

# Agenda Item Report



**Winnebago County**  
*The Wave of the Future*

DATE: August 2, 2022

FROM: Sheriff John Matz

RE: Wisconsin Department of Justice Reimbursement Grant

## **General Description:**

Authorize the Sheriff's Office to accept a \$150,000 Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Law enforcement Services, Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Abuse site-based program, for a Medication- Assisted Treatment Program.

## **Action Requested:**

Motion to approve resolution for the acceptance of \$150,000 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Law enforcement Services, Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Abuse site-based program.

## **Procedural Steps:**

(Show each level of committee and board approval needed, with meeting dates.)

Committee of Jurisdiction: Judiciary\_\_\_\_\_ Meeting date: 8/8/22

Action taken: \_\_\_\_\_ Vote:

Other Committee: Personnel and Finance\_\_\_\_\_ Meeting date:9/1/22

Action taken: \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

County Board Meeting date: \_\_\_\_

## **Background:**

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office will use the funds to implement a Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program program to offer naltrexone, an FDA-approved medication to treat substance use disorders (SUD) to eligible individuals housed within the Winnebago County Jail. Naltrexone is a non-narcotic, non-addictive opioid antagonist that blocks the euphoric and sedative effects of other opioids. The Jail's SUD Counselor and the nursing staff will coordinate delivery the MAT program. The naltrexone purchased with the funds will provide treatment for SUD to individuals immediately prior to their release from custody. Program coordinators will also assist the individual receiving the medical treatment to obtain continued care and more treatment options after their release into the community.

Historically, the Winnebago County Jail has been limited in ability to even consider providing a service similar to this, as it has been very cost prohibitive. With this grant and the medication Winnebago County will be able to purchase, inmates with opioid dependency who leave the Winnebago County Jail face a much better chance of future success.

The vision of this program has been a collaborative effort, and involves a partnership among the Health Services Unit of the Winnebago County Jail, Winnebago County Jail Corrections Deputies, Winnebago County Department of Human Services, and Solutions Recovery Center.

**Policy Discussion:**

Across the U.S., opioid use and overdose deaths are at epidemic proportions. In 2017, 2.1 million people in the United States had an opioid use disorder and nearly 68 percent of overdose deaths involved opioids. Individuals reporting opioid use are significantly more likely to be involved with the criminal justice system compared to people with no opioid use, and the level of justice involvement increases with the level of opioid use. Within the criminal justice system, nearly 10 percent of justice-involved individuals self-report heroin use. Estimates indicate that about half of drug courts serve groups where over 20 percent report an opioid dependency; 22 percent of jails report that 10 percent or more of their jail populations have an opioid dependency. Among individuals sentenced to jail and state prison, regular use of opioids was reported at 17 and 19 percent, respectively. Studies show that MAT reduces drug use, disease rates, and overdose events, as well as, promotes recovery among individuals with opioid use disorders. Across the criminal justice system, MAT has been found to reduce criminal activity, arrests, as well as probation revocations and re-incarcerations. Jail re-entry and treatment courts are two areas in criminal justice that are leading the uptake of MAT into criminal justice programs and facilities. Nationwide Sheriffs and judges leading these efforts report fewer individuals with opioid use disorder cycling in and out of the local jails and individuals in treatment courts staying in treatment for longer periods of time. (SAMHSA)

**Attachments:**

Attachment 1-Resolution

Attachment 2-Budget Transfer