STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY
626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

June 29, 2021

Dear Colleague:

You are receiving the Survey for Licensed Providers and DATA Waivered Prescribers for Persons with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) as part of the Health Care Authority's (HCA) Roadmap to Recovery project. This project seeks to understand gaps and barriers in the current SUD treatment and recovery support services continuum for Medicaid beneficiaries, and identify policy changes that could improve access and quality of SUD treatment and recovery support services for Medicaid beneficiaries in Washington State.

The SUD crisis affects communities across the state, and action is being demanded to address these problems. The Roadmap to Recovery project provides an opportunity to identify meaningful action towards addressing this crisis. Without valuable input of professionals on the front lines in the SUD crisis, collaborative change and improvement would not be possible.

Your input is extremely vital to the completion of this project and will have a profound impact on changes needed in Washington State to improve SUD treatment and recovery support services for the clients we serve. We are requesting that you speak for those who need a voice. Please complete and return this survey as soon as possible so that we can integrate your views into the Roadmap to Recovery.

The Section 1003 Roadmap to Recovery Project is funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $3,997,144 with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Thank you in advance for your input. Should you have any questions, please contact Rachel Downs, Administrative Assistant for Roadmap to Recovery, via email at HCARoadtoRecovery@hca.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Keri L. Waterland, Ph.D., MAOB
Director
Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery

Michael Langer
Deputy Director
Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery

Charissa Fotinos, MD, MSc
Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Clinical Quality and Care Transformation

By email

cc: Kris Shera, State Opioid Coordinator, HCA, DBHR
E. Cooper Wright, Project Director, HCA, DBHR
Rachel Downs, Administrative Assistant for Roadmap to Recovery, HCA, DBHR

Consent Information

Behavioral Health Provider Treatment and Recovery Services in Washington State (Roadmap to Recovery: Substance Use and Opioid Use Recovery Pilot Planning Grant)

This study is under the direction of Principal Investigators:

Lead PI: Danna L. Moore, Ph.D., Associate Research Professor, 509-335- 1117, moored@wsu.edu, Washington State University

Co-PI: Rose Krebill-Prather, Ph.D., Assistant Director, 509-335-6202, krebill@wsu.edu Washington State University

In addition to WSU Co-Prinicipal Investigators, Michael McDonnel, PhD, and Liat Kriegal, PhD, both of The WSU Center for Rural Opioid Prevention, Treatment and Recovery are reviewing and consulting to assist in writing study related reports.

Key Information

Why is the study taking place?

The assessment activities in this study will gather information on the current state of treatment and recovery services delivered to persons with Substance Use Disorders (SUD) (including Opioid Use) and with mental health conditions in Washington State. Our aim is to generate a better understanding of services provided, and to gain providers' input regarding expanding capacity of services to Medicaid beneficiaries with SUD/ OUD treatment and recovery needs. Information from this study will be used to develop a roadmap for directing future enhancements of SUD and OUD treatment and recovery services. Key stakeholder groups that will be included in these assessment activities are: Behavioral health providers and groups/associations including **Licensed Providers** and **DATA Waivered Prescribers**, as well as other representing behavioral health providers and the individuals they serve.

Why are you eligible and asked to participate in this study?

Your organization is eligible for this assessment if a State of Washington **Licensed Provider and/or DATA Waivered Prescriber** is actively providing recovery support services to persons with Substance Use Disorders (including Opioid Use Disorders). We are inviting approximately 2000 eligible licensed providers and/or DATA waivered prescribers in Washington State.

How is this study funded?

The Section 1003 Roadmap to Recovery Project is funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $3,997,144 with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government. The HCA partnered with Washington State University to implement the assessment data collection and evaluation activities.

What will you be asked to do?

Providers of recovery support services to persons with SUD, including OUD, from across the service delivery continuum, will be asked to participate in surveys, interview sessions or focus groups to give opinions on barriers, challenges, effectiveness and topics related to meeting treatment and recovery needs and expanding provider services to Medicaid Beneficiaries.

Invitations to participate in the survey are sent to a organizations/programs/persons with a request that the survey be completed by **a licensed provider, DATA waivered prescriber, or the person in charge of day-to-day SUD treatment and recovery services at the organization/program.** Each participant will be asked to fill out a web or mail questionnaire. Follow-up emails and/or postal reminders will be sent to encourage respondents to participate. Finally, if needed, telephone interviews may be conducted to assist in completing the questionnaire depending on response rates. The questionnaire will ask about the types of recovery support services provided to individuals with SUD/ OUD(including services to address individuals' co-occurring Mental Health (MH) needs). Respondents will be asked to provide their opinions and feedback on expanding capacity to serve Medicaid Beneficiaries and what barriers and challenges they face serving individuals with SUD/OUD treatment and recovery needs. The questionnaires also include questions on characteristics of the respondent and their organization.

Licensed providers, DATA waivered prescribers, or the person in charge of day-to-day SUD treatment and recovery services at the organization/program who is being asked to participate in the survey will be randomly assigned a 6 digit number that will be used for tracking who completes and who does not complete the survey, so that reminders will only be sent to those who have not yet completed the survey.

Who will conduct study procedures?

