



Georgia

PRISON PROGRAM

Georgia Department of Corrections

COUNTY JAIL PROGRAMS

Forsyth County Jail
Newton County Jail

JUVENILE AND YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

Augusta Regional Youth Detention Center and Eastman
Regional Youth Detention Center (Georgia Department of
Juvenile Justice)

CONTINUING CARE/REINTEGRATION PROGRAM

Hall County Detention Center

Prison Program



Georgia Department of Corrections

Current FY18 Funding: \$400,000* (statewide)

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

The Georgia Department of Corrections (DOC) currently runs 12 RSAT programs across the state. These programs are based on two population types:

- People who are incarcerated and nearing release, or
- People who are on probation referred as an alternative to incarceration.

Both program types are aimed at addressing the substance use disorder (SUD) treatment needs of individuals with the goal of reducing recidivism.

RSAT programs within the Georgia DOC have a capacity to serve 2,428 participants and were full prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. At each facility there are designated dorms and programming space to separate RSAT participants from the rest of the prison population. The typical length of each program is 9 months. All RSAT programs utilize evidence-based, cognitive behavioral and SUD programming in both individual and group settings. The substances most often used by participants include methamphetamine, marijuana, and cocaine.

RSAT programs operate at the following facilities:

- Lee Arrendale State Prison
- Bainbridge Probation Substance Abuse Treatment Center
- Bleckley RSAT Facility
- Coastal State Prison (2 programs)
- Johnson State Prison (2 programs)
- Northwest Probation Substance Use Treatment Center (at Walker State Prison)
- Paulding RSAT Facility
- Pulaski State Prison
- Turner RSAT Facility
- Valdosta State Prison

* Funding information estimated or extracted from best available information and may be subject to change

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, SCREENING/ASSESSMENT, AND TREATMENT PLANNING

Candidates for Georgia DOC RSAT programs are referred to the program by court order or probation. Many participants have been unsuccessful in completing a community-based substance use treatment program. Individuals must have a minimum of 18 to 24 months until tentative parole month (TPM), parole eligibility date (PED), or probation supervision.

To determine eligibility and placement, candidates are administered the Next Generation Assessment (NGA), an automated assessment instrument that provides objective and empirically validated evaluations of an individual's risk and needs and assists in decision-making processes regarding placement, supervision, and case planning.

Upon admission to the RSAT Program individuals receive a full assessment from an RSAT case worker to determine substance use severity via the completion of the Texas Christian University Drug Screen (TCUDS) brief intake, and a more in-depth evaluation via the Addiction Severity Index (ASI) assessment. If the screener determines that an individual abuses or is dependent on substances as defined by the ASI, they sign an agreement to participate in the program and are assigned a primary counselor.

RSAT services are facilitated by trained RSAT counselors from Spectrum Healthcare. Individualized treatment plans are conducted on a one to one basis and are based on input from the client.

MODALITY OF RSAT PROGRAM

RSAT programs within Georgia DOC facilities are intensive, highly structured residential therapeutic treatment communities. The therapeutic communities are composed of peer groups and counselors. The RSAT programs incorporate process groups, psychoeducational groups, individual counseling, limited work details, a vocational component, exercise, a store, visitation, and religious services. The schedule is a demanding balance of work and intensive individual and group counseling sessions.

The program is structured in cohesive phases of varying time frames.

- 1. Phase 1: Assessment and Orientation.** This phase serves to orient the participant to the program, the therapeutic community, and to treatment in general. Phase 1 utilizes valid assessment tools at both pre- and post-treatment (i.e., TCUDS brief intake).
- 2. Phase 2: Active Treatment.** This phase focuses on identifying, questioning, and replacing distorted criminal thinking patterns with realistic alternatives to criminal behavior and maladaptive coping strategies.
- 3. Phase 3: Reentry (Pre-Exit Planning).** This phase affords more opportunity for actively practicing the skills and responses learned during active treatment. The focus of group sessions shifts from the acquisition of new behaviors and thinking to the application and practice of the concepts and skills already acquired.
- 4. Phase 4: Relapse Prevention/Exit Planning.** The focus of this phase is shifting to the integration of all that has been learned, practiced, and refined. This integration occurs through the development of an in-depth, specific relapse prevention plan.

Throughout the program, individuals participate in random drug screening. Progression through each phase is based on performance measures and meeting individualized goals. Each program employs various methods of therapy, such as *Thinking for a Change* (T4C) [National Institute of Corrections],

the *DETOUR* (Determined to Educate and Teach Offending Juveniles Prison Awareness) Program, moral reconnection therapy (MRT), and *Active Parenting* classes.

