

Regional Opioid Settlement Funds Implementation Plan

Lightshare Behavioral Wellness & Recovery, Inc.

RESTORE

Overview

Jail overcrowding is a prevalent issue in the Sarasota County Correctional Facility (SCCF). Based on 2023 data reported by the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office (SSO), of the 9,758 offenders who were booked in the SCCF, 2,162 offenders screened positive for or reported a substance abuse condition, and 2,303 offenders screened positive for or reported a co-occurring disorder for a total of 46% of the SCCF population experiencing substance abuse or co-occurring disorder. This represents a 3% increase from 2022.

The SCCF has an average daily population of 1,000 inmates with an operational capacity of 836 beds. The SCCF has held a population greater than the operational capacity since 2008. Therefore, jail diversion strategies to reduce the jail population, especially diverting individuals with substance abuse or co-occurring disorders into proper treatment has been a priority of the Board of County Commissioners (Board) since 2017.

The Rehabilitation, Education, and Support Toward Offender Reintegration (RESTORE) is a new, expansion program designed for low-level, felony male inmates of SCCF, ages 18 and older, who present with a history of opioid, substance abuse, or co-occurring disorders, which are chronic in nature and warrants a residential structure to promote lifestyle changes and recovery. Priority placement will be given to inmates suffering from opioid use disorders.

RESTORE will have a primary track, which is 120-day intensive program with a secondary track with an average stay of 30 days utilized by those who are incarcerated and waiting for long-term residential treatment. Treatment includes but is not limited to psychiatric evaluation, medication management, counseling, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), and vocation/education services. Expanded treatment includes but is not limited to Family Therapy, Trauma Therapy, Relapse Prevention Planning, and Financial Management classes.

Funding Allocation

Schedule A: Core Strategies

The following areas will be funded in alignment with Schedule A and B:

- 1. Treatment for Incarcerated Population (Schedule A)**
 - Provide evidence-based treatment and recovery support including MAT for persons with OUD and Co-occurring SUD/MH disorders within and transitioning out of the criminal justice system; and

- Increase funding for jails to provide treatment to inmates with OUD.

2. **Address the Needs of Criminal-Justice-Involved Persons**

- Provide evidence-informed treatment, including MAT, recovery support, harm reduction, or other appropriate services to individuals with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions who are incarcerated in jail or prison.

Total Funding and Distribution

- **Total Settlement Funds:** \$2,762,502

Implementation Timeline

- **Q1 2024:** Full implementation of program
- **Q2 2024:** Continued implementation of program
- **Q3 2024:** Continued implementation of program
- **Q4 2024:** Continued implementation of program and evaluation program

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation will be conducted to ensure the effectiveness of funded programs. Reports will be submitted to the appropriate oversight committee detailing progress, outcomes, and any necessary adjustments to the implementation plan. A contract Manager will be hired through Human Services in combination with the County Funds with the 5% Administrative Fee.

Conclusion

This implementation plan provides a comprehensive approach to utilizing the opioid settlement funds in a manner that aligns with the stipulations of Schedules A and B. Through strategic investment in treatment, recovery, and law enforcement support, Sarasota County aims to significantly reduce the impact of the opioid crisis in our community.