



Nevada

PRISON PROGRAMS

Nevada Department of Corrections

Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center,
Nevada Department of Corrections

Prison Program



Nevada Department of Corrections

Current FY2022 RSAT funded program

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

The Nevada Department of Corrections operates multiple RSAT programs across the state. There are five RSAT programs within Nevada that are operated as therapeutic communities: The TRUST (Team Recovery Under Structured Treatment) Program at the Southern Desert Prison in Indian Springs, the Phoenix Program at the Warm Springs Correctional Center in Carson City, the RISE (Reaching Inward to Succeed in my Environment) Program within the Three Lakes Valley Conservation Camp in Clark County, and the New Light and STARS (Sisters Together Achieving Recovery and Sobriety) programs within the Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center. The STARS/New Light Programs are described in a separate summary below.

The TRUST Program serves 120 men, the Phoenix Program 72 men, and the RISE program serves 48 men. The therapeutic communities offer structured environments that help participants learn strategies to avoid substance use, restructure their thinking, and regulate their emotions while also developing social skills necessary to maintain healthy relationships.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, SCREENING/ASSESSMENT, AND TREATMENT PLANNING

All individuals entering the TRUST, Phoenix and RISE RSAT Program are evaluated to identify moderate to severe SUD, co-occurring disorders (COD), and to identify medium-high to high criminogenic risk. Screenings utilized include the TCU Drug Screen V, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V) criteria and the Nevada Risk Assessment System (NRAS) to ensure reliable application and assessment criteria for admission. RISE also utilizes the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM PPC-2R).

TRUST and RISE staff administer several additional biopsychosocial instruments to obtain additional information about history and severity of SUD, including the Addiction Severity Index (ASI), 5th Edition, Texas Christian University (TCU) Criminal Thinking Scale, additional TCU screening tools and others to assess mental health, trauma, social connections, and education which informs treatment planning and reentry planning.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

NDOC hosted UCCI CPC evaluators four times between 2012 and 2017. The RSAT therapeutic community model programs scored "high adherence to EBP" and have maintained that scoring for three years.

For the Phoenix program, after eligibility is confirmed, program staff look at medical history, criminal history, family dynamics, trauma, gender responsiveness, education, and vocation in the formation of further assessment and in order to create individualized treatment plans. The screening tools used include the Anger Disorder Scale (ADS), Suicide Severity Index (C-SSRS), Addition Severity Index (ASI), and Adult Learning Tool. Program management reported that they are in the process of writing a manual detailing the policy for biopsychosocial assessment. Staff utilize the TCU-Motivation Scale (TCU-MOT) to assess readiness to change.

MODALITY OF RSAT PROGRAM

The TRUST program takes a minimum of 12-18 months to complete. The Phoenix program takes at least 10 months to complete. The RISE program takes a minimum of 5 months to complete, although length of time spent in the program is not a determining factor for completing the program. All participants across all programs are housed in separate treatment units.

TRUST Program participants progress throughout treatment in three phases which are: Motivation Phase, Pro-social Phase, and Success Planning Phase. Each phase is centered on using a CBT approach.

The Phoenix program is divided into three phases which participants progress through, and an after-care phase if participants have enough time prior to their release date. Progression through the phases is determined by programming hours and the demonstration and application of the knowledge and skills learned in the program. Participants are deemed eligible for participation in the program by the amount of time remaining to serve on their sentence.

RISE Program participants progress throughout treatment in two phases. The determining factor is programming hours as well as participants demonstrating knowledge of the skills learned. The facility is currently piloting an individualized single-phase program which measures pre-contemplative to contemplative stages of change as progression. The majority of the men currently participating in the program are under the two-phase program which is a minimum of 3 months each.

Group size is kept small enough for all participants to practice new skills, and homework is part of all RSAT treatment programs. All staff are trained in enhancing intrinsic motivation, which begins with hiring staff with the right skills and attitudes. Residents are reinforced for behaving pro-socially through praise and opportunities for more responsibilities and freedom as they move successfully through the program. RSAT participants provide input on what they would like as rewards (e.g., first in chow line, first to phones, pizza night, etc.).

Across all programs, pro-social activities include arts and craft card making activities, mindfulness groups, exercise programs, recreation, and competitive activities. Other activities include voluntary,

peer-run Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)/ Narcotics Anonymous (NA), meetings, parenting groups, TRUST Olympics, and holiday activities. Community jobs are an important part of programming and are offered using a hierarchical structure board which also emphasizes progress and mentoring.

MAT PROGRAMMING

RSAT Program participants in the TRUST and RISE program with OUD are assessed for eligibility criteria for the medication assistance treatment (MAT) program which provides naltrexone (Vivitrol) and substance use counseling. Program participants will have access to Vivitrol prior to release discharge or parole eligibility. Individuals at the Phoenix program in Warm Springs Correctional Center (WSCC) are offered naltrexone (Vivitrol) before reentry for treatment of opioid use disorder

CONTINUING CARE/REINTEGRATION

Continuing care/reintegration is a system-wide process that begins at intake and encompasses all efforts to assist RSAT participants in acquiring the skills, education, prosocial attitudes, and behaviors necessary to be successful in society. Successful reentry includes employment, reuniting with family members, stable housing, access to mental health and medical services, and the means to have a purposeful and meaningful life. Programming plays a crucial role in the reentry process. There is reentry-specific mental health, vocational, educational, and SUD programming.

