Substance Use Disorders Continuum of Care

Providing a range of prevention, outpatient and residential treatment, and recovery services designed to reduce substance misuse and address substance use disorders.



Addiction & Recovery Defined

Stigma-Reducing Language

ASAM Assessment



Drug Medi-Cal Continuum of Care



Engagement & Retention Strategies



2025 SUD Expansion



Prevention & Harm Reduction



Addiction Defined

"Addiction is a primary, chronic disease of the brain reward, motivation, memory, and related circuitry.

Dysfunction in these circuits leads to characteristic biological, psychological, social, and spiritual manifestations.

This is reflected in an individual pathologically pursuing reward and/or relief by substance use and other behaviors."

Addiction Definition (cont.)

"Addiction is characterized by inability to consistently abstain, impairment in behavioral control, craving, diminished recognition of significant problems with one's behaviors and interpersonal relationships, and a dysfunctional emotional response.

Like other chronic diseases, addiction often involves cycles of relapse and remission. Without treatment or engagement in recovery activities, addiction is progressive and results in disability or premature death."

American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)

Words Matter Reducing Stigma

When talking about substance use, use non-stigmatizing language that does not elicit negative associations or punitive attitudes.

Use Person First Language

 Say "person with substance use disorder" instead of "Addict"

Avoid using Stigmatizing Language

- Say "substance use" or "misuse" instead of "abuse"
- Say "testing negative" instead of "clean"
- Say "testing positive" instead of "dirty"



For more information, please visit:

American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)

The most widely used and comprehensive set of guidelines for placement, continued stay, and transfer and/or discharge of clients with SUD and/or co-occurring conditions

Brief ASAM

A screening tool that quickly assesses the severity of substance use and identifies the appropriate level of treatment

Full ASAM

An assessment tool that uses six dimensions to create a holistic, biopsychosocial assessment of an individual to be used for service planning and treatment in SUD program



DIMENSION 1

Acute Intoxication and/or Withdrawal Potential

Exploring an individual's past and current experiences of substance use and withdrawal



DIMENSION 2

Biomedical Conditions and Complications

Exploring an individual's health history and current physical health needs



DIMENSION 3

Emotional, Behavioral, or Cognitive Conditions and Complications

Exploring an individual's mental health history and current cognitive and mental health needs



DIMENSION 4

Readiness to Change

Exploring an individual's readiness for and interest in changing



DIMENSION 5

Relapse, Continued Use or Continued Problem Potential

Exploring an individual's unique needs that influence their risk for relapse or continued use



DIMENSION 6

Recovering/Living Environment

Exploring an individual's recovery or living situation, and the people and places that can support or hinder their recovery

Continuum of Care

OC Health Care Agency's Drug Medi-Cal:

- Serves adult and adolescent Medi-Cal members through the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System
- Services are both County-operated and County-contracted
- Assessment is a continual process, and clients are transitioned into higher and lower levels of care depending on assessed medical necessity
- No pre-determined lengths of stay within a specific level of care

Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT)

...or Medication *Assisted* Treatment, is the use of prescription medications for Opioid Use Disorder and Alcohol Use Disorder.

- Several are FDA approved most taken orally, some administered by injection
- A vital part of treatment, they may be used throughout a person's recovery journey
- Especially effective in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies
- Access is made available in all SUD levels of care, some treatment programs provide these medications directly

Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT)

FDA approved medications provided:

- Buprenorphine (Subutex and long-acting injectables Sublocade and Brixadi)
- Buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone)
- Naltrexone (available as oral medication or long acting injectable, Vivitrol)
- Acamprosate (Campral)
- Disulfiram (Antabuse)
- Naloxone (Narcan, rescue/emergency medication for opioid overdose)
- Methadone (available at Narcotic Treatment Programs)

Narcotic Treatment Programs

Narcotic Treatment Programs (NTP), also known as Opioid Treatment Program (OTP)

Services are available to adolescents, aged 12 and older and adults, and are provided by licensed NTP facilities

Two Providers with Five City Locations:

- Costa Mesa
- Fullerton
- Mission Viejo
- Santa Ana
- Stanton

Services Include:

- Assessment and Evaluation
- Treatment and Discharge Planning
- Medications for Addiction Treatment, including methadone
- Individual and Group Counseling
- Care Coordination
- Substance Use Educational Groups
- Referral and Linkage to Services
- Coordination of dosing needs to clients in residential programs

Outpatient Treatment

Two levels of care:

Outpatient Treatment

Less than six hours of treatment a week for adolescent clients and up to nine hours of treatment for adults

Intensive Outpatient Treatment

Six to 9 hours of treatment for adolescent clients and nine to 19 hours of treatment for adults

Services Include:

- Assessment and Evaluation
- Treatment and Discharge Planning
- Individual and Group Counseling
- Care Coordination
- Substance Use Education
- Drug Screening
- Referral and Linkage to Services

Outpatient Treatment

YOUTH

Three County-contracted providers with clinic locations in six cities:

- Anaheim
- Laguna Hills
- Los Alamitos
- Newport Beach
- Orange
- Santa Ana

Outpatient Treatment

ADULTS

Three County-operated clinic locations:

- Aliso Viejo
- Anaheim
- Santa Ana

Ten County-contracted clinic locations in eight cities:

- Anaheim
- Huntington Beach
- Laguna Hills
- Los Alamitos
- Newport Beach
- Orange
- Rancho Santa Margarita
- Santa Ana

Withdrawal Management

Clinically supervised withdrawal management programs serve individuals 12 years and older who experience moderate withdrawal symptoms and need 24-hour support to safely withdraw from substances. Average length of stay is four to five days.

