively small population size in the jail and the number of participants in the MAT program, tracking this data is easily manageable using a secure document. Although recidivism data for MAT program participants has not been tracked previously, our current MAT Staff Services Analyst has access to the metrics requested by the grant and will incorporate them into the current MAT participant data document. In the collaboration with Modoc County, staff will establish any necessary agreements for necessary data access and develop a similar document to track their new program. SCPH possesses historical data on the number of participants initiated into and continuing MAT services, providing a baseline for participation, while Modoc County has historical data on their SUD Counseling services, which can serve as baseline data for comparing the number of inmates signing up for the MAT program. During the initial six months of the grant, Siskiyou and Modoc will collaborate to develop tracking measures for recidivism, along with the data requested by the grant, and establish the process for quarterly and annual evaluations of recidivism for MAT program participants.

To ensure that the project is implemented as intended, grant managers from both counties will oversee grant activities and monitor progress towards goals. This information will be shared during collaborative meetings, including onsite visits to both county locations during implementation and ongoing project efforts.