



## Medication Assisted Treatment

On July 1, 2019, as a response to the current opioid epidemic in Maine and in accordance with Governor Mills' Executive Order, the Department of Corrections (MDOC) launched a pilot treatment program for clients in MDOC adult correctional facilities diagnosed with opioid use disorder (OUD). MDOC's MAT program is implemented in collaboration with Well Path (MDOC's comprehensive medical care provider) and Groups Recover Together (a community agency serving those with OUD). Current funding for the program in FY20 totals \$1.2 million, including \$450,000 from Maine SAMHS.

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) is considered one of the highest standards of care for individuals diagnosed with OUD, and the purpose of MAT is to reduce cravings for opiates to better allow individuals to manage personal triggers and engage in prosocial activity, including counseling/treatment, more effectively. MDOC's MAT program utilizes Buprenorphine and Naltrexone as primary medications prescribed by medical providers.

In July, MAT was initiated at Maine Correctional Center (men and women), Southern Maine Women's Reentry Center, and Bolduc Correctional Facility. The pilot treatment serves both male and female clients who are determined to need it by a medical provider, who understand the risks and benefits of treatment, who are willing to enter treatment, and who are within three months of discharge from DOC. Treatment starts in the facility, and continuity of care upon discharge is assured with DOC's community partner, Groups Recover Together. After an effective launch and early successes, MAT was initiated at Mountain View Correctional Center (in partnership with Day One) on November 4, 2019. MAT is set to begin at MDOC's final facility, Maine State Prison, in February 2020.

As of January 6, 2020, the following clients have been served by the program:

- 61 clients are currently active in treatment (47 men and 14 women)
- 118 clients have successfully completed treatment while incarcerated and transitioned to the community with follow-up care appointments established

Groups Recover Together and Day One assist the MDOC by providing in facility support for clients participating in MAT with discharge planning and continuity of care services, linking each client to MAT providers in local communities. Additionally, clients releasing receive a prescription for Naloxone (and associated training for usage) and a prepaid cell phone upon release.

### **MDOC and MaineCare Collaboration**

*Historically, a significant barrier to clients transitioning from MDOC facilities to communities has been establishing and activating MaineCare benefits immediately upon release. In 2019, as a result of collaboration between MDOC and the Office of MaineCare, eligible clients releasing to communities have active MaineCare services immediately upon release.*