

Name: Jeffrey Norris, MD

Professional Title, Organization: Value-Based Payment Branch Chief, California Department of Health care Services (DHCS)

CHIP Title: Making Contingency Management for Methamphetamine Use Accessible to People Experiencing Homelessness

Project Description: Contingency management (CM), which involves paying people to use less meth or engage in treatment, is the most effective treatment tool for methamphetamine use disorder. Compared to CM, other treatments (like medications, counseling, detox, and rehab) do not work well for meth use.

Despite this, CM is not widely available due to legal, political, and operational barriers. To address this in California, DHCS is implementing a CM pilot in some counties through the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS). However, not all individuals needing CM services are able to access the DMC-ODS. This is especially true for people experiencing homelessness, for whom transportation, social, stigma, lack of insight, and other barriers prevent them from accessing DMC ODS services.

Meth use is especially problematic as people experience homelessness enter permanent supportive housing (PSH). Housing First models mean that individuals entering PSH are not expected to be in recovery. Continued meth use in PSH can cause major behavioral disturbances that can put the individual, their neighbors, staff, and the building in harm's way.

Key Findings and Lessons Learned:

- CM programs using Medicaid funds must go through individual federal legal review if offering more than ~\$75/participants/year (research shows at least \$500/participant/year is most effective)
- Successfully engaged internal and external stakeholders to get approval for a CM pilot in PSH at Father Joe's Villages (FJV), a large homeless service agency in San Diego; donor funding of \$25K prevented the need for Medicaid funds.

Next Steps:

- FJV staff are continuing PSH CM implementation efforts (I am no longer involved as I moved from FJV to DHCS in May 2023)
- DMC-ODS in the County of San Diego is rolling out, and FJV staff plan to determine how to get clients access to larger CM programs.
- SAMHSA included in their 2023-2026 strategic plan the expansion of CM programs, which may increase access to CM funds and resources for organizations like FJV.