Services include:

- Assessment and Evaluation
- Observation
- Medication Services
- Care Coordination
- Referral and Linkage to Services

Eleven County-contracted locations in nine cities:

- Fullerton
- Garden Grove
- Orange
- Santa Ana
- Stanton
- Trabuco Canyon (serving adolescent and pregnant females)
- Bloomington, Claremont and Upland (out of county)

Residential Treatment

- 24-hour, non-medical, residential program
- Includes clinically managed low and high intensity levels of care as determined by medical necessity
- Requires prior authorization from the County
- Average stay is 45 days

Services Include:

- Assessment and Evaluation
- Treatment and Discharge
 Planning
- Individual and Group Counseling
- Substance Use Education
- Care Coordination
- Structured Activities
- Referral and Linkage to Services

Residential Treatment

Eleven county-contracted locations in nine cities serving adults:

- Anaheim
- Fullerton
- Garden Grove
- Orange
- Santa Ana
- Trabuco Canyon-perinatal
- Bloomington, Claremont and Upland (out of county)

One county-contracted location in Trabuco Canyon serving adolescent females

Adolescent male beds are currently being provided through Letters of Agreement with other counties

Perinatal Services

Services are available to clients who are pregnant or up to 12 months postpartum.

Services Include:

 Additional parenting education, referrals, transportation and childcare

Three County-operated outpatient clinics:

- Aliso Viejo
- Anaheim
- Santa Ana

One Residential treatment program:

Trabuco Canyon

Three Recovery Residences

- Garden Grove
- Lake Forest
- Santa Ana

Supportive Services

Recovery Services

Ongoing aftercare to reinforce recovery (i.e., support groups), maintain progress, prevent relapse, and reintegrate into day-to-day functioning

Recovery Residence Housing*

Available to adults 18 years and older needing a sober living environment.
Residents must be enrolled and actively participating in a recovery service to maintain their sobriety

Recovery Residences are currently available in the following cities:

- Anaheim
- Fountain Valley
- Fullerton
- Lake Forest
- Santa Ana

*Housing is available up to four months

Continuum of Care Example recovery journey: Joanna



Based on an initial ASAM assessment and medical necessity, Joanna is referred to residential withdrawal management services to support her safe opioid withdrawal. Upon completion in five days, she transitions into residential treatment services.

Joanna successfully completes her treatment goals in 75 days, and based on her ASAM reassessment is transitioned into outpatient treatment and enrolled into a recovery residence. This provides the support of a sober-living environment, while Joanna begins to look for employment.

After three months, Joanna secures employment and stable housing.

She continues to receive recovery services from the outpatient treatment program as she further becomes stronger in her recovery.

Engagement and Retention

Key Strategies

- Provide a welcoming and nonjudgmental environment
- Meet clients where they are
- Create a culture of support that prioritizes meeting client's needs and priorities
- Respond to client needs and priorities when planning treatment
- Focus on therapeutic strategies over punitive actions
- Ensure low barrier access to treatment:
 - Transportation to appointments
 - Walk-in hours for clinics
- Provide trauma-informed, evidenced-based and co-occurring enhanced care

Access to Services and Resources

How to access SUD treatment services:

1

24/7 Medi-Cal Member Access Line (800) 723-8641 2

Links

24/7 Call or Text (855) OC-LINKS (855-625-4657) 3



ocnavigator.org

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County Mental Health, SUD, and Open Access clinics during business hours

Authorization for Residential Treatment (ART)

Authorization for Residential Treatment (ART)
Referrals for residential treatment for adults
go through the ART team who provide brief
level of care assessments to authorize and
place adults into residential treatment

Appointment Scheduling:

- Member Access Line 800-723-8641
- Westminster ART Team 714-934-4600

Priority populations for admission into treatment include:

- Pregnant women
- Individuals who use IV drugs
- Individuals with a fentanyl use disorder
- Individuals receiving withdrawal management services

2025/2026 Anticipated SUD Expansion

- Mobile Narcotic Treatment Program
 Services
- Be Well Orange Campus
 - Sobering Center reopening
- System Wide Expansions
 - Residential treatment beds
 - MAT services and Recovery Incentives
 - Certified Peers

- Be Well Irvine Campus Programs
 - Sobering Center
 - Adult Residential Treatment
 - Perinatal Residential Treatment
 - Adolescent Male Residential Treatment
 - Adolescent Female Residential Treatment

Overdose Prevention and Harm Reduction



Questions



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