

# Addressing Opioid Misuse and Disorders: The Impact of State Targeted Response and State Opioid Response Grants

## Background on State Targeted Response and State Opioid Response Grants

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) administers the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis (STR) and State Opioid Response (SOR) grant programs. The STR program was designed to address the opioid crisis by increasing access to treatment, reducing unmet treatment need, and reducing opioid overdose–related deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment, and recovery support activities for opioid use disorder (OUD). Following STR, the SOR program similarly aims to address the opioid crisis by increasing access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) using the three Food and Drug Administration (FDA)–approved medications for treatment of OUD and through the provision of prevention, treatment, and recovery activities for OUD. In addition, the SAMHSA SOR program supports evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery support services to address stimulant misuse and use disorders, including for cocaine and methamphetamine.

In FY 2017 and FY 2018, grantees received a total of \$1 billion through STR. From FY 2018 through FY 2020, states, territories, and jurisdictions received a total of \$4 billion in SOR grants.

## Single State Agency (SSA): Wyoming Department of Health Behavioral Health Division (BHD)

In FY 2017 and FY 2018, the Wyoming Department of Health, Behavioral Health Division received a total of \$4 million in STR fundings. From FY 2018 through FY 2020, the state received a total of \$14 million in SOR funding.

## Overview of Wyoming's efforts to address opioid misuse and disorders

The Wyoming STR and SOR grants aim to prevent the opioid crisis by focusing on three strategies:

1. Increase access to MAT;
2. Expand opportunities for treatment through integrated addiction care and partnerships with the criminal justice system and other community stakeholders;
3. Reduce opioid overdose–related deaths through the provision of treatment and recovery activities for those with OUD.

### Innovative service delivery models

- Expansion in Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs)
- Integration and coordination of pain management services and community behavioral health services

- Pilot MAT program with the criminal justice system
- Pilot MAT program in Court Supervised Treatment Programs
- Project ECHO (Extensions for Community Healthcare Outcomes)

## Building workforce capacity

### State Opioid Response Coordinator

Wyoming contracted with Infield Vector to serve as the State Opioid Response Coordinator. They developed and disseminated resources to support use of best practices in response to the opioid epidemic, including providing education to hospitals. They also provided relevant training to community agencies about a variety of topics, including naloxone training for law enforcement and training on Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA) waivers for health care providers. Some trainings were able to continue online during the COVID-19 pandemic. Infield Vector served as a primary connection between recipients of Wyoming SOR funding to resources and other stakeholders.

### Project ECHO

Project ECHO Wyoming stakeholders launched an ECHO for Behavioral Health with specific emphasis on OUD prevention, treatment, and recovery. The first session was February 14, 2018, and the program ran for 3 years. The heart of the ECHO model is its hub-and-spoke knowledge-sharing networks, led by expert teams who use multipoint videoconferencing to conduct virtual clinics with community providers. The ECHO is a component of the Wyoming Telehealth Network. Initially, 14 sessions with identified curriculum were delivered in the areas of prevention, treatment, and recovery services and supports. These sessions occurred from February to August 2018. Between September 2018 and September 2019, 21 sessions were held with 452 attendees participating

### Provider Trainings

A panel of experts provided presentations to Wyoming Medical Society members in several areas of the state designed to increase prescriber awareness of OUD. BHD also has a partnership with the University of Wyoming to provide enhanced education for medical students on OUDs. BHD's consulting psychiatrist has also provided a number of direct trainings to community mental health centers, division staff, and the Wyoming Medical Society. Participants expanded their knowledge and practices in MAT.

## Collaborating with public and private entities

BHD has strengthened existing relationships with programs within the Department of Health, including Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment Services, the Division of Aging, Medicaid, and the Community Prevention Unit in the Division of Public Health. Further collaborations continue with local communities and community programs such as judicial, diversion, law enforcement, education, and medical providers. These collaborations have been integrated with the efforts of the Wyoming Prescription Drug Abuse Stakeholders.

## Preventing opioid misuse before it starts

### Rx Disposal and Safe Storage

The Behavioral Health Division collaborated with the Wyoming Department of Health and the Public Health Division Community Prevention Unit's Substance Abuse Prevention Program to promote drug disposal, Rx safe storage, and naloxone carrying/use at the community level.

