

## FACILITATOR GUIDE

# County Touchpoints in Access to Medications for Addiction Treatment for Justice Involved Individuals

## Module 2. Addiction Neuroscience 101

### Module Overview

This module offers a 25-minute video of the neuroscience of addiction as a chronic brain disease, with emphasis on Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). It describes the objectives of addiction treatment and the three types of medications approved for treating OUD – methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone, in laymen’s terms. Discussion questions are provided to help participants consider reactions to this information, which is new to most people.

### Content

- Video recording: Addiction Neuroscience 101, 25 minutes
  - Presenter: Corey Waller MD, addiction medicine specialist and emergency room physician

### Facilitator Steps

1. Print and distribute Module Overview and Learning Objectives as people enter the room
2. Distribute the pre-test questions to participants and have them complete it. Then discuss the responses
3. Review the Module Overview and Learning Objectives
4. Before showing the video, explain that the presenter, Dr. Waller, is a board-certified emergency physician with credentialing and extensive experience treating opioid addiction. He is nationally recognized as a leader in addiction treatment and has contributed significantly to the project to expand access to MAT in California jails and drug courts. He is also directing projects in 10 California counties to address transitions of care for persons with OUD and to improve outcomes for pregnant women with OUD and their newborns.
5. Show the Addiction Neuroscience 101 video
6. After the video, have people discuss their reactions in small groups, if possible. NO structure necessary for the discussion. Afterward, ask groups to “report out” on their main points of conversation.

Facilitate discussion of these questions:

- a. Overall, does our county <justice system or child welfare system> operate from a premise that OUD is a chronic brain disease?
  - b. On a scale of 1 – 5, with 5 being “completely,” how well does our agency support the use of MAT for OUD?
  - c. What barriers do you see to fully embracing the notion of OUD as a chronic brain disease?
7. Distribute post questions, capture responses in accordance with CEU requirements and then discuss responses

## Learning Objectives

At the end of this session, the participant can:

1. Explain the role of dopamine in our brains
2. Describe how opioids and methamphetamine effect dopamine levels
3. Articulate the objectives of Medication Assisted Treatment (methadone, Vivitrol, or buprenorphine (Suboxone) for Opioid Use Disorder
4. Explain why MAT may need to be used for several years or longer

## Pre-Test Questions

1. Methadone and abstinence are equally effective in helping a person with OUD avoid relapse and overdose. True/False Correct answer: FALSE
2. Opioid addiction is a chronic disease of the brain, like other chronic diseases like asthma or high blood pressure. True/False Correct answer: TRUE

## Post-Test Questions

1. Once a person stops using opioids, the brain can take several years to return to stable dopamine production. True/False Correct answer: TRUE
2. The three medications approved for opioid addiction are similar in action and are equally effective for any patient with Opioid Use Disorder. True/False Correct answer: FALSE

## Continuing Education Options

Refer to the County Touchpoints Training Site website for information about continuing education credits by discipline. (red arrow)

**TRAINING SITE**  
California MAT Expansion Project / County Touchpoints In Access to MAT for Justice-Involved Populations / Training Site

**California MAT Expansion Project**

- California MAT Expansion Partner Projects
- County Touchpoints In Access to MAT for Justice-Involved Populations
- Expanding Access to MAT in County Criminal Justice Settings
- Mom&Baby Substance Exposure Initiative
- Transitions of Care

**Welcome To TRAINING SITE For County Touchpoints In Access To MAT For Justice-Involved Populations**

This site contains all the materials necessary for group or individual training about the use of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) to treat Opioid Use Disorder in justice system and human service systems.

**Card 1:** Click here for a comprehensive Training Manual designed for use by internal organizational training teams to help plan, execute, sustain, and evaluate internal training. [Read More](#)

**Card 2:** Click here for a brief overview of the nine program modules and some recommended combinations that you can customize for unique audiences. [Read More](#)

**Card 3:** Click here for information on continuing education credits by discipline. [Read More](#)

This project is a joint effort of the California Department of Health Care Services Medication Assisted Treatment Expansion Project 2.0, Health Management Associates, and California Health Policy Strategies. Funding for this project is provided by the California Department of Health Care Services under its funding from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for a statewide response to the opioid crisis. For more detailed information and presenter credentials, refer to the comprehensive Training Manual at the website noted above. (green arrow)

Materials provided may be utilized for the sole purpose of providing Opioid Use Disorder information. Such materials may be distributed with proper attribution from the California Department of Health Care Services, Health Management Associates, and California Health Policy Strategies. Questions may be submitted via email to [CountyTouchpoints@healthmanagement.com](mailto:CountyTouchpoints@healthmanagement.com)



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