A wooden gavel and a pair of brass scales of justice are positioned on a wooden desk. The scales are in the background, and the gavel is in the foreground. The scene is dimly lit, creating a somber and professional atmosphere.

Jail Based Medication-Assisted Treatment

Virginia State Opioid Response Grant



OMNI

899 Logan Street, Ste 600
Denver, CO 80203
303.839.9422
omni.org



Jail Based Medication-Assisted Treatment

Virginia State Opioid Response Grant

Last Updated: May 2021

Author: Patrick Wessells

Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
Virginia State Opioid Response Treatment Coordinator

For More Information:

Patrick Wessells

patrick.wessells@dbhds.virginia.gov

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Objective	4
SOR Overview	4
Key personnel.....	4
Background	5
What is Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)?	5
Is Medication-Assisted Treatment Possible in Jails?.....	5
Virginia Regional Jails	7
CSBs Working with Jails	8
Region 1.....	9
Region 2.....	10
Region 3.....	11
Region 4.....	13
Region 5.....	14
Takeaways	16
Stigma.....	16
MAT Diversion	17
Funding.....	17
FDA and Legal Standards	17
Expanding Beyond MAT	17
Best Practices	18
Challenges	18
Conclusion	18
References	19

Introduction

Objective

The State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant was awarded to Virginia in 2018 to combat the opioid epidemic, 39.5 million dollars were allocated for a 24-month grant period. Monies were required to be spent for Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery initiatives for opioid-specific strategies. One objective of the grant is to implement strategies to improve access of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) in Virginia local and regional jails. This report provides background information on MAT use in jails and information on available treatment services in Virginia jails. This report was originally published in 2019 and has been updated to reflect changes in service availability in jails over time.

SOR Overview

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) approved the State of Virginia's federal request of funds to address the opioid crisis by:



increasing **access** to medication-assisted treatment using the three FDA-approved medications



reducing **unmet treatment need**



reducing **opioid overdose-related deaths** through the provision of prevention, treatment and recovery activities for opioid use disorder (OUD) (including prescription opioids, heroin, and illicit fentanyl and fentanyl analogs)

SOR Grant Key Personnel

Michael Zohab (Program Manager): provides daily oversight of the SOR grant.

Patrick Wessells (Treatment Coordinator): provides daily oversight of treatment aspects of grant and coordinates treatment activities with Community Services Boards, Virginia Department of Health and Virginia Department of Corrections.

Angela Weight (Recovery Coordinator): provides daily oversight of recovery aspects of grant and coordinates peer support specialists within each Community Services Boards, Virginia Department of Health and Virginia Department of Corrections.

Jennifer Farinholt (Prevention Coordinator): coordinates project services and activities, including training, communication and information dissemination.

Background

What is Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)?

MAT, utilizing the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved medications methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone, is considered a central component of the contemporary standard of care for the treatment of individuals with opioid use disorders (OUDs). It may also be used for individuals with co-occurring mental illnesses, in consultation with a physician.

Is Medication-Assisted Treatment Possible in Jails?

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMSHA), the U.S. opioid use and overdose deaths are at epidemic proportions. In 2017, 2.1 million people in the United States had an opioid use disorder (OUD) and nearly 68 percent of overdose deaths involved opioids.

Individuals reporting opioid use are **significantly more likely to be involved with the criminal justice system** compared to people with no opioid use, and the **level of justice involvement increases with the level of opioid use**.

Within the criminal justice system, nearly 10 percent of justice-involved individuals self-report heroin use. Estimates indicate that about half of drug courts serve groups where over 20 percent report an opioid dependency; 22 percent of jails report that 10 percent or more of their jail populations have an opioid dependency. Among individuals sentenced to jail and state prison, regular use of opioids was reported at 17 and 19 percent, respectively.

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) reports that 813 Virginians died from overdoses of fentanyl and/or heroin in 2016. An additional 471 people died from prescription opioid overdoses. In 2017, the fentanyl/heroin overdose death total jumped to 938. Deaths from prescription opioids in 2017 increased to 507. VDH reports that heroin and opioid overdoses accounted for more than 10,000 emergency department visits in both 2016 and 2017.

The **staggering rate of opioid abuse in society at large coupled with the 12 confirmed overdose deaths in Virginia prisons** since 2015 prompted Virginia Department of Correction (VADOC) officials to **explore additional treatment options for offenders beyond the intensive substance abuse treatment programming already being offered**.

While medications can help with the chemical side of addiction, behavioral therapy and counseling are very important parts of MAT. Consumers usually don't encounter substance abuse counselors and physicians who specialize in addiction while incarcerated. According to SAMSHA's 2000-2010 National Admissions to Substance Abuse Treatment Services Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), engagement with substance abuse counselors and physicians along with MAT help decrease opioid use, overdose, and drug-related criminal activity when administered regularly.

These treatments also help consumers once they are released and increase their ability to function in society without relapse and returning to crime.