A participant's typical day begins with a morning meeting, followed by scheduled daily programming (groups, individual therapy, educational classes or vocational, training), and ends with an evening meeting. The morning and evening meetings are done in a small group setting. These meetings are designed to begin each day on a positive note, giving participants an extra boost of confidence and allowing them time to reflect at the end of their day.

To successfully complete the program, participants are required to learn the concepts of each phase of the program. Competency is demonstrated through a written and verbal test for each of the four phases. Graduates receive a certificate upon completion of the program.

MAT PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Georgia DOC piloted a medication-assisted treatment (MAT) program with naltrexone (Vivitrol) at one location and will consider expanding these options to other facilities if funding becomes available.

CONTINUING CARE/REINTEGRATION

Reentry services are determined based on needs identified throughout the program. A 6-month continuing care/reintegration program is available in conjunction with the DOC's partner agency, the Department of Community Supervision (DCS). Prior to graduation, participants are given a list of names and addresses of community programs in their area.

Once the participant is scheduled to complete the program, DOC notifies DCS so the participant can begin services upon discharge. Once the graduate is paroled, RSAT staff complete the parole plan and forward it to the parole officer. Continuing care/reintegration includes partnerships with the Georgia Department of Driver Services, the Georgia Department of Vital Records, the Social Security Administration, and smaller nonprofit agencies.

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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Information updated 5/26/2020

County Jail Program



Forsyth County Jail

Current FY19 Funding: \$124,000* (plus county match)

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

The RSAT Program at the Forsyth County Jail (FCJ) received funding in February 2020. The program is still in the planning stages and has not yet admitted any participants at the time of the RSAT survey due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Once underway, participants will reside in a dedicated pod within the jail. The program will be staffed by one full-time FCJ employee and clinicians from The Connection of Forsyth County, a recovery community organization (RCO). Established by the Recovery Community Foundation of Forsyth (RCFF), The Connection is an independent 501(c)3 organization established in 2018 and funded by a grant through the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act: Building Communities of Recovery program.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, SCREENING/ASSESSMENT, AND TREATMENT PLANNING

Eligibility is still being negotiated through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the incoming service provider, The Connection of Forsyth County.

Individuals admitted to the program will be assessed at intake for substance use disorder (SUD) utilizing a to-be-determined mental health screening form, followed by an interview with the contracted clinician. Participants may come from the existing general population or the future population. The clinician, service provider, and FCJ RSAT coordinator will develop treatment plans. The typical length of treatment will be 6 to 9 months.

* Funding information estimated or extracted from best available information and may be subject to change

MODALITY OF TREATMENT

The RSAT Program will be a therapeutic community. The program will provide moral reconnection therapy (MRT), cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), and treatment modalities to support co-occurring disorders (CODs).

CONTINUING CARE/REINTEGRATION

The Connection of Forsyth County will provide continuing care services as outlined in a participant's treatment plan. They may also be referred to an Accountability Court if they require further supervision.

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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Information updated 6/1/2020



Newton County Jail

Current FY17 & FY19 Funding: \$14,273 (1/1/20 to 9/20/20),
\$73,446* (1/2/20 to 12/31/20)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The RSAT Program at the Newton County Jail is a separate dormitory unit with the capacity to house 25 men and women. The program is designed to help individuals develop cognitive, behavioral, social, vocational, and other skills to solve substance use disorder (SUD) related problems. Many participants report a history of opioid and methamphetamine use.

This highly structured program combines interventions intended to address and treat both mental illness and SUD. At the time of the RSAT survey, the program was inactive because of the COVID-19 pandemic. When operational, the program employs seven in-house staff members and volunteers that assist with teaching relevant RSAT course curriculum.

The RSAT Program was first funded in January 2018 and began accepting clients in April 2018.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, SCREENING/ASSESSMENT, AND TREATMENT PLANNING

Individuals may enter the RSAT Program via a competitive application process or the court can refer them. Upon receiving an application, the RSAT Board meets and reviews the individual's criminal history and overall behavior during their current incarceration. If any discrepancies arise, the RSAT Board casts a vote to determine if the individual will be allowed into the program. Once an individual has been accepted into the program, the program coordinator completes the Ohio Risk Assessment (ORAS) to determine their level of risk. Then the individual's file is given to the treatment provider and services begin. Individuals who are court-ordered to participate bypass the RSAT Board and are immediately assessed and placed into the program.

Candidates for the RSAT Program must be 17 or older and admit to substance misuse, mental health issues, or drug dependency. Applicants must be classified as minimum security and demonstrate a willingness to comply with all program rules and requirements, as well as agree to aftercare for a minimum of 1 year after release. The program excludes individuals who are registered sex offenders, have a pending sexual-related offense, or have a prior serious or violent conviction within the past 7 years.

