

SAPT Homeless Shelter In Reach Initiative

Scope of Work

Project Period: 3/1/2023-2/28/2024

1. Problem Statement

According to the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS), overdose is the leading cause of death among NYC DHS clients and alcohol use disorder is in the top five causes of death. In 2021, there were over 889 individuals who had a suspected overdose and 20% of these individuals had more than one suspected overdose in that year alone. DHS became an Opioid Overdose Prevention Program in 2016 and as a result of this program, shelter staff administers Naloxone in almost all observed suspected overdoses - over 1,200 times in 2021. However, shelters do not currently have trained, dedicated staff to conduct outreach and engagement to those at risk of harm from drugs and alcohol, nor do they have the capacity to provide risk reduction counseling and support. Additionally, they are struggling to provide linkage to harm reduction or substance use programs and transition planning to support continuity of care upon shelter transfer or into housing.

This project, funded by the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) in collaboration with the New York City Department of Homeless Services, will embed a social worker(s)/credentialed alcoholism and substance abuse counselor(s) (CASAC) and/or certified recovery peer advocate(s) (CRPAs) into select shelters across New York City in order to provide critical treatment and peer services to all at-risk clients in shelters.

2. Goals of the Project

The ultimate goal of the project is to reduce adverse substance use incidents in shelters (accidents, altercations, emergency services and overdoses) in order to improve client health and housing outcomes by providing and connecting at risk individuals to clinical services and peer supports. Staffing configuration will be based on the needs of each shelter.

3. Objective of the Project/Deliverables

- Substance use disorder (SUD) services will be provided onsite to people living in the shelter that are at risk of harm from drugs and alcohol.
- Social worker/CASAC will provide clinical services to individuals identified as at-risk.
- CRPAs will provide recovery support services to individuals identified as at-risk.
- Social worker/CASAC will provide coordination of treatment and transitional planning as needed.
- Social workers/CASACs and/or CRPAs will provide harm reduction education and awareness to shelter staff and clients on a regular basis: presentations, office hours, signage, etc.
- OASAS certified treatment program staff and DHS staff will work collaboratively to encourage and support individuals identified as at risk.
- OASAS certified treatment program staff, the DHS Shelter Supervisor and the DHS Program Coordinator will work collaboratively to meet project deliverables and achieve overall project goals.

Deliverables

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Task: OASAS certified treatment program will hire and train social workers/CASACs and/or CRPAs

Deliverable: OASAS certified treatment program to post positions, complete background checks and all other human resource documentation and training to onboard social workers/ CASACs and/or CRPAs.

Task: OASAS certified treatment program to provide supervision and professional development to social workers/ CASACs and/or CRPAs.

Deliverables: OASAS certified treatment program will provide ongoing individual supervision, group supervision, and include social workers/ CASACs and/or CRPAs in onsite trainings at 822 program and offsite.

Task: Social workers/CASACs to perform many of the following activities:

- Develop and maintain referral relationships with local harm reduction and substance use/behavioral health care providers.

Deliverable: Social workers/CASACs will provide ongoing clinical services to clients during 12-month contract period.

Task: CRPAs to perform the following activities:

- Universal harm reduction education for all clients at intake.
- Assist with making referrals to harm reduction, substance use, primary care, mental health care, pain management or other as needed.
- Support linkage to care, return to care, retention in care.
- Accompaniment to appointments and supporting access to tele-health services.
- Treatment adherence support (reminders, check-ins, etc.).
- Support discharge and transition planning.
- Documentation and reporting of services delivered (in CARES, DHS Client-Level Database).
- Participate in Community of Practice and Learning of others in this role citywide (facilitated by DHS and OASAS).

Deliverable: CRPAs will provide ongoing recovery support services to clients during 12-month contract period.

4. Administration

OASAS certified treatment program will:

- Submit reports as requested by OASAS.
- Submit monthly vouchers for payment to OASAS.
- Provide clinical supervision and training to social workers, CASACs, and CRPAs at OASAS certified treatment program location and offsite.
- Meet with the Shelter Supervisor and DHS Program Coordinator regularly to achieve project deliverables.
- Attend project related meetings facilitated by OASAS and DHS.

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5. Projected Timeline

Month 1: Submit scope of work and budget to OASAS, attend all project planning meetings.

Month 1-3: OASAS certified treatment program will recruit, hire, and train staff.

Month 3: Begin providing clinical and peer services in shelter.

Month 3-12: Continue to provide clinical and peer services in shelter location.

Month 1-12: OASAS certified treatment program to meet with DHS Shelter Supervisor and DHS Program Coordinator regularly and attend other project related meetings as identified.

6. Reporting Requirements

Collect data measures and provide project and data reports as identified by DHS/OASAS/SAMHSA submitted on a monthly basis and/or as needed.