



Reducing Recidivism in the State Prison System by Enhancing Partnership to Provide Addiction Treatment

Background:

- According to statistics provided by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC), approximately 50,433 individuals are incarcerated within DRC facilities. Of these, 80% have histories of addiction.
- Nearly 30,000 of those incarcerated have a considerable or moderate treatment need, but current resources limit treatment availability to reaching only approximately 4,500 of those in prison.
- Addiction treatment research very clearly indicates that follow-up treatment after an initial treatment episode is essential for long-term success, and the addition of medication assisted treatment (MAT) for individuals with opiate use disorders markedly increases treatment success.
- Data demonstrates that those who receive services to treat these disorders have much lower recidivism rates than those who do not receive such services (10.4% for those treated vs. 27.5% for general population).
- Ohio cannot arrest its way out of the drug problem. Treatment is an essential component to stopping the opiate problem in the state. It is critical that a person can access the right treatment services both in the community, but also in prison, where they oftentimes feel they have hit “rock bottom.”

Executive Budget Proposal and Impact:

- Goal is a seamless continuum of care that includes treating more people behind the prison walls, as well connections to care upon release, use of medication assisted treatment when appropriate, and access to housing and other recovery supports.
- In order to accomplish this, the FY 16-17 budget includes a transfer of responsibility to OhioMHAS from DRC for the treatment and supports of inmates with substance disorders both in the correctional setting and following release. Both agencies will work together with combined expertise to connect more offenders with treatment, earlier in their incarceration.

The proposal is three pronged with a total budget of \$27.4 million in FY 16 and \$34.3 million in FY 17:

1. Transfer current \$12.5 million addiction treatment budget from DRC to MHAS. This budget largely consists of personnel who will become employees of OhioMHAS.
2. Augment services within the state prison system to increase treatment resources to level that meets identified need.
3. Expand resources for outpatient recovery supports and treatment for released inmates.