In fact, a Washington State study found that the risk of death from an overdose was 129 times higher in the first two weeks after release from prison compared to the general population. Using MAT can decrease those instances of death by 75%.

According to SAMSHA’s report on the “Use of Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in Criminal Justice Settings”, despite the substantial evidence supporting MAT for the treatment of opioid use disorders (OUDs), few jails or prisons offer this treatment. Moreover, upon release or diversion from the criminal justice system, most individuals with severe OUDs are not connected with MAT services in the community.

Availability of medication-assisted treatment within the criminal justice system across the U.S. (SAMHSA)

- 30 out of 5,100 prisons and jails in the U.S. offered methadone or buprenorphine in 2017.
- 14 states offered methadone or buprenorphine maintenance for jail or prison inmates in 2018.
- In a 2018 study, participants with OUDs were 80% less likely to graduate from drug court.
- Approximately 50% of drug courts required participants to discontinue methadone or buprenorphine within 30 days in a 2017 study.
- 50% of drug court participants with OUDs received MAT in a 2018 study.
- 45% of state and federal prisons in the U.S. referred inmates for methadone maintenance after release in 2009.
- 29% of state and federal prisons in the U.S. provided referrals for community buprenorphine providers in 2009.
- Without MAT, there was a 10-40x higher risk of death from overdose within two weeks of release from prison in a 2018 study.

The single most comprehensive accomplishment by Virginia State Opioid Response at the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) is that **all 40 Community Services Boards (CSBs) provided MAT in 2019.**

This is significant considering in October 2017 only 17 of the 40 CSBs provided MAT. Below is a list of the 17 CSBs.

- Blue Ridge
- Chesterfield
- Cumberland Mountain
- Danville-Pittsylvania
- Dickenson
- Goochland-Powhatan
- Highlands
- Mount Rogers
- New River Valley
- Norfolk
- Northwestern
- Piedmont
- Portsmouth
- Rappahannock Area
- Rappahannock-Rapidan
- Richmond
- Virginia Beach

Virginia Regional Jails

Below is a list of Virginia Regional Jails, their member localities and the CSBs they encompass.

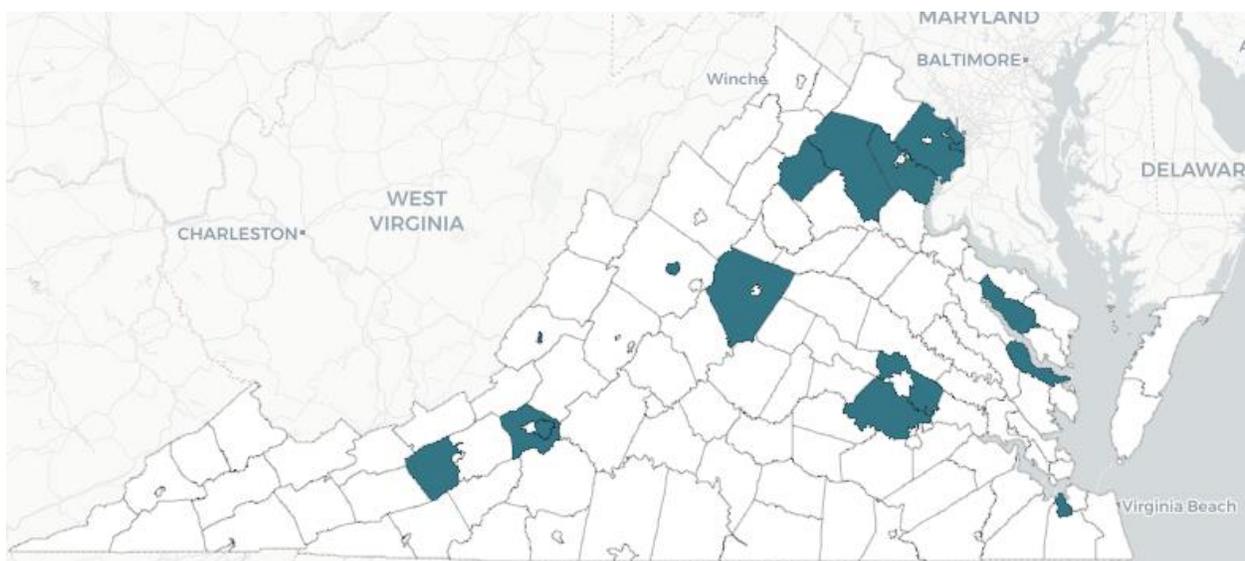
Regional Jail	Member Localities	CSBs
Albemarle/Charlottesville Regional Jail	Albemarle, Charlottesville, Nelson	Region Ten CSB
Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority	Bedford, Lynchburg, Amherst, Appomattox, Campbell, Halifax, Bedford Town	Horizon Behavioral Health, Southside CSB
Central Virginia Regional Jail	Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Orange	Rappahannock-Rapidan CSB, Region Ten CSB
Hampton Roads Regional Jail	Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake	Hampton-Newport News CSB, Chesapeake Integrated Behavioral Healthcare, Norfolk CSB, Portsmouth Behavioral Healthcare Services
Meherrin River Regional Jail	Brunswick, Dinwiddie, Mecklenburg	Southside CSB, District 19
Middle Peninsula Regional Security Center	Essex, King & Queen, Middlesex, Matthews	Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck CSB
Middle River Regional Jail	Waynesboro, Staunton, Augusta, Rockingham, Harrisonburg	Valley Community Services Board, Harrisonburg-Rockingham CSB
New River Valley Regional Jail Authority	Bland, Carroll, Floyd, Giles, Grayson, Pulaski, Wythe, Radford	Mount Rogers CSB, New River Valley CSB
Northern Neck Regional Jail	Northumberland, Richmond County, Warsaw, Westmoreland, Gloucester	Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck CSB
Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center	Clarke, Fauquier, Frederick, Winchester	Northwestern CSB
Pamunkey Regional Jail	Hanover, Caroline, Ashland	Hanover County CSB, Rappahannock Area CSB
Piedmont Regional Jail	Amelia, Buckingham, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway, Prince Edward	Crossroads CSB
Prince-William-Manassas Regional Adult Detention Center	Prince William, Occoquan, Quantico, Dumfries, Haymarket, Manassas, Manassas Park	Prince William County CSB
Rappahannock Regional Jail	Spotsylvania, King George, Stafford, Fredericksburg	Rappahannock Area CSB
Riverside Regional Jail	Charles City, Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Petersburg, Prince George, Surry	Chesterfield CSB, District 19
Rockbridge Regional Jail	Lexington, Buena Vista, Rockbridge	Rockbridge Area CSB
RSW Regional Jail	Rappahannock, Shenandoah, Warren	Northwestern CSB, Rappahannock Area CSB

