



# Kansas

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PRISON PROGRAM

Topeka Correctional Facility

## Prison Program



Topeka Correctional Facility

Current FY2022 RSAT funded program

### OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

RSAT funding helps support the Substance Abuse Recovery Program (SARP) at the Topeka Correctional Facility in Topeka, Kansas. The program is also supported by state funding. SARP specializes in services for women who have been screened and prioritized for it because they are at high risk of substance use disorders (SUDs), mental health issues, and trauma histories. At the time of interview, the program had 48 beds available.

SARP was first awarded RSAT funds decades ago. At that time, it was housed in the programs division and in the early 2000s was moved to the reentry division. There was a gap in services for a short time in 2015, when the program's contractor was terminated.

SARP receives BJA/RSAT funding and uses it to pay for the Heartland Regional Alcohol & Drug Assessment Center (RADAC) contract, which covers the pre-release assessments for the SARP program and a program specialist position.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, SCREENING/ASSESSMENT, AND TREATMENT PLANNING

To be eligible for SARP, an individual must be in the state prison a minimum of six months and diagnosed with an SUD by a licensed and clinically trained mental health professional using the DSM-5 and a thorough biopsychosocial assessment. The initial assessment process includes the use of the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) risk/needs and the Women's Risk Needs Assessment (WRNA) tools. Individuals are screened for SUDs at the point of entry, and if it is determined they are a good fit for SARP, staff will interview them for the program. This is voluntary

for those who qualify for SARP, and they will begin the program from 6 to 12 months prior to their release date. Timing of when a participant begins the program is contingent, in part, on availability of beds and the start of the cohort. Programming may also begin earlier in a participant's incarceration to allow for community-based employment opportunities and other case management/reentry goals. Once an individual enters SARP, individualized treatment plans are developed based on information already provided, along with other assessment details, to address high risk/need areas and barriers to reentry.

## MODALITY OF SARP PROGRAM

SARP is delivered over a period of 6 to 12 months, using two core evidence-based curricula to address cognitive skills-building through social learning and to address trauma, all in the context of addressing substance abuse and misuse. Beginning July 2014, SARP incorporated the Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Use curriculum developed by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute, which was designed specifically for substance abuse and misuse. In an evaluation currently underway specific to female offenders in KDOC custody, preliminary results indicate that SARP completers, across all risk levels, recidivate at a 6% lower rate than those who do not receive the programming. For moderate risk levels, it is at an 11% lower rate. For high risk, recidivism is 15% lower. Participants also complete Dr. Stephanie Covington's comprehensive curriculum, *Helping Women Recover*, which emphasizes a trauma-informed cognitive behavioral approach.

SARP is housed in a separate specialized living unit, with all staff (program providers, recovery coaches, job specialist, unit team, and uniformed) trained in the curricula, so they can all reinforce the programs and services delivered and create an environment for recovery and success. This entails following a structured schedule that encompasses not only the core curricula, but also time set aside for journaling, recovery and other meetings, and daily living activities. There are available programs within the facility – beyond SARP – related to criminal thinking (cognitive skills-building), job readiness, sex offender treatment, family and parenting programs and services, mentoring services, general and specialized behavioral health, specialized case management related to mothers of minor children with substance abuse needs, financial issues, GED/vocational training, dialectical behavioral therapy, medication management, victim services, Seeking Safety, discharge planning, release planning, and pre/post-release assessment and care coordination for substance abuse treatment and recovery services in the community. Medication Assisted Treatment is also available to eligible participants who choose to receive it. SARP is targeted for concentrated fidelity and quality assurance.

## CONTINUING CARE/REINTEGRATION

Participants who successfully complete the program phase into transitional services. This could include long-term treatment, depending on the individual's needs. Alumni are connected with peer mentors and may even serve as peer mentors themselves when appropriate. One objective of SARP is that 75% of successful completers will participate in Advanced Practice sessions in the facility and/or in the community, during which they continue skills building and application outside of the classroom. Another objective is that 100% of successful completers will have a recovery plan and receive a pre-release assessment and care coordination for recovery and treatment needs in the community upon release. Finally, KDOC has established master leases with landlords across the state to assist in providing stable housing options upon release to the community.

## MAT PROGRAMMING

During state Fiscal Year 20, KDOC formed a task force comprised of representatives from KDOC, the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services, the RADACs, and Centurion (the current provider of medical services in Kansas prisons). This task force participated in a regional workshop through the National Governor's Association focused on expanding access to MOUD in corrections and community settings and continues to convene on a regular basis to develop and implement strong assessment, referral, and administration processes with the ultimate goal of increasing access to MOUD across the system.

## PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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