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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Information updated 8/2/2023



Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center, Nevada Department of Corrections

Current FY2022 RSAT funded program

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

The Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center's RSAT Programs are known as the STARS (Sisters Together Achieving Recovery and Sobriety) and New Light programs, two of five therapeutic community RSAT programs offered at facilities in Nevada. STARS and New Light are co-located in House 9 of the facility as a dedicated 120-bed intensive in-house substance use disorder (SUD) program. The programs operate as Empowerment Communities, offering a trauma-informed structured environment that helps participants learn strategies to avoid substance use, restructure their thinking, and regulate their emotions while also developing social skills necessary to maintain healthy relationships.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, SCREENING/ASSESSMENT, AND TREATMENT PLANNING

The programs have clear admission criteria including a Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) diagnosis of moderate or severe substance use disorder, a moderate, high, or very high criminogenic risk, and appropriate facility classification. In order to ensure consistent application of the admission criteria, the program utilizes the Nevada Risk Assessment System to measure criminogenic risk, the DSM-5 and Texas Christian University Drug Screen (TCUDS-5) to assess substance use disorder severity, and the Mental Health Screening Form III (MHSF-III) for co-occurring mental health issues.

After program eligibility is confirmed, program staff look at medical history, criminal history, family dynamics, trauma, gender responsiveness, education, and vocation in the formation of individualized treatment plans. The screening tools used include the Anger Disorder Scale (ADS), Suicide Severity Index (C-SSRS), Addiction Severity Index (ASI), and Adult Learning Tool. Program management reported that they are in the process of writing a manual detailing the policy for biopsychosocial assessment.

The programs utilize the Texas Christian University Treatment Needs and Motivation (TCU MOT) to assess readiness to change. Participants identified as having low motivation levels participate in a pre-treatment class within the Cognitive Behavioral Intervention (CBI) curriculum and other modifications to their treatment plan are made as needed. Motivational Interviewing (MI) is used throughout the program as a motivational enhancement.

MODALITY OF RSAT PROGRAM

The New Light program takes at least 5 months to complete and was designed specifically to provide services to individuals who would benefit from the full 10+ months of the STARS program, but do not have enough sentenced time within the facility.

The programs operate as an Empowerment Community, with peers having an active role in promoting pro-social behavior in the community. The program has “Big Sisters” who act as mentors to new participants in the program and help orient them to the program as well as Post Transition Graduates (PTGs) who have completed the New Light program but have time remaining on their sentence, who conduct groups within the program and provide support to current participants. All program participants are also assigned to a job within the unit.

Trauma-informed curriculum are used within the unit including Helping Women Recover, Beyond Trauma, and Beyond Violence. In addition to groups offered, staff detailed several unit-specific changes to minimize triggers and reduce re-traumatization.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

A focus group was held in 2020 with program participants to gain feedback on what they would like to see within the program to help them feel more secure. Changes that have been made on the unit include quiet hours and a quiet room, staff not yelling names across the unit, and the availability of comfortable seating. Program staff note that they are mindful of the weekly group schedule and have the groups with more sensitive topics at the beginning of the week to allow for time throughout the week to process and have access to treatment staff.

The STARS program is divided into three phases which participants progress through, and an after-care phase if participants have enough time prior to their release date. Progression through the phases is determined by programming hours and the demonstration and application of the knowledge and skills learned in the program. Participants are deemed eligible for participation in the program by the amount of time remaining to serve on their sentence. Successful completion of the New Light program is determined by programming hours and the demonstration and application of the knowledge and skills learned in the program.

All staff are trained in enhancing intrinsic motivation, which begins with hiring staff with the right skills and attitudes. Residents are reinforced for behaving pro-socially through praise and opportunities for more responsibilities and freedom as they move successfully through the program. RSAT participants provide input on what they would like as rewards (e.g., first in chow line, first to phones, pizza night, etc.).

Prosocial programming accounts for the majority of participants' days in the programs. The unit has participant-led groups and classes that run after programming hours. Examples of some of the participant classes include job interviewing skills, yoga, Spanish language, and paper crafts. The unit also celebrates holidays with decorations made by participants, cards, and themed competitions.

MAT PROGRAMMING

Individuals at Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center (FMWCC) are offered naltrexone (Vivitrol) before reentry for treatment of opioid use disorder. All individuals entering the facility with a current prescription for medications for mental health disorders are seen by mental health and are continued on medications pending medical and psychiatric assessment. Individuals may also be evaluated to begin psychiatric medications as appropriate.

CONTINUING CARE/REINTEGRATION

The Nevada Department of Corrections has a reentry division that organizes many documentation and public assistance needs. Individuals also engage in reentry planning via the "Getting it Right" curriculum by The Change Companies. Participants are also connected with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and community partners that can link participants to housing, health care, and other resources.

Individuals who are inducted on Vivitrol or are continued or prescribed medications for mental health disorders are referred to an outpatient provider in their community of release for follow-up appointments. Individuals are also provided with up to a 30-day bridge dose, referred to as "gate doses" within the Nevada Department of Corrections, for their medications. Appointments are not made prior to release for MAT providers, psychiatric, or medical needs.

There are multiple opportunities for participants within the STARS/New Light programs to engage with pro-social peers. Within the program, there are "Big Sisters" who act as mentors to new participants in the program and help orient them to the program. The program also has Post Transition Graduates (PTGs), individuals who have completed the STARS/ New Light programs but have time remaining on their sentence, who conduct groups within the program and provide support to current participants. There is also currently a pilot program with the Foundation for Recovery to train RSAT participants to become Peer Support Specialists. AA and NA supports are also available within the unit. The program also has linkages with the Behavioral Health Group which provides peer support services in some communities of release.

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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Information updated 8/2/2023