Regional Jail	Member Localities	CSBs
Southside Regional Jail	Greensville, Emporia	District 19
Southwest Virginia Regional Jail	Washington, Russell, Smyth, Buchanan, Lee, Scott, Wise, Norton, Tazewell, Dickenson	Cumberland Mountain, Dickenson County, Highlands CSB, Mount Rogers CSB, Planning District One Behavioral Health Services
Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail	James City, York, Williamsburg, Poquoson	Colonial Behavioral Health
Western Tidewater Regional Jail	Franklin City, Isle of Wight, Suffolk	Western Tidewater CSB
Western Virginia Regional Jail	Franklin County, Montgomery, Roanoke, Salem	Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, Piedmont CSB

CSBs Working with Jails

As of May 2021, 17 local/regional jails in Virginia are working with CSBs to provide MAT.

- Alexandria Adult Detention Center
- Alleghany Regional Jail
- Arlington County Jail
- Blue Ridge Regional Jail (Halifax County)
- Chesterfield County Jail
- Eastern Shore Regional Jail
- Fairfax Adult Detention Center
- Fauquier County Jail
- Hampton Road Regional Jail
- Henrico County Jail
- Meherrin River Regional Jail
- Middle River Regional Jail
- New River Valley Regional Jail
- Norfolk City Jail
- Rappahannock Regional Jail
- Roanoke City Jail
- Western Virginia Regional Jail



Below is a list of CSBs in Virginia divided by the five geographical regions. This list includes the CSBs and the SUD (SUD) services they provide to the local and regional jails in their catchment areas.

- ✓ 15 CSBs utilize SOR funding in the working relationship with jails in their catchment area.
- ✓ 15 CSBs have a working relationship with jails in their catchment area but do not utilize SOR funding for these efforts.

