RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT (RSAT)

Preparing People for Re-entry During the COVID-19 Pandemic

This project was supported by grant No. 2016-MU-BX-K021 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the SMART Office, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Point of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Justice.



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Want to ask a question? ASK	≣*

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Chat (Everyone)	87

Preparing People for Re-entry During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Niki Miller, MS Senior Research Associate

Advocates for Human Potential RSAT National Training & Technical Assistance Center

Participants will be better able to...

Learning Objectives

- Integrate relevant re-entry planning into core programming in anticipation of possible early releases.
- Include client education on protections that reduce the spread of COVID-19 in custody and upon release to the community.
- Locate information on accommodations, potential supports & continuity of care for reentering RSAT clients.
- Identify critical items/tasks specific to COVID-19 to add to re-entry planning checklists.

Significance what is about to happen/already happening

Largest mass de-carceration in U.S. history

California: Brown v. Plata, 2011

- U.S. Supreme Court ruling: mandate to reduce overcrowding in state prisons
- 27,500 inmates "realigned" from state prisons to county jails or parole over 15 months.
- In 2014, Proposition 47 reduced penalties for certain crimes
- Allowed 3 years to apply retroactively: 1st year- jail population reduced by 7,000

Federal BOP: Mandatory Minimums Repealed, 2015

- Federal judges: no more mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines for drug offenses
- Applied retroactively to federal prisoners serving sentences for drug offenses
- 6,000 inmates released from federal prisons Oct Nov of 2015

Oklahoma Prisons: Reduced sentences for low-level crimes, 2019

- Retroactively reduced sentences for state prisoners convicted of low-level offenses
- 400 inmates released from state prisons in one day





What do you need? How can we help? Information? Specifics? Support? **Contact?**

Typical RSAT Client Re-entry Planning Domains

A few fortunate clients RSAT may be returning to a home, a decent job, or possibly both



A Post COVID-19 Approach to Recovery & Desistance Survival

Time-limited pre-release planning may be client's only link to addiction recovery support and essentials of success staying safe in the community...



What else should be red?

What can go for now?

POLLS: Questions 1 & 2

Select as many as you wish. We will apply top 2 answers for each

1. Which should be RED?

a. Case management

- b. Addiction/MH treatment
- c. Medical care
- d. Job/educational supports
- e. Pro-social leisure/volunteer
- f. Recovery support network

2. Which can go? (for now)

- a. Case management
- b. Addiction/MH treatment
- c. Medical care
- d. Job/educational supports
- e. Pro-social leisure/volunteer
- f. Recovery support network

A Holistic Approach to Recovery & Desistance Survival



Model with 2 more domains prioritized & 2 eliminated (for now)

POLL 3: Adding Re-entry Priorities During a Pandemic

Select all that apply.

- A. Knowing what emergency orders they must abide by, what's open or closed upon release.
- B. Really understanding how to wash hands, social distancing, shelter-in-place & their importance.
- C. Having means of telecommunication (phone, internet access, video, etc.).
- D. Being fully prepared for a 2-week quarantine, understanding when & why it may be needed.
- E. Links to emergency benefits or special programs for help with food, shelter, medications.

A Holistic Approach to Recovery & Desistance Survival



With our 2 new COVID-19 top priorities

Verbal screening questions / teaching people to self-screen

CDC verbal screening questions & list of serious symptoms <u>CDC Corona Virus Info/Updates & Symptom Self-Checker</u>

Today or in past 24 hours have you had:

- Fever, felt feverish, or had chills?
- Cough?
- Difficulty breathing?
- Contact in the last 14 days with someone who has COVID-19?
- Traveled to the following countries ...

(rare in prison, but possible in jails especially where ICE detainees are held)

Signs of serious illness:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain/ pressure in chest
- Bluish lips or face
- New confusion

What to do if you have them:

- Stay home, do not go to ER. Call your doctor
- Most people will recover at home
- Isolate yourself, use a mask & precautions
- Seek help if symptoms get worse, you can't breathe or it's an emergency

Demonstrations/ videos & practice key protective measures:

Show CDC Handwashing video & use handouts

Handwashing: explain how long, when & why.Scrubbing & soap and water is importantDemonstrate or practicing helps.

