



Cowlitz County Health & Human Services Departments

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Board of County Commissioners

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Cowlitz County Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA)

Final Plan 10/1/18 – 9/30/19

Submitted by: Cowlitz County Local CJTA Panel

Date: 10/01/18

History

In March of 2018, counties were given the choice to directly administer Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) funds or allow them to remain with the regional Behavioral Health Organization (BHO). Cowlitz County opted to administer the CJTA funds and formed a local CJTA panel which started work on a local plan. An interim plan was developed, submitted, and approved for Cowlitz County CJTA funds, through October 1, 2018. This document represents Cowlitz County's final CJTA plan, effective October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019.

Introduction

The Cowlitz County Board of County Commissioners decided to administer CJTA funds locally, and assigned the CJTA contract to Cowlitz County Health & Human Services (CCHHS). CCHHS is generally responsible for matters of public health including, communicable disease, environmental health, developmental disabilities, homeless/housing services, and behavioral health. CCHHS continues to work closely with Cowlitz County Superior Court and the Cowlitz County Drug Court to plan for the utilization of CJTA at the county level. Through this partnership, we have an established CJTA panel, which includes the recommended membership and provides input to the CJTA plan.

Plan

Cowlitz County has ten agencies who are licensed to provide Substance Use Disorder Treatment services in its communities, with six of those agencies providing services to the Medicaid population. Currently, three of those providers are utilizing CJTA funds. Cowlitz County continued to partner with the current providers to avoid gaps in service for eligible clients during the transition of CJTA funds from the regional organization to the county level. CJTA will be utilized to provide at minimum: assessments in the jail, treatment in the jail, transportation, outpatient treatment (gap coverage or not covered) for individuals and groups, and clean and sober housing.

The local panel will review utilization data to understand how the CJTA funds have been utilized including the type of services provided and number of individuals served. Data on services provided utilizing CJTA funds will be reported monthly on the number of individuals served and the services provided.

Special Projects

Moral Reconciliation Therapy® (MRT) is an evidenced based therapy program that will continue to be used. MRT is a cognitive-behavioral approach administered through a group setting. The curriculum focusses on life skills topics such as substance abuse, domestic violence, trauma, parenting, job skills, and others with the goal of reduced recidivism and relapse prevention.

Seeking Safety is another evidenced based program that will be utilized by CJTA. This counseling model can be administered individually or in a group setting and addresses trauma and addiction simultaneously. Achieving safety is the goal of this program, safety in relationships, thinking, behavior, or emotions.

The panel has interest in supporting how to incorporate Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in the Drug Court system and in the jail. Currently, Cowlitz County Drug Court is working on policies and procedures around MAT and are exploring potential prescribers. The jail is also considering what would need to be in place to incorporate MAT in the jail, which includes policies, procedures, and a prescriber.

Several Cowlitz County professionals recently attended the National Drug Court Conference and continue to become familiar with best practices for Therapeutic Courts. The panel will continue to explore how CJTA funds will be best utilized to support the ongoing efforts of Therapeutic Court programs in Cowlitz County.

Match Requirement

Cowlitz County uses local funds to support mental health and/or substance use disorder treatment and services both in the community and within Therapeutic Court programs. Cowlitz County will be able to use these local funds to meet the CJTA match requirement.