



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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www.kingcounty.gov

October 14, 2022

The Honorable Claudia Balducci
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits the Evaluation of Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Services Available at King County Jails report in response to Ordinance 19210, Section 48, and a proposed Motion that would, if enacted, approve the report.

Public Health – Seattle & King County’s (PHSKC) Jail Health Services (JHS) division provides healthcare services to individuals incarcerated in King County’s adult correctional facilities. Included in those services is the treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD). This report illustrates the growth of JHS’ MOUD programming and examines the programming’s effectiveness using the data sources PHSKC could feasibly access.

Responding to the Proviso, the report provides data including:

- the number of individuals served by MOUD programs;
- post release emergency department visits and hospitalizations;
- rates of mortality and recidivism, and
- impact on patients’ quality of life.

As described in the Proviso response, due to limitations to accessing data outside of King County government, some data elements are not included.

The response finds that the expansion of the program resulted in a greater number of people effectively treated for OUD while incarcerated, thereby reducing the number of people experiencing withdrawal, cravings, and related psychosocial distress while in custody. Most patients wished to continue buprenorphine after leaving jail. Data suggest a subset of patients initiated on buprenorphine continued after jail release, and a greater number who were on buprenorphine before jail, stayed on the medication post release.

The work outlined in this report furthers the King County Strategic Plan health and human services goal to improve the health and well-being of all people in our community. It is

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

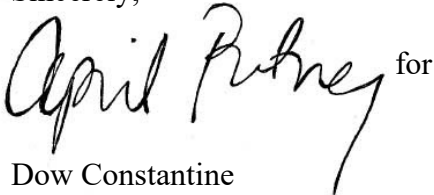
October 14, 2022

Page 2

estimated that this report required 449 hours to produce, costing approximately \$30,689 in staff hours.

Thank you for your consideration of this report and the accompanying proposed Motion. If your staff have any questions, please contact Brad Finegood, Strategic Advisor, Public Health – Seattle & King County, at 206-263-8087.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Faisal Khan, Interim Director, Public Health – Seattle & King County.