



Office of the Sheriff

MONROE COUNTY
"ONE TEAM"



Sheriff Todd K. Baxter

Undersheriff Korey K. Brown

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MCSO RECEIVES \$262,500 FEDERAL GRANT TO IMPLEMENT TWO MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT) UNITS INSIDE MONROE COUNTY JAIL

MCSO Collaboration with its Medical Contractor 'PrimeCare Medical' Aids Opioid Addicted Inmates

Rochester, NY (January 17, 2019) – The Monroe County Sheriff's Office is proud to announce the implementation of two evidence-based Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Units for effective treatment of opioid use disorder inside the Monroe County Jail, operational beginning January 22, 2019. A \$262,500 grant, awarded by the University of Baltimore, allows MCSO to open the MAT Units, one for the male and one for the female populations. Treatment using MAT, particularly when coupled with evidence-based behavioral therapy, improves medical and mental health outcomes in the hopes of reducing relapses and recidivism. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office is one of 12 agencies across the U.S. selected by the University of Baltimore to receive this prestigious grant, out of 60 agencies that applied. Funding for this grant was made possible by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Furthermore, MCSO prides itself on being the only law enforcement agency in the country to receive this funding out of the 12 agencies selected.

Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs combine behavioral therapy and FDA-approved medications, in combination with counseling, to provide a "patient centered" approach to the treatment of those struggling with substance use disorders. The new units within the Monroe County Jail reflect the work of a community collaboration between the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, PrimeCare Medical (jail contracted medical provider), and community partner organizations for case management and healthcare services. The MAT treatment program is offered to incoming male and female inmates, on a voluntary basis, who are afflicted with substance abuse and seek help in combatting addiction. MCSO has slated 53 beds for the male population and 20 beds, initially, for the female population. The MAT Units are in addition to the current drug and alcohol program that facilitates groups and provides aftercare services to individuals enrolled in the drug and alcohol program, and who are housed in the Veterans Unit.

"From the beginning, I vowed to approach the opioid epidemic head-on," said Monroe County Sheriff Todd K. Baxter. "The addition of the MAT Units inside the Monroe County Jail is another significant step. It focuses on



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recovery, an important part of a three-pronged approach that also includes intense enforcement and education. The Sheriff's Office has a unique opportunity, in that it can offer hope and provide the necessary resources and tools to individuals seeking to form new, long-term habits while they are in custody. MCSO can lead, guide, and steer those desiring a lifestyle change to a path of recovery. The Sheriff's Office is grateful for these federal funds that allow us to open two MAT units inside the jail, providing opportunities for those men and women in our care and custody to seek treatment, even beyond the jail walls. MCSO is especially appreciative of the collaboration with PrimeCare Medical, and our community partners, including Chauncey Parker of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program, who is responsible for kick starting the process. The opioid crisis our nation, and in particular our community, is experiencing is like no other in our lifetime. We are cognizant of the greatly increased risk of overdose deaths newly released inmates face with untreated opioid use disorders. Together, we can be the solution to this ferocious epidemic."

Monroe County Sheriff's Office drug and alcohol counselors will provide drug and alcohol treatment and will be working with community partners to develop aftercare plans. The MCSO drug and alcohol program will help to ensure a seamless continuum of care that includes community-based case management, enrollment in outpatient chemical dependency programs, and the attainment of healthcare services after discharge.

"We know that opioid addiction is a disease and Medication-Assisted Treatment is critical in breaking the often-fatal cycle of overdose and relapse," said Monroe County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo. "Thank you to the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and all other community partners who have joined together to save lives in our community."

A yet to be determined university partner will track and evaluate the program, collect and manage data, and gather sufficient details to document the accomplishments and successes of the program in hopes that other organizations will, in turn, replicate the program.

MCSO's contracted medical provider, PrimeCare Medical, will oversee the screening and medical treatment of inmates while they are in the program and provide a Transitional Coordinator. The Transitional Coordinator will work along with the MCSO drug and alcohol counselors to provide discharge planning for each inmate in the program.

MCSO would like to thank its partners: County of Monroe, the Monroe County Health Department, Huther Doyle, Liberty Resources, Spiritus Christi, Delphi Rise, Open Access, Trillium Health, Rochester Regional Health, University of Rochester Medical Center, Highland Family Medicine, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Pathways Methadone Clinic, and Person Centered Housing Options Inc., without whom none of this would be made possible.

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