

Department of Health and Human Services
MaineCare Services
242 State Street
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel.: (207) 287-2674; Fax: (207) 287-2675
TTY Users: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

February 6, 2018

Senator Eric L. Brakey, Chair
Representative Patricia Hymanson, Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Opioid Health Home Progress Report

Senator Brakey, Representative Hymanson, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

The Maine 128th Legislature passed legislation, P.L. 2017, Chapter 2, *An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017*. Part P (the “Supplemental Budget”) granted the Department of Health and Human Services emergency rulemaking authority to establish the Opioid Health Home (OHH) program. An OHH is an integrated care delivery model focused on whole-person treatment for individuals with opioid use disorder who are receiving office-based Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).

As required in Part P-2 of the legislation, please see the OHH program updates below.

MaineCare members and uninsured people who have received OHH services

Since the program’s inception in April 2017, there are currently 18 approved service sites. Sites began enrolling members in October of 2017, and as of now, almost 50 MaineCare members* have been served by an OHH, resulting in \$43,648 in program spending.

During 2017, the Department encumbered one contract for the provision of OHH services to uninsured individuals, allowing for eight “slots” per month. Through this contract, five uninsured individuals were served, resulting in \$13,000 in spending. Thus far in 2018, the Department has sent out for signature an additional nine contracts for OHH services, which would allow providers to serve up to 144 more uninsured individuals.

* For this report, the Department is using the number of MaineCare members that have attested to service delivery.

The Department expects OHH enrollment numbers to continue increasing as more providers submit applications for program entry and operationalize their approved OHH programs. Additionally, the Department anticipates encumbering more contracts for OHH services to uninsured individuals.

Approved OHH providers

In total, there are 18 approved OHH sites, with locations in Augusta, Biddeford, Bangor, Calais, Ellsworth, Lewiston, Machias, Rockland, Portland, South Portland and Waterville. Specifically, the following providers have at least one approved OHH site:

- Catholic Charities
- Discovery House
- Greater Portland Health
- Groups Recover Together
- Merrimack River Medical Services
- The Opportunity Alliance
- Penobscot Community Health Center


Program Implementation

Since the program's inception in April 2017, the Department has responded to the following feedback and concerns.

- Finalizing Program Requirements: The OHH program is regulated through the *MaineCare Benefits Manual, Section 93, Opioid Health Home Services*. As directed by the Legislature, the OHH rules were originally adopted on an emergency basis in April 2017, to ensure that services could be delivered as quickly as possible. During the process of adopting the OHH rules through the Administrative Procedures Act, the Department received fifteen comments from the public which resulted in adjustments to OHH team member requirements and OHH site requirements. The rule was adopted in its final form on July 10, 2017.
- Staff Composition: Providers have given feedback on challenges with staffing the OHH model in accordance with MaineCare and OHH contract requirements. Many of these challenges have been addressed through clarification of provider requirements (such as license requirements). However, the Department will assess whether any more substantial adjustments to staff requirements are necessary to further the objectives of the OHH program.
- Contract Administration: The Department received feedback from providers that when they are approved to deliver OHH services to uninsured individuals, they would like to receive approval for more than eight individuals at a time. The Department continues to assess the appropriate number of slots per contract and will work with individual providers to ensure more slots are provided, as needed.

- OHH Model Advertising and Promotion: Members of the various stakeholder groups (e.g. the public, providers, advocacy groups) have expressed interest in how the OHH model is being promoted and advertised. The Department is in regular communications with Maine 211 to ensure 211 staff are informed about OHH sites, and the Department is working on an OHH website with program information. In addition, the MaineCare Value-Based Purchasing team conducts regular outreach activities to interested providers, delivers presentations on the OHH model, and attends collaborative meetings with State and other partners to coordinate and share efforts across the state.

Sincerely,


Stefanie Nadeau, Director
MaineCare Services