

County Touchpoints in Access to MAT for Justice Involved Populations

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of this project?

The opioid epidemic continues to ravage the country and California. In our state, opioid prescribing has improved and heroin overdose deaths may be slowing, but overdose deaths from fentanyl continue to rise. As part of its statewide effort to address the opioid crisis by expanding the use of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), California's Department of Health Care Services funded a Learning Collaborative in which teams from 29 California counties are working to expand access to at least two forms of MAT to all persons with OUD during incarceration and through probation and drug courts and to assure that treatment is accessible upon release.

This effort has been very effective. Most people entering jail in the project counties and who are under treatment with MAT are receiving MAT throughout their jail time. Drug courts are also extending participation to persons using MAT, and probation, courts and prosecutors are working with addiction treatment experts to address relapse in the context of criminal justice and addiction as a brain disease.

Nonetheless, in many communities, key criminal justice and human service personnel and processes do not consider a person "clean" if he/she is using MAT. To maintain sobriety, persons in the criminal justice system who are on MAT must rely on collaborative courts, probation, prosecutors, defenders, and human service providers who understand:

- Addiction as a brain disease
- The medications used to treat OUD
- The risk of overdose and death when MAT is discontinued
- Where MAT fits within sentencing and release decisions in a county
- If and how MAT is provided in the jails
- Precisely how, when, and where detainees can access community MAT services upon release from jail or in lieu of jail.

Often, persons in recovery must decide between receiving drug court services or regaining custody of their children and staying on MAT. Terminating MAT before it is clinically indicated increases the chance of overdose death by more than 40 times.

The County Touchpoints project is designed to provide training on these topics to key stakeholders in every California county.

Who are the targeted stakeholders?

DHCS identified six specific groups for this training:

- Probation
- Adult Collaborative Courts
- Youth/Dependency Courts
- Public Defenders
- District Attorneys
- Human Services and Child Welfare Workers

In addition, sheriffs and county administrators are invited to send staff to the sessions. They meet in facilitated breakout discussions but do not receive specific workbooks.

How is this training provided?

The project targets four geographic regions of the state:

- A. Southern California (7 counties excluding Los Angeles)
- B. Northern California (33 counties)
- C. Central California (17 counties)
- D. Los Angeles County

In each county, two all-day training sessions are provided. The first targets agency leadership and the second targets managers/supervisors. A third session follows, as a Train-the-Trainer session. Second and third session are combined for Central California and Los Angeles County.

What does the “live” training cover?

Didactic information presented in the morning includes the following, with opportunity for Q&A:

- Overview of California projects addressing MAT and the opioid crisis
- The neuroscience of addiction and its treatment
- The “case” for treating addictions in criminal justice settings
- The MAT medications and their implications in justice settings
- Funding and benefits for treating addiction

The afternoon includes:

- A breakout session specific to each targeted stakeholder group, with specialized workbooks and discussion questions and an opportunity to discuss issues with your colleagues from other counties.
- A breakout session specific to your county, in which all the stakeholder groups can discuss county-specific barriers, challenges, and gaps.

Who developed the stakeholder-specific workbooks?

The Project team recruited “Champions” from each targeted profession to serve as advisors and subject matter experts and to help recruit attendance at the sessions. Each is a well-respected, recently retired leader in his/her respective field. The Champions developed the case studies and discussion questions and approved the other content in their respective workbooks. The Champions are:

- Judge Bonnie Dumanis (retired), District Attorneys
- Judge Len Edwards (retired), Juvenile Courts
- Judge Rogelio Flores (retired), Adult Collaborative Courts
- Howard Himes (retired), Human Services and Child Welfare
- Dave Meyer (retired), Public Defenders
- Cal Remington (retired), Probation

Why is there a Train-the-Trainer session?

Leaders and managers from the targeted stakeholder groups reported strong interest in a Train-the-Trainer session that would equip the county-level agencies to conduct internal staff training on an on-going basis. This is preferred to an in-person session for line staff, for many reasons that include:

- Frequent turnover of line staff and the need to continually re-train new staff
- For small counties, staff cannot leave the county for all-day training, especially where the training is several counties away
- For large counties, it is not feasible to send large numbers of line staff to a single off-site training

In response, the County Touchpoints project staff created a Train-the-Trainer mechanism in place of line-staff training. Second and third session are combined for Central California and Los Angeles County.

