

June 2024 Diversion Reentry Workgroup Recap and Key Points

Workgroup Purpose

The webinar discussed services and programs that utilize peers to provide substance use disorder treatment.

Presenters:

- **Community Medical Centers (CMC):** CMC provides TCN modeled primary and specialty care services including behavioral health, SUD treatment, psychiatry and other services focusing on a “whole person” approach.
- **Occupational Mentor Certification Program:** The OMCP is a voluntary program within CDCR that trains long-term incarcerated individuals to become certified Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Counselors. The program facilitates successful reintegration into society by providing mentorship and employment opportunities in substance abuse counseling.
- **Integrated Substance Use Disorder Program (ISUDT):** The ISUDT Peer Support Specialist Program within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) trains incarcerated individuals to provide peer support for those struggling with substance use disorders. This program focuses on evidence-based substance use disorder screening, assessments, and linkages to care during incarceration, aiming to reduce morbidity, improve safety, and facilitate successful reintegration into the community.

Key Points from June Diversion/Reentry Workgroup Discussion

Community Medical Centers (CMC)

- **CMC Background:** Celebrating 45 years as a nonprofit, CMC operates 28 neighborhood health centers offering medical, behavioral health, SUD treatment, case management, dental, and psychiatry services.
- **Behavioral Health Focus:** CMC targets justice-involved individuals referred through law enforcement or court partnerships, employing community health workers with lived experience to reduce recidivism and provide wraparound services.
- **Transitions Clinic Network (TCN) Program:** Developed to improve health and reentry outcomes for incarcerated individuals, hiring those with incarceration histories to build trust and provide access to services.
- **SUD Program:** Started in 2018, using an integrated whole-person approach for individuals struggling with homelessness, SUD, behavioral health issues, and/or law enforcement involvement. Aims to reduce the impact on jails and ERs.
- **Funding:** CMC is primarily grant-funded, including funds from the California Opioid Settlement. Grant stipulations limit some services but enable broader access. CMC is not currently funded through Drug Medi-Cal but is exploring this option.
- **High-Risk Clients:** CMC serves mild-to-moderate clients medically, but collaborates with DUI and court systems, receiving referrals for individuals transitioning out of incarceration.
- **Collaboration with Parole Agents:** Collaborations come through the TCN program, providing a starting point for justice-involved individuals through various referral sources.

- Barriers: Major barriers include stigma and transportation. CMC ensures confidentiality to encourage individuals to seek assistance.
- Enhanced Care Management (ECM): CMC provides ECM.
- Facilities: CMC facilities include Waterloo Recovery, Respite Residential/Medical in Stockton, Tracy Recovery, and an upcoming sobering center in Manteca.
- Program Data:
 - Quarterly bed occupancy for Respite Residential is 332 bed days, with 45% receiving aftercare and 12% continuing to long term recovery.
 - 30% of SUD patients receive MAT treatment. The program saw a rise in enrollment from 52% to 82% in the past year.

Occupational Mentor Certification Program (OMCP)

- Program Purpose: OMCP provides incarcerated individuals with training and education to become Alcohol or Other Drugs Counselors, offering mentorship and support within prisons through the CDCR Department of Rehabilitative Programs.
- Program History: Began in 2009 in Solano, expanded in 2011. Now operates at seven facilities statewide.
- Training Structure: Includes 360 hours for ISUDT, 80 hours of study prep, 350 hours of education, and 255 hours of supervised practicum. Certification is from the California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators.
- Eligibility: Participants must have over five years left on their sentence, no serious rule violations, a reading level of 9.0 or above, and must complete an application process including a resume, references, certificates, and a 500word essay.
- Coursework: Covers addiction overview, neurobiology, counseling, case management, law and ethics, and practicum.
- Graduation and Employment: Graduates return to their recruiting institution, transfer to another, or remain at the training site. They assist in CBI classes and other programs, with many findings employment post release in related fields.
- Personal Stories: Participants shared their experiences, highlighting the transformative impact of OMCP on their rehabilitation and career success.

CDCR Integrated Substance Use Disorder Treatment (ISUDT) Peer Support Specialist Program

- Program Origin: Born out of a conversation about apprenticeship for inmates, fitting well with ISUDT.
- Rollout Plan: Aims to cover all 33 institutions by mid-2026, with hopes to expedite completion by the end of 2025.
- Support Needed: Significant support required from headquarters and regional levels, with nurse consultants providing training.
- Program Goals: To have about 1000 peer support specialists to aid the incarcerated population.
- Commitment Level: Targets individuals with shorter commitments (6 months to 1.5 years) compared to OMCP's 23-year commitment, providing certification beneficial for reentry.
- Partnerships: Strong partnerships with custody, union partners, and external experts to enhance program outcomes.
- PDSA Approach: Continuous improvement through "plan-do-study-act" cycles, informed by expert input from external partners.