

DOC Opioid Settlement Funding Proposal

1. We estimate that the cost to switch from subutex pill form to suboxone film will result in an additional unfunded budget expense of approximately 1,250,000.00.

The estimated annual cost of pill form buprenorphine has been \$316,000.00. WellPath and their pharmacy vendor, Diamond prices the suboxone film costs at 4x that of the subutex pill form. Additionally, we have increased the numbers of days of bridge prescriptions to ensure that released individuals have sufficient medications to bridge to their scheduled appointment. This way should they miss the appointment they will have sufficient medication to prevent withdrawal or use of street drugs/overdose until they can get another community appointment, be seen at a HUB or Emergency Department program or contact WellPath for further assistance. This would need to be a multiyear funding request as we would not want to switch medications again within a short timeframe- and at the same we are hopeful that costs come down due to generics and also marketplace competition.

2. Regarding the cost of 1 FTE Analyst for ongoing analysis of Medicaid claims data regarding retention in buprenorphine MAT post incarceration, we reviewed the Salary grades of comparable positions in several Departments and found that the salary grades ranged from Grade 24-27. Taking the middle pay grade at step 4 this equates to an annualized salary of \$70,720. Benefits are generally estimated at 20% for an additional cost of \$14,144 making total salary and benefits \$84,864. The position would be housed in either DVHA or VDH to work under the existing MOU analyzing DOC MAT release and retention in Community based buprenorphine MAT.
3. For the last budget recommendation /request which was 2 FTEs to provide statewide MAT engagement, retention and continuity of care analysis using Medicaid claims data we would recommend the same employment package cost estimated at \$84, 864.00 x2= \$169,728 to be allocated to either VDH or DVHA.

Annie Ramniceanu, LCMHC, LADC
Pronouns: She/her
Addiction and Mental Health Unit Director
VT Department of Corrections
NOB 2 South
280 State Drive
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-2000