

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY JAIL SYSTEM OF CARE

NEWSLETTER, APRIL 2021

Introducing the "System of Care"

Professionals in the Criminal Justice System have long realized the connection between crime and Substance Use Disorder (SUD). While we believe people need to be held responsible for their actions, we also believe that people with an SUD can recover and live normal and productive lives.

The Grays Harbor County Sheriff Department is happy to announce that we are committed to being part of the solution by instituting a Jail-Based System of Care. With support from Grays Harbor County Public Health through the Rural Response to the Opioid Epidemic grant, we have begun the process of creating this system of care.

Over the next few months we intend to update you with regular newsletters on our progress and welcome you to ask questions. Together we can make an impact on the trajectory of recovery and recidivism in Grays Harbor County.

How it Works

Every individual entering Grays Harbor County Jail will be screened for an SUD using the TCU-5 Drug Screen Instrument.

Individuals screening "positive" will be contacted by our medical team who will discuss with them a pathway to recovery. For people with an Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), this could lead to participating in Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) with the use of Buprenorphine.

People engaging with the treatment process will also be connected to a dedicated Re-Entry Care Coordinator through Coastal Community Action Program. This Care Coordinator will assess the individual for social supports they need to help them attain and maintain recovery when they are released. This includes such things as: stable housing support; food assistance; navigating behavioral health services; or establishing career and educational goals.

Participation is Voluntary and can be accessed at any time during incarceration.



Our Care Team

Dr. Shin is our medical director who oversees our withdrawal management and treatment program. Dr. Shin is waived to prescribe buprenorphine to those who qualify.

Nurse Sarah is our nursing supervisor who oversees symptom monitoring and medication dispensing.

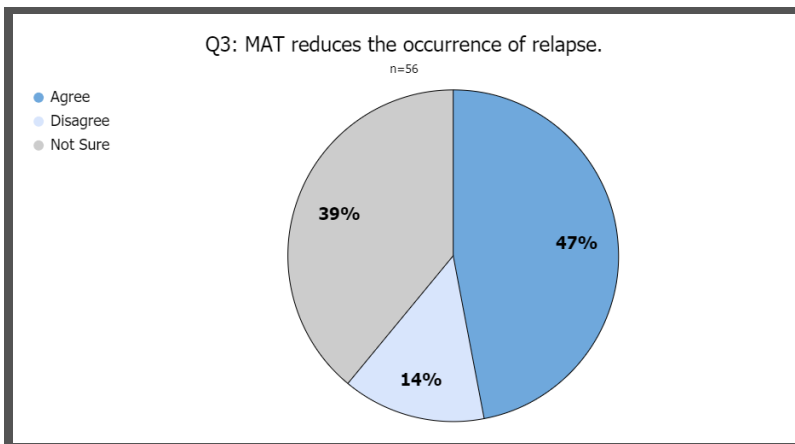
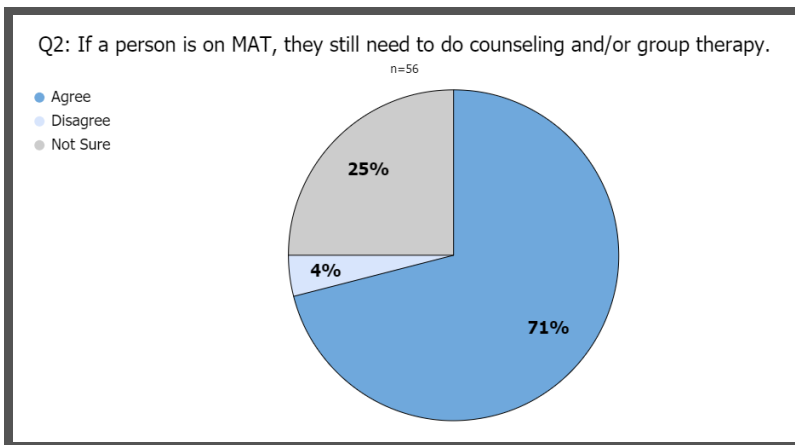
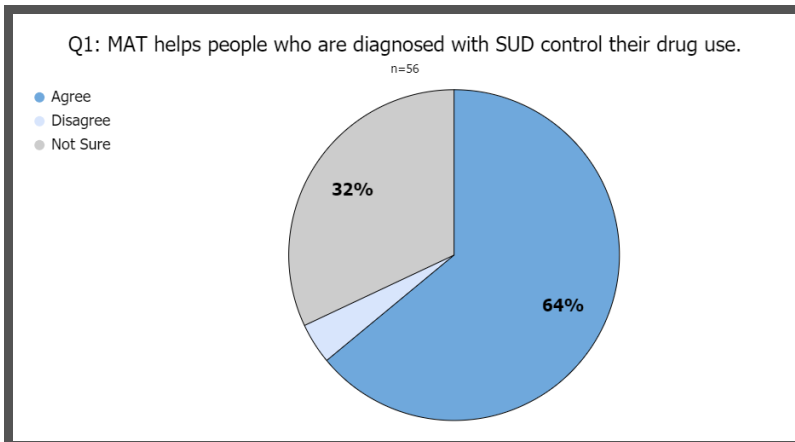
Heidi Hull is a licensed SUDP (Substance Use Disorder Professional) who helps coordinate care with the medical team and with clients upon release to the community.

Jennifer Gonzales, from Coastal Community Action Program, is a certified Peer Counselor who helps connect clients with the social supports they need to achieve and maintain their recovery goals.

Contact Heidi Hull for more information:

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A MAT Knowledge and Opinion Survey was recently conducted with Grays Harbor County jail and court staff. Over the next few months we will share the results:



One of the most common questions people have about medication assisted treatment programs is, “are they really effective?” The short answer is yes. Research widely supports the use of MAT in individuals experiencing an opioid or alcohol use disorder. Studies have shown that people on MAT have better outcomes than those who go through treatment without medications. Although in many cases talk therapy is helpful, it is not a requirement for stabilization on MAT. Client-centered recovery plans should guide treatment.

The benefits of MAT are numerous: for example, research supports the notion that MAT significantly reduces the risk of relapse; it has also been shown to be effective in preventing infectious diseases linked to drug use, such as HIV and Hepatitis C; and lastly, MAT has been linked to lower rates of overdose.

Watch this informative video (19 min.) for more information on Medication for Opioid Use Disorder in WA State Jails : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lunX6CLW3-k>