Region 1

CSB	Utilize SOR Funds	Don't Utilize SOR Funds	Description
Alleghany Highlands	✓		Alleghany Highlands CSB (AHCSB) partners with Alleghany Regional Jail (ARJ) on a pilot MAT program. The pilot program serves female consumers only at this time. Jailed female consumers will receive oral naltrexone and other MAT services in ARJ. Once consumers are released from ARJ, a peer specialist engages with the consumer to ensure warm hand off to AHCSB. Consumers will meet with a physician to start a vivitrol injection and wrap around services. AHCSB also has nurse practitioner at the ARJ several days out of the month to evaluate and prescribe medications (not MAT) to consumers at ARJ. AHCSB conducts case management services such SUD assessments at ARJ to evaluate their level of care of the consumer. AHCSB has applied for a DBHDS supplemental grant to start MAT within the ARJ. The grant proposal has been submitted and they are awaiting a response.
Harrisonburg-Rockingham			Harrisonburg-Rockingham is not providing any SUD services in their local or regional jails.
Horizon Behavioral Health			In March 2017 Horizon Behavioral Health (HBH) established the Lynchburg Drug Treatment Court in Lynchburg, VA. The Lynchburg Drug Treatment Court convenes out of the 24th Judicial Circuit Court and Judge Burnette serves as the judge. The Lynchburg Drug Treatment team consists of HBH, Commonwealth Attorney Office, Public Defender's Office, Probation Parole and Virginia Department Health. The program is 18 months-2 years depending on the consumer.
Northwestern		✓	Northwestern CSB is looking to start a MAT jail program in Page County Jail. Update Jan. 2021: Pending Page County Jail MAT program.
Rappahannock Area	✓		Rappahannock Area CSB (RACSB) provides MAT to Rappahannock Regional Jail. This program has consumers starting groups and oral naltrexone in the jail. The peer support specialist role at the Rappahannock Regional Jail is to engage with consumers while incarcerated, facilitate outpatient treatment groups and to engage consumers upon release from jail to help ensure enrollment into RACSB.
Rappahannock Rapidan		✓	As of July 2019, Rappahannock-Rapidan CSB (RRCSB) began incorporating vivitrol and substance abuse counseling for consumers at the Fauquier County Detention Center.
Region Ten	✓		Region Ten CSB (RTCSB) assist Albemarle Regional Jail staff with SUD services. RTCSB has peer recovery specialists in the Albemarle Regional Jail. The peer recovery specialists provide discharge planning and peer led groups to consumers in the jail. Albemarle Regional Jail is not open to providing MAT at this time.

CSB	Utilize SOR Funds	Don't Utilize SOR Funds	Description
Rockbridge Area	✓		Rockbridge CSB (RBCSB) partners with Rockbridge Regional Jail (RRJ) to provide substance abuse treatment services. RBCSB provides case management and treatment groups consumers at RRJ.
Valley		✓	Valley CSB (VCSB) and Middle River Regional Jail (MRRJ) partner to provide substance abuse outpatient treatment services. MRRJ allows VCSB to conduct two outpatient treatment groups a week in the “special needs pods” within the jail. The staff consists of two clinicians and two case managers. MMRJ refers consumers to VCSB with a warm hand off to a case manager, this will help to ensure the consumer will engage in services upon release. Update May 2021: VCSB provides MAT to Middle River Regional Jail. This program has consumers starting groups and oral naltrexone in the jail. The peer support specialist role at the Middle River Regional jail is to engage with consumers while incarcerated, facilitate outpatient treatment groups and to engage consumers upon release from jail to help ensure enrollment into VCSB.

Region 2

CSB	Utilize SOR Funds	Don't Utilize SOR Funds	Description
Arlington		✓	Arlington CSB partners with Arlington County Jail (ACJ) on a MAT program called the Vivitrol Pre-Release Program. Arlington consumers with opioid use diagnoses who enter the Arlington County Detention Facility are given the option of participating in this program. Once enrolled consumers are given oral naltrexone while incarcerated and upon release consumers are given vivitrol injection. A Peer Recovery Specialist engages the consumer, a warm hand-off is done to the resulting in wrap around services at Arlington CSB Office Based Opioid Treatment program.
Alexandria		✓	Alexandria CSB (ACSB) partners with Alexandria Dentition Center (ADC) on a MAT program, which provides MAT (suboxone) to pregnant women while incarcerated. Alexandria CSB has a jail services team including a case manager and discharge planner that provides treatment groups through the Sober Living Unit. ADC refers consumer to ACSB for SUD services upon release. The City of Alexandria will be starting a pilot drug court program for consumers with a substance use diagnosis. The drug court program will be a collaboration with Public Defender, Commonwealth’s Attorney, Alexandria CSB, Alexandria Probation and Parole. ACSB is currently in discussion with ADC sheriff with regards to starting a MAT program in the ADC.
Fairfax	✓		Fairfax CSB (FCSB) partners with Fairfax County on a drug court program, if consumer is appropriate for drug court the FCSB provides outpatient treatment, case management, and peer support services to that consumer. Fairfax CSB has a SUD program in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center (FCADC) called STAR (Striving to Achieve Recovery), this program a special

CSB	Utilize SOR Funds	Don't Utilize SOR Funds	Description
			unit in the FCADC to help consumer with OUD and SUD. Upon release FCADC refers consumers enrolled in the STAR program to FCSB. A peer support specialist engages the consumer to ensure a warm handoff to FCSB. FCADC has their own medication assisted treatment (vivitrol) program, however FCSB is working with FCADC on starting a suboxone pilot program within the FCADC.
Loudoun			Loudoun CSB (LCSB) partners with the drug court program in Loudoun County, VA. If a consumer is appropriate for drug court, LCSB provides outpatient treatment, case management, and peer support services to that consumer.
Prince William		✓	<p>Prince William CSB (PWCSB) partners with the Prince William County on a drug court program, if consumer is appropriate for drug court, PWCSB provides outpatient treatment, case management, and peer support services to that consumer. PWCSB utilizes peer support specialist to conduct outreach in the Prince William Adult Detention Center. The peer support specialists' role is to engage with consumers while incarcerated, facilitate outpatient treatment groups and to engage consumers upon release from jail to help ensure enrollment into the Prince William CSB.</p> <p>Update Jan. 2021: Michelle and Bernadette reported that they are not currently using SOR funds for jail services, but they are in talks with Loudoun County Adult Detention Center on the MAT program and are hopeful that the program is approved, they were awarded a Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners (RSAT) Program grant for implementation, they may need additional funding and will reach out to the SOR team in the future if needed.</p>

