

Massachusetts Department of Correction
Substance Abuse Continuum
Updated 3.12.2020

I. Assessment and Program Planning

The MA DOC utilizes the Criminal Offender Management Profiling of Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS) assessment tool to assess offenders' risk of recidivism and specific programming needs during incarceration. The risk assessment component is completed at the reception center by a combination of Correctional Program Officers and Education Staff specifically trained in the administration of the assessment. Program Officers administer the needs assessment which includes a substance abuse scale to offenders who score moderate to high on the risk assessment upon transfer from the reception center during orientation at the receiving facility. A secondary substance use screening with an opioid specific supplemental (Texas Christian University Drug Screen V) is also administered at the reception center to further identify offenders with substance use disorders. The results of the assessment are utilized to develop the offender's personalized program plan that is reviewed and updated by Correctional Program Officers as part of the annual and/or bi-annual classification review process.

II. Program Continuum for Male Offenders

Maximum Security

Gateway to Treatment is a non-residential substance use treatment program designed to educate and raise awareness of the consequences of continued substance use. This program educates and raises awareness of the consequences of continued substance use, overdose prevention and the benefits of medication assisted treatment. (Meets 2x per week, 2 hours per session)

Medication Assisted Treatment Reentry Initiative (MATRI) is available to offenders with an opioid and/or alcohol addiction. The purpose of the initiative is to strengthen the continuum of substance use treatment from prison to the community through the use of the medication Vivitrol prior to an offender's release. These offenders are supported by case managers who provide post-release referrals and linkages to community based substance use treatment programs which employ a multi-faceted approach to treatment which include Vivitrol, counseling and aftercare. The case managers also work with these released offenders for up to one year post release to assist them in accessing critical services to maintain their recovery and decrease the likelihood of recidivism.

The Graduate Maintenance program is offered to offenders who have completed either residential or non-residential substance use treatment program. The goal of Graduate Maintenance is to keep offenders engaged in substance use treatment throughout their incarceration. Program concepts are reviewed, skills are practiced and individual relapse prevention plans are updated.

Medium/Minimum Security

The Department's program continuum includes a network of programs available at medium and minimum security facilities that target major criminogenic risk factors that are correlated with criminality. These programs include the programs listed below.

The Correctional Recovery Academy (CRA) is an intensive residential substance use treatment program located at four male institutions totaling 494 treatment beds. The CRA program combines the elements of a modified therapeutic community's social learning approach with an advanced cognitive behavioral curriculum. The treatment is highly structured focusing on developing personal accountability, responsibility, and socially productive lives free of alcohol, drugs and crime.

The CRA Graduate Support Program is available to graduates of the CRA. Graduates may apply to participate in the peer support program. Peer participants are responsible for mentoring, tutoring and co-facilitating groups under the supervision of the CRA counselor. There are 90 graduate support beds.

The Graduate Maintenance program is offered to offenders who have completed either residential or non-residential substance use treatment program. The goal of Graduate Maintenance is to keep offenders engaged in substance use treatment throughout their incarceration. Program concepts are reviewed, skills are practiced and individual relapse prevention plans are updated.

Pathway to Recovery substance use groups are psycho-educational in nature and consist of didactic lectures, group discussions, and skills practice. All skills acquisition lessons incorporate role plays to further internalize new skills. Homework is assigned for each group to reinforce material learned. (Meets 3 x per week; 1.5 hours per session)

MATRI is also available to offenders at medium and minimum security.

III. **Female Offender Program Continuum**

Gender responsive and trauma-informed approaches have been incorporated into the framework of treatment services for female offenders. Specific tracks of treatment have been designed to address each offender's specific pathway into the criminal justice system with the goal of reducing the likelihood of recidivism by addressing the unique issues associated with female offenders such as trauma, abuse, relationship dysfunction, substance use and mental illness.

The First Step Program is a residential substance abuse program located at MCI Framingham. This program provides substance abuse treatment services to women, who have been sentenced, are awaiting trial, have been civilly committed pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, c. 123 section 35, or have been identified as needing immediate detoxification and treatment. The treatment component consists of a 20 day schedule of classes on substance use education, relapse prevention, parenting and interpersonal skill acquisition. The major emphasis of this program is linking participants to aftercare services both in the facility and post-release in the community.

Methadone Maintenance Program

This program is available to pregnant females who are opioid addicted. The goal of the Methadone Maintenance Program is to maintain a safe, effective and functional system in the overall treatment of drug addiction, through methadone administration to, and monitoring of pregnant women. The program serves as a component of the comprehensive medical care provided to pregnant females who are addicted to opiates. Only pregnant inmates addicted to opiates are provided methadone at MCI Framingham.

MATRI is also available to women with an opioid and/or alcohol addiction.