Define or demonstrate covering coughs or sneezes Explain the specifics of social distancing Define terms such as 'shelter-in-place.'

CDC Social Distancing Video
Cough Etiquette Video
Shelter-in-Place webpage
How to Make your own Face Mask



At-risk & Medically Vulnerable Groups

You may be asked to identify & list non-violent offenders who could be released

- Who are within 30 days-12 months of release
- Over 50, 55, 60 or 65...
- In custody due to parole violations
- In jail due non-payment or failure to appear
- Detained pre-trail on minor charges
- With health conditions (asthma, heart disease)
- Explain who is at risk and why to clients

CDC Information on risk factors & groups

- Transfers to prisons from jails may stop
- Intakes may require 14-day isolation
- Rolling counts: people who could be released
- New policies & protocols everyday
- Hustling to ensure parole hearing take place
- Distance community corrections contact

Modify Overdose Prevention / Harm Reduction Plans

Preventing Overdose & Infectious Disease

- Included in core treatment
- COVID-specific safer use rules
- OD prevention plan form
- Naloxone training! Pre or day of release
- Syringes exchanges closing
- Concrete examples!
- Drug market changes

Overdose/Relapse Prevention and Risk Reduction:

If overdose prevention and risk reduction education is not offered to RSAT clients in treatment, they are linked to community-based agencies that offer these services and access to naloxone for reentering clients with OUD. All clients require an overdose relapse risk-reduction plan.



Information About State Executive Orders

Council of State Governments <u>COVID-19 Executive Orders by State or Topic</u>

- □ State prison release/ transfer directives
- Court closures, parole hearing arrangements
- Details on suspension of arrests/jail bookings
- Some states also issue guidance for jails
- Orders expanding Medicaid coverage
- Accommodations for housing, etc.
- □ Shelter-in-place orders, business/office closings
- Blanket orders re: access Rx & MAT drugs



Laws & regulations re: addiction treatment

DEA, SAMHSA & Confidentiality Regulations Modified

www.samhsa.gov/coronavirus

- States can authorize up to 28 days methadone take home
- Less stable but safe 14 days
- Telehealth not possible for starting new pts on methadone
- Yes telehealth possible for starting new pts on buprenorphine

ASAM national & state guidance

Guidance for OTPs

Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Guidance (March 16, 2020) (PDF | 216 KB)

NEW: OTP Guidance for Patients Quarantined at Home with the Coronavirus (PDF | 154 KB)

NEW: FAQs: Provision of Methadone and Buprenorphine for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder in the COVID-19 Emergency (PDF | 137 KB)

Sample OTP COVID-19 FAQs (PDF | 341 KB)

Use of Telemedicine While Providing Medication-Assisted Treatment (PDF | 146 KB)

Additional Federal Guidance
NEW: DEA SAMHSA Buprenorphine Telemedicine (PDF | 209 KB)

OCR Announces Notification of Enforcement Discretion for Telehealth Remote Communications During the COVID-19 Nationwide Public Health Emergency

The Notification of Enforcement Discretion on Telehealth Remote Communications

DEA Information on Telemedicine (PDF | 75 KB)

DEA Diversion Control Division COVID-19 Information

POLL 4: So what's new with you?

- A. No one has been released yet
- B. Planning & discussion are underway; no decisions yet, but probably soon
- C. We have started to see some releases
- D. Lots of people going out the door
- E. It's kinda crazy and we never know who is getting released or when
- F. I'm actually here by myself today





What do you need? How can we help? Information? Specifics? Support? **Contact?**

Key Lessons

THINGS I'VE LEARNED IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS



Coronavirus is a novel flu

The mortality rate is estimated at around 3%

Coronavirus is transmitted much like other flus

The elderly and those with compromised immune systems are the most susceptible to Coronavirus complicatons

I touching my face

Remember, the only thing we can hold on to for certain in this crisis is our humanity. We must be on the look out for the best in ourselves and in others and focus on those narratives that we and our fellows/sisters are creating.

Thank you for all you do and who you are doing it for...

For more information on RSAT training and technical assistance please visit:

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