Region 3

CSB	Utilize SOR Funds	Don't Utilize SOR Funds	Description
Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare	✓		<p>Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare (BRBH) has a MAT liaison that works at BRBH who coordinates the Alpha program in Roanoke City Jail. The Alpha program consists of consumers starting group and oral naltrexone. A peer recovery specialist engages the consumer, a warm hand-off is done to the BRBH resulting in wrap around services and a vivitrol injection. BRBH has discharge planners at Western Virginia Regional Jail (WVRJ). The discharger planner assists the consumer with transitioning into behavioral health services at Blue Ridge Behavioral Health. WVRJ has their own medication-assisted treatment program, they provide vivitrol to consumers while incarcerated. Upon release consumers are referred to BRBH to continue medication-assisted treatment services.</p> <p>Update Jan. 2021: BRBH has a MAT liaison/case manager that works at BRBH who coordinates the Alpha program (MAT) in Roanoke City Jail. The Alpha program consists of consumers starting group and oral naltrexone. A peer recovery specialist engages the consumer, a warm hand-off is done to</p>

CSB	Utilize SOR Funds	Don't Utilize SOR Funds	Description
			<i>the BRBH resulting in wrap around services and a vivitrol injection. Lauren Edwards stated that BRBH is not using SOR funds for Roanoke City jail nor WVRJ services.</i>
Cumberland Mountain	✔		Cumberland Mountain CSB (CMCSB) has a designated discharge- planner in Southwest Regional Jail and Tazewell Regional Jail, through a grant administered by Highlands CSB. As a part of this grant, consumers who are interested in MAT, released from Southwest Regional Jail or Tazewell Regional Jail and live in the CMCSB are referred to CMCSB to be assessed for SUD services. CMCSB has drug court programs in all three counties of their catchment area, two of the three courts participate in CMCSB MAT program. (At this time, Tazewell County Drug Court and Buchanan County Drug Court participates in MAT. Russell County Drug Court does not participate in MAT.) CMCSB has a departmental grant with Department of Correction (DOC) that includes CMCSB, Richmond Behavioral Health Authority and Norfolk CSB. The grant targets consumers with Opioid Use Disorder who are coming out of the correctional system. Consumers will be given one vivitrol injection prior to their release and will then follow up with CMCSB for MAT.
Danville-Pittsylvania	✔		Danville-Pittsylvania CSB (DPCSB) has a substance abuse program in the Danville City Jail called the Alpha Program. The Alpha program, is 12-14-week long and is led by the consumers in the jail. DPCSB has two case managers and two clinicians who help facilitate the Alpha Program.
Dickenson County			Dickenson County Behavioral Health Services (DCCSB) partners with the drug court program in Dickenson County, VA, currently they have 25 consumers enrolled in the drug court program. If a consumer is appropriate for drug court, DCCSB provides outpatient treatment, case management, and peer support services to that consumer.
Highlands	✔		Highlands CSB (HCSB) partners with the drug court program in Washington County and Bristol County. HCSB has discharge planners at Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority Abingdon Facility. The discharger planners assist the consumer with transitioning into behavioral health services at HCSB.
Mount Rogers	✔		Mount Rogers CSB (MRCSB) have case managers at Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority Abingdon Facility and New River Valley Regional Jail who makes referrals to MRCSB for substance abuse services.
New River Valley		✔	New River Valley CSB (NRVCSB) partners with New River Valley Regional Jail (NRVRJ) on the Vivitrol Pre-Release program. This program has consumers starting group and oral naltrexone in the jail. A Peer Recovery Specialist engages the client, a warm hand-off is done to the CSB resulting in wrap around services and a vivitrol injection or suboxone. NRVCSB also provides outpatient treatment, psychiatric treatment and peer services in the jail.
Piedmont			Piedmont CSB is not providing any SUD services in their local or regional jails.
Planning District One	✔		Planning District One (PD1) has discharge planners at Southwest Virginia Regional Jail (SWRJ). The discharger planners assist the consumer with transitioning into behavioral health services at PD1. PD1 has peer recovery specialist who conduct substance abuse group sessions twice a week at SWRJ.

