Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Voucher

During the 64th Legislative Session the Department of Human Services (DHS) was appropriated funding to administer a voucher system to pay for substance use disorder treatment services. The Department’s Behavioral Health Division was assigned the responsibility to develop administrative rules and implement the voucher system.

The SUD Voucher program was established to address barriers to treatment and increase the ability of people to access treatment and services for substance use disorders.

**GOAL ONE**
- **Allow individual to choose provider**
  - **Objective 1.1** Increase number of providers and service options.
  - **Objective 1.2** Service options are communicated to individuals.

**GOAL TWO**
- **Improve access to quality services**
  - **Objective 1.1** SUD Voucher providers provide evidence-based services based on individual need.
  - **Objective 1.2** Reduce financial barriers for individuals accessing needed services.

**Funding**

**2015-2017 Biennium:**
$750,000 allocated from general fund for the SUD Voucher. However, this was reduced to $375,000 as part of the allotment. The program was launched in July 2016. Expenditures from July 2016 through the end of the biennium was $252,294.

**2017-2019 Biennium:**
$5 million allocated for the SUD Voucher. Expenditures for the biennium was $8.2 million.

**2019-2021 Biennium:**
$7.9 million allocated for the SUD Voucher. Expenditures through October 31, 2019 was $1.7 million.

**Implementation**

Since its inception, approximately **3,556 individuals** have received services through the SUD Voucher.

As of October 31, 2019, **22 providers** have been approved and 1 provider is in the process of becoming approved.

Since July 1, 2019, the Division receives an average of **186 applications per month**.
Outcome Measures

Programs utilizing the SUD Voucher are required to assess each individual at the beginning and again when completing services. The outcome measure uses a 5-point rating scale (1 lowest to 5 highest). The outcomes are based on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) identified recovery dimensions:

1. **PURPOSE**: Identify the extent to which the individual participates in meaningful daily activities (employment, school, volunteering, family caretaking, other activities, etc.).
2. **COMMUNITY**: Identify the extent to which the individual’s relationships and social networks provide support, friendship, love, and hope for overall wellbeing.
3. **HEALTH**: Identify how well the individual makes informed healthy choices supporting their physical health and emotional wellbeing (physical activity, attending medical appointments, taking medications as prescribed etc.).
4. **HOME**: Identify the stability and safety of the individual’s living environment.

All four outcomes measures increased following services reimbursed through the SUD Voucher program.

The data below describes the individual applications received from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019 (2,630)

**INDIVIDUAL VOUCHER APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY PROVIDER**

- Prairie St. John’s: 455
- Community Medical Services (Fargo): 387
- ShareHouse: 356
- Heartview Foundation: 235
- Goodman Addiction Services: 207
- St Thomas Counseling Center: 169
- Agassiz Associates: 87
- Drake Counseling Services (Fargo): 78
- Heartview Foundation (Cando): 65
- First Steps Recovery: 59
- Drake Counseling Services (Grand Forks): 14
- Hope’s House (Growing Together): 14
- Heart River Alcohol and Drug Services: 10
- The Village Family Service Center - Bismarck: 3
- Good Road Recovery: 2
- Willow Tree Counseling: 1
- Other /Non-SUD Voucher Provider: 73

**GENDER**

- 58% Male
- 42% Female

Of the participants,
- 72.4% were not employed
- 83.4% had GED/HS diploma
- 3.3% had a military affiliation
- 19.4% had dependent living environment and 23.9% homeless

**RACE**

- White - 71%
- American Indian or Alaska Native - 18%
- Black or African American - 4%
- Hispanic or Latino - 3%
- More than one race reported - 3%
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander - 0%
- Asian - 0%
- Prefer not to answer - 1%

**AGE**

- 18-25: 19%
- 26-35: 43%
- 36-45: 22%
- 46-55: 10%
- 56-65: 5%
- 66+: 1%

**AVERAGE OUTCOME SCORES OVER TIME**

- **Purpose**: Pre: 1.96 Post: 2.41
- **Community**: Pre: 2.18 Post: 2.37
- **Health**: Pre: 2.06 Post: 2.40
- **Home**: Pre: 2.18 Post: 2.43

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