### Education and public awareness

#### Rx Awareness Campaign

Wyoming co-funded the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Rx Awareness campaign to increase awareness among the general public that opioids can be addictive and have negative consequences.

#### Toolkit and Trainings

The state conducted active outreach and marketing utilizing SAMHSA's Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit. In addition to general public outreach, state efforts targeted Wyoming's colleges and the Wind River Indian Reservation. Wyoming distributed over 350 copies of SAMHSA's Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit and conducted 18 in-person trainings using the toolkit.

## Increasing access to treatment

Ninety percent (90%) of Wyoming SOR funds are used to build capacity and implement MAT and other community-based OUD services. From September 2018 through September 2019, 247 people with OUD received MAT services with SOR funds, with an additional 221 people receiving recovery support services and/or other OUD services.

Ultimately, grant activities focused on expanding access to MAT bundled services including care coordination, case management, counseling, FDA-approved medication, prescriber services, medication management, peer specialist services, and recovery supports. Services were expanded through the use of telehealth and mobile applications.

Communities and Tribes have been addressing local challenges, including reducing barriers to treatment (e.g., transportation, family support, and culturally appropriate communication), enhancing the use of telehealth, and enhancing prescriber training and engagement.

#### MAT Expansion in CMHCs

Wyoming has steadily built capacity to deliver MAT services to Wyoming citizens since 2016, when two CMHCs began MAT services. With STR/SOR funding, five additional treatment providers were selected for grant activities based upon a needs assessment conducted by the University of Wyoming in conjunction with the Wyoming State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup. The number of CMHCs offering MAT was then expanded to 11.

#### Integration and Coordination of Pain Management Services and Community Behavioral Health Services

This initiative integrated and coordinated pain clinic services and community behavioral health services provided in several locations throughout the state. The majority of clients served had prescription drug use issues attributed to managing pain.

## Supporting long-term recovery

The number of Wyoming certified peer specialists increased from 14 in 2010 to 89 in 2019. The state is focusing on increasing capacity for and availability of care coordination services and increasing capacity of recovery housing options supportive of MAT clients.

## Serving special populations

### Collaborating With Tribes

Wyoming implemented culturally appropriate prevention services on the Wind River Indian Reservation through collaborations with the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone Tribes. The Eastern Shoshone Tribe provided OUD public education and adapted the A-CHESS recovery app for American Indians and Alaskan Natives (AI/AN). The new app, called Path to Wellness, is the first evidence-based app designed for the AI/AN population and allows individuals struggling with addiction (including OUD) to find social supports, connect with resources, and participate in cultural activities.

The Northern Arapaho Tribe provided community recovery housing and peer support services. They also provided culturally appropriate recovery services, including the 12-step Medicine Wheel, Mending Broken Hearts curriculum, the Wellbriety workbook, traditional language, and cultural craft work.

### Pilot MAT Program in Criminal Justice System

The State implemented a pilot MAT program to coordinate with the criminal justice system with a goal of creating a continuity of care bridge designed to transition inmates with OUD from prison into community MAT programs. Lessons learned from the pilot are currently being used to create a foundation for coordinated care between the Department of Corrections and the Behavioral Health Division.

Wyoming continues to develop a supportive pathway for justice-involved populations to community care, including receipt of MAT.

### Pilot MAT Program in Court Supervised Treatment Programs

A pilot MAT program was implemented with the Wyoming Court Supervised Treatment (CST) Programs to identify the processes, barriers, solutions, costs, and program elements essential to including people utilizing MAT in a CST Program.

## Demonstrating outcomes for a healthier future

Under the STR grant:

- 228 clients received recovery support services.
- The number of physicians with a DATA waiver increased from 4 in 2015 to 29 in 2018.
- From May 2018 to January 2019, 334 people with OUD received services; 61% of clients successfully completed treatment; 75% of the clients served received MAT.

Under the SOR grant:

- Eleven treatment providers worked to increase access and availability of treatment for people with OUD, including increased access to MAT medications.
  - 405 people received treatment services, and 274 people received OUD recovery services from treatment providers.

- Five partner organizations implemented strategies to address the opioid crisis through community-based prevention and recovery services.
  - 92,816 people were reached by community-based prevention and recovery services.

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