CSB	Utilize SOR Funds	Don't Utilize SOR Funds	Description
Southside		✓	<p>Southside CSB (SCSB). Southside partners with Blue Ridge Regional Jail (BRRJ) in Halifax County on the MAT program. This program has consumers starting group and vivitrol injection in the BRRJ. A Peer Recovery Specialist engages the client, a warm hand-off is done to the CSB resulting in wrap around services and a vivitrol injection or suboxone. Southside also partners with Meherrin River Regional Jail (MRRJ) on the MAT program. This program has consumers starting group and vivitrol injection in the MRRJ. A Peer Recovery Specialist engages the client, a warm hand-off is done to the CSB resulting in wrap around services and a vivitrol injection or suboxone partners with the drug court program in Halifax County, VA. If a consumer is appropriate for drug court, SSCSB provides outpatient treatment, case management, and peer support services to that consumer. SSCSB also provides SUD assessments at BRRJ and MRRJ.</p> <p>Update Jan. 2021: Debra Berryman reported that SSCSB has not received any referrals from MRRJ to date. Neither in the jail or once released. Debra has an upcoming meeting with MRRJ on why they have not received any referrals. She also reports that SSCSB staff is willing and able to conduct GRPA in the jail once they receive a referral. As of Aug 2020, Southside has contracted with Blue Ridge Regional Jail on a MAT program.</p>

Region 4

CSB	Utilize SOR Funds	Don't Utilize SOR Funds	Description
Chesterfield		✓	<p>Chesterfield County CSB (CCCSB) partners with Chesterfield County Court on the Chesterfield Jail Diversion Program. This program includes four criminal justice stakeholders and the Henrico CSB. The Chesterfield Jail Diversion Program consists of consumers starting group and oral naltrexone in Chesterfield County Jail. A peer recovery specialist engages the consumer, a warm hand-off is done to the CCCSB resulting in wrap around services and a vivitrol injection. In 2019, Chesterfield County was 1 of 15 agencies throughout country selected to undergo training and education around medication-assisted treatment in jails. The training will begin in Fall of 2019. The positive approach began in California with the Health Management Associates (HMA). HMA is a leading healthcare consulting firm, which developed the training programs blueprint. The program was successfully deployed in 29 California counties and resulted in better access to MAT for those in the criminal justice system.</p>
Crossroads		✓	<p>Crossroad CSB partners with Piedmont Regional Jail on a MAT program in the criminal justice setting. Piedmont Regional Jail staff notifies Crossroads of consumer that meets criteria for MAT program. The jail staff administers the vivitrol injections and Crossroads provides individual and groups therapy in the jail.</p>

CSB	Utilize SOR Funds	Don't Utilize SOR Funds	Description
District 19			District 19 (D19) partners with Riverside Criminal Justice to the Drug Court Program. D19 provides outpatient treatment, case management and peer support services, and also provides group counseling and drug education classes in Sussex County Jail and Petersburg Annex. In addition, D19 provides Therapeutic Community Milieu at Southside Regional Jail; Drug Court Services in Hopewell, Prince George and Surry.
Goochland/ Powhatan			Goochland County has a drug court program called the Goochland Family Treatment Drug Court Program. Goochland consumers diagnosed with opioid use disorder are sent to the Henrico County Jail and are treated with MAT in that jail. In Powhatan County consumers diagnosed with SUD are sent to Department of Correction or Chesterfield County Jail. GPCSB is in the process of hiring a peer support specialist who will work with Henrico and Chesterfield jail to provide a warm handoff to GPCSB.
Hanover			Hanover County CSB currently receives referrals for behavioral health services from Hanover County Drug Court.
Henrico			Henrico CSB (HCSB) has a Jail Opioid Diversion Program in the Henrico County Jail. This program started in 2018 and involved the coordination of four criminal justice stakeholders and the HCSB. This program has consumers starting group and oral naltrexone in the jail. A Peer Recovery Specialist engages the client, a warm hand-off is done to the CSB resulting in wrap around services and a vivitrol injection. This program received a national award from the National Association of Counties.
Richmond Behavioral Health Authority			Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) is not providing any SUD services in their local or regional jails. RBHA currently receives referrals for behavioral health services from the Drug Court Program in their catchment area.

Region 5

CSB	Utilize SOR Funds	Don't Utilize SOR Funds	Description
Chesapeake			Chesapeake Integrated Behavioral Healthcare (CIBH) is not providing any SUD services in their local or regional jails.
Colonial			Colonial CSB (CCSB) is not providing any SUD services in their local or regional jails.
Eastern Shore			Eastern Shore CSB (ESCSB) is not providing any SUD services in their local or regional jails. Update May 2021: The ESCSB has a Peer Recovery Specialist providing on-site at the Eastern Shore Regional Jail (ESRJ) conducting SMART Recovery groups two days per week in addition to providing on-call discharge coordination, service engagement and warm-hand offs to out of area individuals returning to Hampton Roads for OUD treatment with other

