

Response to Questions on the FY 2018 Budget

Request By: Supervisor McKay

Question: Please provide additional information on the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program in Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB), including the current model and program capacity and plans for housing the second team.

Response: Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) is an evidence-based best practice in the treatment of opioid addiction. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) defines MAT as the use of pharmacological medications, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a “whole patient” approach to the treatment of substance use disorders. Research demonstrates that MAT decreases craving for opioids, relieves withdrawal symptoms, improves retention rates in treatment, reduces illicit opioid use and blocks the effects of other opioids.

MAT may be provided during detoxification (residential or outpatient) or while an individual is in either residential or outpatient treatment services. However, there is a limited capacity for individuals to receive MAT in these CSB programs. In detoxification, there is capacity to serve 41 individuals at a time – 13 individuals in residential detoxification and 28 individuals in outpatient detoxification. In addition, CSB has an Addiction Medicine outpatient program located at Merrifield with capacity for 40 individuals to receive MAT through scheduled appointments. Combined, this creates a capacity for 81 individuals to receive MAT either at the Fairfax Detoxification Center (residential and outpatient) or through the Addiction Medicine program.

In addition, MAT may be provided in CSB residential and outpatient programs such as Crossroads and New Generations. While the capacity to serve individuals during detoxification and through the Addiction Medicine program as described above is static at 81, the capacity to serve individuals in residential and outpatient programs fluctuates based on the demand for MAT and the availability of physicians to provide it. At the time of this writing, in a point in time snapshot, CSB residential programs have 37 individuals receiving MAT. Currently, demand for MAT exceeds the available supply of prescribers. The CSB is working to expand the use of MAT in all CSB programs to combat the opioid epidemic and tragic overdoses, including fatal overdoses.

Rather than housing a second MAT team in a specific site, the CSB is looking to expand utilization of MAT across the service delivery system, to include at the Adult Detention Center. However, this can only be accomplished with the addition of resources for prescribing the medication and paying for the medication. While oral Suboxone, Subutex and naltrexone are not cost-prohibitive, Vivitrol injections, ideal for the ADC, are very expensive (approximately \$1,000 per injection). While \$1,000 per injection is costly, there are potential methods of obtaining the medication at a discounted price which could be explored should resources be increased.