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Treatment plans are developed and maintained by Newton's in-house service providers, NaphCare and View Point Healthcare.

MODALITY OF RSAT PROGRAM

The RSAT Program at the Newton County Jail is a therapeutic community designed to treat individuals with co-occurring disorders (COD). There are no specific phases in this 3-month program. Clients are offered a variety of groups and evidence-based treatments. These include:

- Group and individual counseling,
- Moral resonance therapy (MRT),
- *Inside Circle* peer support groups,
- Money management classes,
- Bible study,
- Parenting support,
- *Celebrate Recovery* 12-step program,
- Faith-based *RU Recovery* group,
- *Double Trouble* recovery group,
- Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), and
- Yoga classes.

Participants engage in reentry planning activities and random drug screens.

CONTINUING CARE/REINTEGRATION

The RSAT Program at The Newton County Jail partners with a community behavioral health center, View Point Health, to provide continuing care services. Services are available to individuals who have been released from detention but have not completed the program, as well as those who have completed the program but are still in need of services. Available services include, but are not limited to, housing, counseling services, treatment services, and job readiness. NCSO has partnered with the Newton County Board of Commissioners to help eligible individuals obtain employment with Newton County's Road Department and other local businesses.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

The RSAT Program aims to build positive relationships, reduce conflict, and strengthen problem-solving skills, self-management skills, and coping skills.

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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Information updated 6/4/2020

Juvenile and Young Adult Program



Augusta Regional Youth Detention Center and Eastman Regional Youth Detention Center (Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice)

Current FY18 funding: \$223,185* (for 10/1/19 through 9/30/20)

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

The Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (GDJJ) provides RSAT programming at two Youth Development Campuses (YDCs): Augusta Regional Youth Detention Center (20 beds) and Eastman Regional Youth Detention Center (20 beds). GDJJ previously offered RSAT at the Sumter Youth Detention Center (20 beds), but due to statewide budget cuts it was closed, and the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed efforts to move the program to another YDC.

As of this report, there are a total of 34 youth enrolled in the existing programs. At both facilities, RSAT residents live in separate units away from the general population. These 2 programs employ 6 DJJ contract staff and 4 full-time DJJ employees for a total of 10 staff.

Participants entering the program have histories of using opioids, alcohol, and methamphetamine.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, SCREENING/ASSESSMENT, AND TREATMENT PLANNING

Individuals admitted to the RSAT program are 21 or younger with a substance use disorder (SUD) diagnosis upon initial screening and a minimum of 6 months remaining on their sentence. Additionally, they may be referred if they have a maladaptive pattern of substance use leading to significant impairment or distress.

All youth are screened for SUD and general mental health needs within 24 hours of admission to all DJJ secure facilities. If they answer “yes” to one of the five SUD questions in the screening they are referred for a full mental health assessment that includes a specific substance use assessment section. Additionally, all youth entering the program are administered the web-based General

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Appraisal of Individual Need (GAIN), an evidence-based SUD assessment used exclusively for the RSAT Program.

Youth enrolled in the program have individualized treatment plans that guide their therapeutic processes. These treatment plans are entered into Georgia's Juvenile Tracking System (JTS). An initial treatment protocol is developed within a day of the youth's placement in the RSAT Program. The RSAT team develops a treatment plan within 30 days of admission and reviews it monthly throughout the program, documenting their review and progress in the JTS treatment team communication note.

MODALITY OF RSAT PROGRAM

RSAT Programs in the GDJJ facilities are therapeutic communities. Participants attend group, individual, and family counseling during a 6-month period. Treatment is based on the *Seven Challenges* curriculum.

The Seven Challenges [Robert Schwebel Ph.D.] is a comprehensive counseling program for young people that incorporates work on alcohol and other drug problems. It is designed to motivate youth to evaluate their lives, consider changes they may wish to make, and then succeed in implementing the desired changes. It supports them in taking power over their own lives. *The Seven Challenges* program supports young people in addressing their substance use problems, co-occurring disorders (COD), life skill deficits, and situational and psychological problems. Although counselors in the program provide a structure for groups and a framework for individual sessions, the content of each session is not pre-scripted and is exceptionally flexible in response to the immediate needs of youth.

Required activities include:

- Four, one-hour substance use disorder groups per week;
- Bi-weekly individual sessions with substance abuse counselors; and
- Monthly family counseling session to involve families in SUD treatment.

A participant's typical day consists of:

- wake-up,
- general cleaning of the unit,
- group breakfast,
- school,
- after school activities,
- RSAT group,
- recreation,
- dinner,
- leisure activities,
- showers, and
- bedtime.