CSB	Utilize SOR Funds	Don't Utilize SOR Funds	Description
			CSBs. The Mobile MAT unit is currently serving the Eastern Shore Regional Jail by providing MAT to incarcerated individuals.
Hampton Newport News			Hampton Newport News CSB (HNNCSB) has a jail-based outpatient treatment group called Inner Reflections in the Hampton City Jail. HNNCSB has a case manager in the Hampton Jail who help facilitate the Inner Reflection treatment group. HNNCSB partners with Newport News City Jail on MAT program. This program has consumers starting or continuing MAT medication in the jail. A Peer Recovery Specialist engages the client, a warm hand-off is done to the CSB resulting in wrap around services to include group sessions and vivitrol injection, methadone or suboxone. HNNCSB also provides outpatient treatment, psychiatric treatment and peer services in the jail.
Middle Peninsula Northern Neck			Middle Peninsula Northern Neck (MPNN) partners with Middle Peninsula Regional Security Center (MPRSC), Lancaster Regional Jail (LRJ) and Gloucester Regional Jail (GRJ) in that they all share a MPNN Case Manager (CM). The CM is housed at MPRSC but is dispatched to Gloucester and Lancaster jails as needed for discharge planning. MPNN also provides individual and group substance abuse counseling at Northern Neck Regional Jail (NNRJ), MPRSC and GRJ. In addition, MPNN has provides peer services at both MPRSC and NNRJ. MPNN partners with King, Queen, King William, Matthews, Middle Sex and Essex county courts on a work release program. Jailed consumers are permitted to attend Intensive Outpatient Group (IOP) at the Warsaw Counseling Center (WWC) or Gloucester Counseling Center (GCC). MPNN has a jail diversion counselor who transports the males to WCC and the jail transports the females to GCC. The consumers wear "street clothes" and attend group with community members.
Norfolk			Norfolk CSB (NCSB) currently receives referrals for behavioral health services from Norfolk Drug Court (NDC). NCSB partners with NDC on the MAT program. Clients in the drug court program receive a vivitrol injection at NCSB. NCSB also provides outpatient treatment, psychiatric treatment and peer services. Update May 2021: Norfolk City Jail also has a Substance Abuse Unit (SAU) This forty-five day program is a highly structured series of cognitive-behavioral (CBT) based group sessions and educational classes drawn from the current literature on best practices in corrections, targeting both substance use and criminal conduct. Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Intensive Reentry Program (RSAT-IRP) is a twelve-week program that assists offenders in returning to the community. The program addresses social, cognitive, behavioral, and vocational aspects of recovery and re-entry. All participants will engage in CBT, Trauma-informed care classes, Reentry classes, and MAT.
Portsmouth			Portsmouth Behavioral Health Services (PBHS) and Hampton Road Regional Jail (HRRJ) partner to provide daily dosage of methadone to pregnant woman that are incarcerated at the Hampton Roads Regional Jail (HRRJ). HRRJ provides daily transportation to the PBHS clinic for the methadone dosage.
Virginia Beach			Virginia Beach CSB (VBCSB), the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Behavioral Health Division (BHD) have collaborated with the Virginia Beach

CSB	Utilize SOR Funds	Don't Utilize SOR Funds	Description
			<p>Courts (VBC), Probation and Parole (P&P), Commonwealth Attorney's office, the Public Defender's office and the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office (VBSO) to implement a drug court program for consumers in the Virginia Beach Correctional Center. The purpose of the drug court program is to ensure that consumers experiencing a behavioral health crisis receive appropriate treatment at VBCSB rather than incarceration.</p> <p>The reentry program is a specialized block in the jail for consumers who are serving a sentence of six months or less in the Virginia Beach Correctional Center.</p> <p>Update May 2021: VBCSB has discharge planners at Virginia Beach City Jail to assist the consumers with transitioning into the community for wrap-around services. Virginia Beach is working on a MAT program at Virginia Beach City Jail.</p>
Western Tidewater			<p>Western Tidewater CSB (WTCSB) is not providing any SUD services in their local or regional jails.</p> <p>Update Jan. 2021: WTCSB is hoping to expand MAT/SUD services into justice involved setting. WTCSB reports Western Tidewater regional jail current contracts with an outside provider on behavioral health services, but they are willing to have a meeting to discuss future options. The SOR advised them that we are available for technical assistance.</p>

Takeaways

Stigma

Throughout our site visits the SOR team has received feedback from stakeholders with regards to the various barriers that are faced by the CSBs to expand MAT within the jails. Perhaps the most significant barrier among the criminal justice systems in Virginia is stigma, the idea that opioid use disorder is fundamentally different from other medical conditions. Like other conditions, opioid use disorder can be treated with medications, just as someone suffering from diabetes is treated. Virginia stakeholders have reported that criminal justice physicians are reluctant to offer MAT within the jails because this would attract a new set of addiction consumers to their practice, consumers they do not encounter very often in their practice. Generally, when someone is unfamiliar with something their first response is to be fearful. We as humans tend to shy away from the unknown. Many criminal justice physicians lack the knowledge, education and experience with opioid use disorder consumers to provide adequate service. The stigma and misconceptions around MAT must be changed.

