Providing MAT to Patients Experiencing Homelessness

County of Santa Cruz - Health Services Agency
Homeless Persons Health Project

Shift and Share ATSH Learning Session 2 - 09/18/2019

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The mission of the Homeless Persons Health Project is to eliminate homelessness by providing comprehensive health care and housing for everyone.

- Healthcare for the Homeless, Patient Centered Medical Home
- Primary Care, integrated behavioral health, substance use disorder services including medication-assisted treatment & acupuncture
12 bed recuperative care center
On-site medication dispensary
Benefits advocacy and money management program
Permanent Supportive Housing Programs
Housing Navigation and Case Management
Outreach + Harm Reduction Services, Narcan distribution program
Project Connect - team for frequent users of the ER
Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

• 21 waivered providers and the capacity to see 640 + patients and growing
• 135 patients receiving MAT in the previous 6 months, 305 patients served in last 3 years
• Working in collaboration with many agencies to develop bridges from the ER & jail
• Goal to increase services by 75% (across all clinics)
MAT Services

IBH (Therapy & Psychiatry)

Syringe Service Program

Contingency Management

Acupuncture

Yoga

Groups & 1X1 support

Peer Mentors

Outreach in the streets
Barriers to Care

• Homeless - no address
• No phone
• Transportation
• Stigma in health care
• Mental Illness, Substance Use, Trauma
Providing MAT to Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

- Identify individuals with housing instability (SDOH, PRAPARE, other tools, train providers)
- Update contact information
- Patient photos in EHR (we use Epic)
- Document housing status
- Know your resources (shelter and PSH)
- Provide transportation
- Meet basic needs (food, clothing, shelter)
- Flexibility with scheduling
Why Implement Outreach Teams?

- Expand access to care - Reach most isolated, difficult to reach populations
- Continuous Engagement
- Preventative Medicine - Prevent outbreaks, decrease ER use
- Low-cost to implement
Effective Street Outreach

- Street outreach staff receive regular training in evidence-based practices
- Utilize harm reduction principles
- Liaison to housing services
- Coordinate with other agencies
Street Medicine

- HPHP led outreach efforts for over 200 homeless people at the Gateway Camp
- Expanded outreach efforts
- Provided ~175 sleeping bags, 100’s of blankets and tarps, rain gear, 1000’s of pairs of socks, 2000 Narcan kits, and hygiene supplies to homeless population throughout the year
- Gateway for volunteers and interns to expand service capacity and opportunities for learning and recruitment
An Ecological Approach to Health Care - County of Santa Cruz
Health Services Agency

- Legal Assistance
- Referrals
- Primary Care
- HIV/HCV Testing
- MAT
- Case Mgmt
- SSP
- Wound Care
- Food
- Naloxone
- HPHP Mobile Clinic - Street Medicine
- Shelter
- Coordinated Entry/Permanent Supportive Housing
- IOP + Inpatient SUD Programs
- Behavioral Health
- Food

Image from Santa Cruz Good Times