



NEWS

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San Mateo County Substance Use Disorder Treatment Plan Approved First in the State

San Mateo, Calif. – Soon, San Mateo County residents who are low income and struggle with substance use will have more places to go for help. Last month, San Mateo County became the first county in the state to receive approval from the California Department of Health Care Services and Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to create a local Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) program.

Today, people with substance use disorders with Medi-Cal health coverage have limited treatment options available. Once the DMC-ODS program is implemented later this year, residents will have greater access to a wider range of high-quality services. San Mateo County Health System's Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) will be able to provide more substance use disorder treatment and recovery services at the right time and place, and better meet the unique needs of our county's residents.

“When people have better access to comprehensive substance use treatment, the path toward recovery improves substantially,” said Stephen Kaplan, Director of San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. “DMC-ODS will help close the gaps in our treatment and recovery system and remove barriers that can discourage people from getting the help they need. When access to care improves so does the quality of life for those we serve.”

Additional services will be available once the DMC-ODS program goes into effect, including case managers who can help people navigate the care system, new outpatient and short-term residential services, withdrawal management, narcotic treatment program services, recovery services, physician consultation, and additional medication assisted treatments. Clients can receive these services in the ways that are most convenient to them, such as in-person, by phone, or by telehealth.

“The State's approval is a point of success not only for our clients, but also for our partners and providers who have been working over the past year to develop a DMC-ODS plan that truly meets the needs of our county,” said Louise Rogers, Chief of the San Mateo County Health System. “Thanks to our strong local partnerships, leadership, and close coordination with the state and federal government, our vision of being able to better serve people who need substance use treatment can become a reality for those who need this care most.”

Before full DMC-ODS implementation later this year, San Mateo County and the state will finalize the details of a contract that will include provider rates for services, client confidentiality protections, quality performance measures, and regulatory compliance requirements. BHRS will continue to help facilities throughout San Mateo County become certified in DMC-ODS, joining fifteen existing facilities that have already been certified.

– Read more –



For more information on DMC-ODS, please visit: www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/Drug-Medi-Cal-Organized-Delivery-System.aspx.

For more information about BHRS Alcohol and Other Drug Services, please visit: smchealth.org/bhrs/aod.

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