MAT Diversion

The SOR team has advised the criminal justice programs to alter policies, procedures, and training in order to ensure MAT is administered in a way that reduces medication diversion. According to SAMHSA, there are a number of strategies that can reduce the risk of diversion, including: assign dedicated staff who participate in multidisciplinary teams of medical and correctional staff, monitor dispensing of medications, conduct drug testing, implement spot audits and incident reports, and ensure the safe, secure storage of the medication. The majority of the local and regional jails have turned to vivitrol. Most criminal justice programs prefer vivitrol, this is because it is not a narcotic, which has little to no risk for diversion. Buprenorphine and methadone are narcotics, which most criminal justice systems do not support, because of the high risk for diversion.

Funding

The SOR team is also aware of the financial, and resource challenges to implementing MAT in local and regional jails in Virginia. Virginia criminal justice programs often assume they cannot afford to provide MAT due to costs of medication, staffing, certifications and storage requirements. It is hard to provide MAT services without substantial funding, though advocates have countered that the cost of not giving treatment could be higher, due to hospital stays and return jail visits.

FDA and Legal Standards

Recently, lawsuits citing the lack of access to MAT have been heard in Federal courts in multiple states. In many of these cases, judges have agreed that the plaintiff's 8th Amendment Constitutional rights, as well as the Americans with Disabilities Act, have likely been violated.

The basis for their opinions include: Opioid Use Disorder, commonly referred to as Opioid Addiction, is a chronic, life-threatening disorder for which prescribed medication is medically necessary. Justice involved consumers should have access to all three FDA approved medication for OUD. Plaintiffs will suffer irreparable harm through painful withdrawal and possible relapse or death if forced off MAT. There is a greater burden on plaintiffs if they are denied MAT than on the jails to provide it. Jailed consumers in recovery from opioid use disorder should never be stigmatized for seeking appropriate medical treatment that can save their lives. The consumer should have access to all three FDA approved medications for OUD, while incarcerated.

Expanding Beyond MAT

MAT expansion should complement other treatments for other SUDs. Several stakeholders noted that while most federal and state agencies are focused on opioid use disorders specifically, they are observing a resurgence of stimulant use disorder. Alcohol use disorders continue to represent a large amount of the SUD diagnoses in Virginia. Targeted MAT initiatives may be most effective within an evidence-based framework encompassed by polysubstance use disorder and without being limited to opioid use disorders.

Best Practices

There is light at the end of the tunnel; Virginia local and regional jails have begun to offer MAT programs. More Virginia criminal justice agencies are exploring how medications like suboxone and vivitrol can help the justice involved population avoid relapses and overdoses when they return to the outside world. Virginia local and regional jails have partnered with CSBs to deliver MAT to voluntary jailed consumers under criminal justice supervision. This module of MAT programming is essential for continuity of care as consumer's transition in and out of the criminal justice system. Local and regional jails that have relationships established with CSBs can help ensure continuity of care once individuals are no longer under criminal justice supervision.

Challenges



Limited access/staffing availability



Logistics and operations



Continuity of Care



Buy-in



Engaging clients



Partnerships and communication

Conclusion

The Virginia State Opioid Response team believes that MAT must be widely accepted and made available as a critical component to slow the opioid epidemic. In the meantime, the department is moving ahead with a plan to expand MAT programs in the criminal justice setting and we will continue to correct misinformation on MAT and support work by the CSBs to ensure this treatment is readily available. The VA SOR Grant is successfully funding efforts that improve the availability and effectiveness of substance use disorder and opioid use disorder treatment for individuals in the justice system.

By utilizing MAT and improving access to this lifesaving treatment, communities and correctional agencies can reduce the risk of overdose and death post-release.

References

1. National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2016). Advancing addiction science, effective treatment for opioid addiction. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/effective-treatments-opioid-addiction/effective-treatments-opioid-addiction>
2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2018). Tip 63: Medications for opioid use disorders. (HHS Publication No. [SMA] 18-5063EXSUMM). Rockville, MD. <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA18-5063EXSUMM>
3. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2018). Medication and Counseling Treatment. <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/2000-2010-National-Admissions-to-Substance-Abuse-Treatment-Services/SMA12-4701>
4. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2019). Use of Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in Criminal Justice Settings. <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Use-of-Medication-Assisted-Treatment-for-Opioid-Use-Disorder-in-Criminal-Justice-Settings/PEP19-MATUSECJS>
5. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2019). Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in Criminal Justice system. <https://store.samhsa.gov/system/files/pep19-matbriefcjs.pdf>
6. Virginia Department of health Virginia Department of Health. (2018). Virginia Opioid Addiction Indicators. <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/data/opioid-overdose>