Participants may attend an individual or family session with their primary therapist sometime during the day.

To graduate, youth must meet all programmatic criteria, which include:

- regular attendance and participation in all group, individual, and family sessions;
- a minimum length of stay between 4 and 6 months in the program;
- completion of all of *The Seven Challenges* journals (9) and *Moving On* documents; and
- completion and approval of a relapse prevention plan journal.

CONTINUING CARE/REINTEGRATION

Upon release, the RSAT director monitors a participant's status through communication with the youth, the youth's family (if applicable via the youth's written consent), and/or the youth's Juvenile Probation and Parole Specialist (JPPS). This communication is documented through JTS communication notes.

DJJ partners with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) to implement continuing care services with a certified *Seven Challenges* program provider when geographically feasible. There are several quality control mechanisms for monitoring these services; chief among them is the constant stream of communication on the youth's progress between RSAT staff and the youth's JPPS. Youth can also connect with community recovery programs. In addition, departments in DJJ collaborate to assure that Medicaid-eligible youth begin receiving coverage when they are discharged.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

All youth who successfully complete the program are monitored in the community by the RSAT Director for up to 6 months after their release.

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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Information updated 5/26/2020

Continuing Care/Reintegration Program



Hall County Detention Center

Current Funding FY18/19: \$28,000 (10/1/18 to 3/3/20)
\$28,000* (1/1/20 to 12/30/20)

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

The RSAT Program at the Hall County Detention Center is a component of the facility-wide Reentry Accountability Courts Transition Program (REACT). The REACT Program was the first program of its kind in the state of Georgia to focus on individuals returning to Hall and Dawson counties from state prisons. Programming consists of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, as well as educational and vocational training. Participants also receive on-the-job experience while working with local businesses once they have progressed to the work release portion of the program. The purpose of the program is to help individuals find gainful employment to reduce recidivism rates. There are currently 20 people enrolled in the RSAT program. Participants reside in a dedicated transitional housing unit.

The REACT Program has been in existence since 2014. The program served 197 participants between 2014 and 2019. The program received RSAT funding in 2015 after officials realized that an overwhelming majority of those in the program faced SUD problems. The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council awarded the prison with a \$50,000 grant in 2015 for residential substance abuse programming.

Individuals entering the program predominantly have histories of methamphetamine, marijuana, and alcohol use.

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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, SCREENING/ASSESSMENT, AND TREATMENT PLANNING

The RSAT Program is a 6-month program available to incarcerated individuals who will be returning to the Northeastern Judicial Circuit (Hall or Dawson counties). The program cannot accept people returning to other counties. The program is ideally targeted to serve individuals that have 2 to 3 years left on their sentences, who are incarcerated and have a history of SUD. While participants without a history of violence are preferred, the program will consider anyone who is “county camp” eligible—meaning they have less than 13 years left on their sentence, with no sexual-related offenses, no serious violent offenses, no serious medical issues, no mental health disorders, and no escape charges in the past 5 years.

Individuals assigned to the RSAT Program are administered The Texas Christian University Drug Screen II (TCUDS II), a standardized 15-item screening tool that helps identify individuals with a history of heavy substance use. They must have a score of 7 or above on the assessment instrument to be admitted to the program. Based on this assessment, each participant is placed on a track to complete the REACT curriculum. Additionally, individuals are administered The Next Generation Assessment (NGA). This assessment was developed in-house and uses multiple pieces of data from the person’s records to determine programming needs, violent tendencies, vocational needs, and security.

MODALITY OF RSAT PROGRAM

The RSAT Program at the Hall County Detention Center is a 6-month, pass/fail, therapeutic community. Individuals progress through four phases of programming based on their progress, availability to the programming which results in transfer to the transitional center and finally, release to community supervision.

Classes and groups include:

- *Motivation for Change* (M4C),
- Reentry,
- Moral recognition therapy (MRT),
- General educational diploma (GED),
- Adult basic education (ABE),
- Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous (AA/NA),
- *Celebrate Recovery*,
- Financial Peace University curriculum,
- *Georgia's Best* (workforce development skills),
- Welding certificate program, and
- mentoring programs.

CONTINUING CARE/REINTEGRATION

Upon completion of the 6-month program, individuals are transferred to the supervision of probation and parole for continued structured counseling and are assigned a Department of Community Supervision (DCS) officer. Several services are available to assist individuals, such as SAS (an intensive substance abuse treatment program), a day reporting center (DRC) program, and referral to private third-party treatment if needed.

The REACT program partners with Lanier Technical College in Oakwood, Georgia. Individuals that advance to the transitional center portion of the program with a GED or high school diploma can attend Lanier Tech to develop their skills further.

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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Information updated 6/8/2020