Principal Investigators Drs. D. Moore and R. Krebill-Prather and assigned study personnel under the oversight and direction of the PIs at Washington State University (Pullman Washington) will provide assessment and evaluation services, activities, and survey data collection processes, procedures, and reporting for this study. Lists of providers used as participants in surveys are provided by the Department of Health or HCA, or are public records for provider establishments or partner organizations. All data collected in surveys, focus groups, or interview sessions will be stored on isolated secure servers behind the firewalls at Washington State University. To maintain confidentiality, information identifying individuals will be removed and only an assigned project number will be associated with any case in stored datasets. All computers, servers, and files will be stored with password protection and in locked offices and locked buildings of Washington State University. WSU and Office of Research IT professionals have continuous security monitoring. At this time no confidential information for providers is required.

It is estimated that completing on-line, paper mail questionnaires, or telephone interviews will take approximately 30 to 45 minutes depending on participant provider circumstances. The study data collection period is June 2020 to September 2021.

What types of questions will be asked?

The types of questions asked will be primarily pertain to treatment and recovery services that are provided by licensed providers, DATA waivered prescribers, or the person in charge of day-to-day SUD treatment and recovery services at the organization/programy, as well as some questions related to organizational characteristics. The types of questions that some respondents may find sensitive are:

What barriers and challenges you currently experience that limit expanding professional services to Medicaid beneficiaries with Substance Use Disorder (including Opioid Use)?

What training or education do you or others in your practice need to increase your qualifications and capabilities to expand your current provision of services for persons with SUD, including OUD?

What are the Future Plans for Use of the collected data?

Survey, focus group, and interview session data collected from respondents will be de-identified to protect the privacy and confidentiality of respondents. Responses may be summarized by geography (e.g., county, rural/urban) so that HCA can consider and potentially implement enhancements to SUD treatment and recovery where needed (e.g., needed training/technical assistance, extending access to telehealth).

HCA anticipates applying for an implementation grant in the Phase 2 1003 SUPPORT Act with CMS. The collected data may be used to target enhancements in SUD treatment and recovery services that may be implemented in Phase 2. Data collected will inform the final deliverable required under Phase 1 (i.e., the Roadmap to Recovery). Only de-identified data from this study may be given and used by other researchers.

What are the possible risks or harms if you take part?

Participation in surveys, interview sessions, and/or focus groups for this study is voluntary. Respondents will be informed that their participation is voluntary in the introduction to the survey and throughout the survey contact sequence, and/or in the recruitment materials and introductions for interview sessions and focus groups. We emphasize the goal of the surveys, interview sessions, or focus groups is to get feedback about barriers and challenges that providers face in their day to day practice. You may skip and not answer any question you don't want to. You can choose at any time to not participate without any negative impacts to you. If you have any concerns about the survey, or have any questions about your study participation you may call Dr. Danna Moore or Dr. Rose Krebill-Prather at Washington State University; or Kris Shera at HCA.

The potential risk for service providers to participate is minimal and the probability of harm or discomfort will not be greater than that which you might encounter in your daily activities in your profession. Recovery service providers may experience emotional discomfort, anxiety, embarrassment or have hesitancy when answering questions or providing their opinions about delivering services to more difficult to treat or more resistant to treatment patients or to those needing medication assistance to treat overdoses. Some providers may have strong feeling towards patient's choices and be reluctant to reveal their attitudes and may consider this as an invasion of their privacy. Providers that have not had training or much experience may be reluctant to talk about their qualifications or training needs. Because the survey is voluntary, you can skip over any questions you prefer not to answer.

What are the possible benefits?

The expected benefits to service providers like you participating in this study are that you and other service providers may be able to have direct influence on changes to policies, practices, reimbursements, and training for services that may benefit or help you and/or the enhance SUD treatment and recovery services in the state. The benefits to society are that positive changes and improvements to treatment and recovery services may help reduce the number of individuals in Washington that suffer or experience substance use disorders (including opioid use disorders) or who frequently relapse. Finally, you may learn something new, or about new educational or training opportunities. You may also learn about new treatment and recovery concepts or practices that may be beneficial to their practices.

What happens if you choose not to participate?

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. You may refuse to participate or withdraw from the study at any time without losing any services or benefits you normally receive. Refusing to participate in this survey will not impact your employment.

Who will see study information about you?

Only researchers at WSU assigned to the study will have access to your identifiable study information during data collection. After data collection identifiers will be removed and only a study ID is assigned to each observation. Study data without identifiers may be shared with other researchers.

Will you be paid for your time? Will the study cost you anything?

Recovery support service providers who are invited and choose to participate will not be offered payment. There will be no direct costs to you now or in the future for participating in surveys, interview sessions, or focus groups.

What else do you need to know?

Any significant new findings developed during the course of this study will be included in reports made available from HCA. You will be given the opportunity to request copies of research summaries during participation. As required by law, if suspected abuse/neglect of children or of dependent or vulnerable adults is discovered during the course of this study it will be reported to appropriate state agencies such as Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, and HCA.

You may contact the WSU Principal investigators toll-free at 1-800-833-0867 or email moored@wsu.edu if you have any questions about the research.

You may call the Washington State Institutional Review Board if you have questions, concerns, or complaints about the research, or to offer input about your rights as a research subject. The WSIRB oversees this study to make sure that the rights of people who take part are protected. You can call at 1.800.583.8488. You don't have to give your name if you call.