What agencies can send a team to the Train-the-Trainer session?

All targeted stakeholders are encouraged to send a training team to this event. Sheriffs may also opt to send training teams from jail custody and from jail health care services (separately). The following groups are eligible:

- Adult Collaborative Courts
- Youth/Dependency Courts
- Sheriff staff
- Public Defenders
- Jail Custody staff
- District Attorneys
- Jail Health Care staff
- Human Services & Child Protective Services
- Probation

How does the Train-the-Trainer session work?

Develop an Agency Train-the-Trainer Team

Each targeted agency is invited to send a team of people to the Train-the-Trainer event held in your region. Teams should include staff responsible for internal training in your organization and others who are enthusiastic about treating addiction and who can be “champions” in influencing their peers to be open to learning more about addiction and its treatment.

Also, in larger counties many of the target organizations have internal training staff. In these counties, the internal trainers should also be on the team.

Note that the Train the Trainer Team members are *not* required to be experts in addiction or MAT and will *not* be responsible for creating training content. All content will be provided in web-based modules with a training handbook. Team members will recruit participation among their peers and track how training is evolving within the organization. They may facilitate discussion in some sessions, but questions and guidance will be provided.

Registration for Train-the-Trainer Session

The morning session is a joint session with leaders, managers, and supervisors who will assimilate the content into approaches and interactions with clients (Track One) and for those would provide the training content to others in your organization on an on-going basis (Track Two). The afternoon session for Train-the-Trainer will focus on training materials and developing a plan for your organization. The table below shows how the Tracks will be delivered:

	TRACK ONE	TRACK TWO
AUDIENCE	Leaders	Training "Champions"
	Managers/Supervisors	Designated training staff
MORNING CONTENT	Addiction Neuroscience 101	
	The Case for treating OUD in Justice and Child Welfare Settings	
	MAT Medications	
	Access to Community Treatment and Funding	
	TRACK ONE	TRACK TWO
AFTERNOON CONTENT	Stakeholder-specific discussions and workbook with your "Champion"	Training materials: Training manual, modules, CEUs, and other materials
	Cross-county problem-solving	Develop a training plan for your organization

What is covered in the Train-the-Trainer session?

During the session, the project staff will demonstrate numerous training modules and materials developed for every California county. These include:

- Videotaped compilations of the earlier sessions
- Additional webinars and videotapes developed for your use
- Stakeholder-specific workbooks
- County-specific overdose and opioid treatment data
- Key county contacts in the drug and alcohol program, jail, local Opioid Coalition, other opioid projects, and more.

Then, your team will work through a series of questions and pathways developed for you that will help you create a specific training plan for your agency for 2020. It will include consideration of continuing education credits, tracking participation, measuring change, and more.

Will Continuing Education Credits be available?

Probation and jail custody staff can request Standard and Training for Corrections (STC) credit for participation in the County Touchpoints sessions. Contact your agency training manager to request Work Related Education and Professional Development (WRE) credits for the six hours of content provided. The project staff is working to secure CEUs for judges, attorneys, and child welfare workers. At this time, we cannot guarantee that CEUs will be available, but the project staff will address this in each Train-the-Trainer session and post updates on the project website at <https://addictionfreeca.org/California-MAT-Expansion-Project/HMA-Projects/County-Touchpoints-in-Access-to-MAT-for-Justice-Involved-Populations>

In addition, many county agencies have agreements with regional and/or statewide professional organizations to confer CEUS for training. These arrangements should be pursued locally.

What happens after the Train-the-Trainer event?

The County Touchpoints project will host several webinars on topics of interest to stakeholders in this project. Everyone who participated in a County Touchpoints learning event or in the Train-the-Trainer session will be invited. The County Touchpoints project team will also maintain periodic communication with each Train-the-Trainer team to answer questions, check in on your team training plan, and serve as a resource.

What if I can't get at team together for the Train-the-Trainer event for my county?

The project team will host at least two webinars that provide additional virtual opportunities for agency training teams to form and take action.

Who runs this project?

The project is managed by Health Management Associates (HMA), a national health care consulting firm and California Health Policies Strategies LLC (CalHPS), a state-based consulting firm. Both have extensive experience and connections in the justice system and in addiction and its treatment. HMA holds the contract for this project with the California Department of Health Care Services contracted with HMA

What if I have other questions?

You may direct any questions via email to CountyTouchpoints@healthmanagement.com