

STATE OF NEW YORK

9252

IN ASSEMBLY

February 22, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. GRAY -- read once and referred to the Committee on Correction

AN ACT to amend the correction law and the mental hygiene law, in relation to providing medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorders to incarcerated individuals in county correctional facilities

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 19 of section 45 of the correction law, as
2 amended by chapter 486 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 19. Establish standards and guidelines for a program of medication
5 assisted treatment for incarcerated individuals in county jails and/or
6 county correctional facilities [~~equivalent to the program established in~~
7 ~~state correctional facilities pursuant to section six hundred twenty six~~
8 ~~of this chapter and submit an annual report consistent with the require-~~
9 ~~ments of subdivision three of such section]~~ pursuant to section 19.18-c
10 of the mental hygiene law.

11 § 2. Subdivision 5 of section 505 of the correction law, as added by
12 chapter 147 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

13 5. Corrections-based substance use disorder treatment and transition
14 services. Local correctional facilities shall operate a substance use
15 disorder treatment and transition services program pursuant to a plan
16 approved by the commissioner of the office of addiction services and
17 supports in accordance with section 19.18-c of the mental hygiene law
18 and section five hundred six of this article.

19 § 3. The correction law is amended by adding a new section 506 to read
20 as follows:

21 § 506. Medical testing for opioid use. 1. All incarcerated individuals
22 within county correctional facilities will be medically tested for
23 opioid use upon incarceration.

24 2. Such testing shall be done by an organization, agency or medical
25 professional that is separate and independent from the providers of
26 medication assisted treatment.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 3. Incarcerated individuals who test positive for opioid use shall be
2 informed of their eligibility for medication assisted treatment in
3 accordance with section 19.18-c of the mental hygiene law.

4 § 4. Section 19.18-c of the mental hygiene law, as amended by chapter
5 147 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

6 § 19.18-c Corrections-based substance use disorder treatment and transi-
7 tion services.

8 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the commis-
9 sioner, in consultation with local governmental units, county sheriffs,
10 the New York city department of corrections and other stakeholders,
11 shall implement a jail-based substance use disorder treatment and tran-
12 sition services program that supports the initiation, operation and
13 enhancement of substance use disorder treatment and transition services
14 for persons with substance use disorder who are incarcerated in jails.

15 2. The services to be provided by such program shall be in accordance
16 with plans developed by participating local governmental units, in
17 collaboration with county sheriffs, [~~taking into account local needs and~~
18 ~~available resources~~] medical professionals and correctional administra-
19 tors for the most effective, least costly methods. These plans must be
20 approved by the commissioner and shall include, but not be limited to,
21 the following:

22 (a) Alcohol, benzodiazepine, heroin and opioid withdrawal management;

23 (b) [~~At least one formulation of every form of~~] Such formulations of
24 medication assisted treatments approved for the treatment of a substance
25 use disorder by the Federal Food and Drug Administration necessary to
26 ensure that each individual participating in the program receives the
27 particular form found to be the most effective, least costly method at
28 treating and meeting their individual needs while minimizing the diver-
29 sion of medication within the facility. The commissioner may allow
30 jails a limited exemption to providing opioid full agonist treatment
31 medications where the commissioner determines that no providers that
32 have received the required accreditation are located within a reasonable
33 distance of the facility. Jails that do not have the resources avail-
34 able to meet standards set forth herein may apply to the commissioner
35 for a limited exception allowing such jail to enter into an agreement
36 with a community- or jail-based program offering substance use disorder
37 treatment and transition services to provide such services to individ-
38 uals in such jails. Any such determination shall be reviewed on a regu-
39 lar basis;

40 (c) Group and individual counseling and clinical support;

41 (d) Peer support;

42 (e) Discharge planning; [~~and~~]

43 (f) Behavioral therapies; and

44 (g) Re-entry and transitional supports.

45 3. (a) After [~~a~~] medical [~~screening~~] testing, incarcerated individuals
46 who are determined to suffer from a substance use disorder for which
47 medication assisted treatment exists shall be offered placement in the
48 medication assisted treatment program. Placement in such program shall
49 not be mandatory.

50 (b) Each participating incarcerated individual shall work with an
51 authorized specialist to develop an individualized treatment plan,
52 including an appropriate level of counseling and planning for continuity
53 of care upon return to the community.

54 (c) Decisions regarding type, dosage, or duration of any medication
55 regimen shall be made by a qualified health care professional licensed
56 or certified under title eight of the education law who is authorized to

1 administer such medication in conjunction with the incarcerated individ-
2 ual and shall be done in consultation with correctional administrators
3 for the most effective, least costly method.

4 (d) Participation in the medication assisted treatment program shall
5 not be unreasonably withheld from a qualified incarcerated individual.
6 An incarcerated individual using medication assisted treatment prior to
7 such individual's incarceration shall be eligible to, upon request by
8 such individual[, ~~continue such treatment in the medication assisted~~
9 ~~treatment program for any period of time during the duration of such~~
10 ~~individual's incarceration~~] within seventy-two hours of incarceration,
11 receive such treatment and shall continue such treatment for any period
12 of time during the duration of incarceration at the option of such indi-
13 vidual.

14 (e) If not actively in medication assisted treatment throughout incar-
15 ceration, the individual may, within four weeks prior to such incarcer-
16 ated individual's scheduled release date, participate in medication
17 assisted treatment, provided such incarcerated individual tested posi-
18 tive for opioid use or was actively participating in a treatment plan
19 prior to incarceration.

20 (f) No person shall be denied participation in the program on the
21 basis of a positive drug screening upon entering custody or upon intake
22 into the program; nor shall any person receive a disciplinary infraction
23 for such positive drug screening. No person shall be removed from, or
24 denied participation in the program on the basis of having received any
25 disciplinary infraction: (1) before entry into the program; or (2)
26 during participation in the program.

27 4. Within amounts appropriated therefor, funding shall be made avail-
28 able pursuant to criteria established by the office of addiction
29 services and supports in consultation with local governmental units,
30 which shall take into consideration the local needs and resources as
31 identified by local governmental units, the average daily jail popu-
32 lation, the average number of persons incarcerated in the jail that
33 require substance use disorder services and such other factors as may be
34 deemed necessary.

35 5. The office of addiction services and supports shall develop and
36 implement a training program for correctional staff and healthcare
37 providers necessary for the implementation of medication assisted treat-
38 ment.

39 6. Any jail-based substance use disorder treatment and transition
40 services program that is already in operation at the time this act shall
41 have become law and meets or exceeds the standards set forth in this
42 section shall be deemed to have met the requirements of subdivisions one
43 and two of this section. Such programs shall certify annually in writing
44 to the commissioner that they have met or exceeded the standards set
45 forth herein.

46 § 5. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
47 have become a law. Effectively immediately, the addition, amendment
48 and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation
49 of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and
50 completed on or before such date.