

Proposed Projects

Operation PAR – Proposed to expand and enhance MAT Services in Hernando County, comprised of four (4) components.

Project 1 – Operation Par MAT Mobile Response VAN – will bring essential treatment services directly to individuals in need, overcoming barriers to access such as transportation and distance. The van will be staffed by a Psychiatric Advance Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), a Counselor, and a Florida Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). They will provide comprehensive, patient centered care including medication administration, counseling, and support services. The van will provide services to multiple locations to include Hernando County Jail and any other underserved area of the county.

Project 2 – Operation Par Weekend Service Expansion - will expand service delivery by introducing a weekend prescriber (APRN) & supportive staff to facilitate MAT services 7 days/week. This will increase intakes and ensure that individuals seeking help can access services when they need them most, including on weekends. The weekend service will be supported by additional medical & clinical support staff, ensuring a high level of care is maintained. This component will enable warm handoffs from hospitals and jails, even if they are discharged/released on a weekend.

Project 3 – Operation Par Psychiatric Services - will introduce onsite psychiatric / mental health services by adding a full-time Psychiatric Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) and a Mental Health Counselor to serve our patients with co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.

Project 4 – Operation Par Supplemental MAT Funding - additional supplemental MAT funding assistance for indigent, uninsured, and under-insured patients in need of OUD treatment. Our OTP in Hernando County is currently (as of 1/9/2024) only able to accommodate approximately 200 patients with SOR funding under the current LSF contract.

NAMI Hernando – Proposed an expansion of Hospital and Jail Bridge program with a Recovery Community Organization component.

Project 5: NAMI Recovery Community Organization

Hospital Bridge - Collaboration with the county hospitals to meet with individuals prior to discharge to offer peer support to reduce recidivism and high utilization of treatment services to emphasis lineage to services to maintain stability and recovery.

Jail Bridge - Collaboration with the county jails to meet with individuals prior to discharge to offer peer support to reduce recidivism and high utilization of treatment services to emphasis lineage to services to maintain stability and recovery.

Youth Peer – Addition of Youth peer to work with youth at risk of OUD.

Recovery Community Center- opening, marketing, and operating a recovery center to provide incidentals to people receiving services and provide Peer Workforce Development.

Hernando County Community Coalition proposed to expand Prevention and Public Awareness, to include increase training and the distribution of naloxone and other drugs that treat overdoses.

Project 6 - Hernando County Community Coalition – Prevention Awareness Campaigns

Alternative to Opioids – Campaign regarding relieving pain without medication with Chiropractic Care as a long-term effective solution to relieving pain without opioids.

Be A Hero – Free Narcan distribution and training to residents, agencies, or business on how to administer the nasal spray. Encouraging people to request and carry Narcan with them.

RX Social Access Initiative/Safe RX Disposal – Educating Hernando County residents on the importance of disposing unused and expired opioid medications properly with a focus on promoting the drop off locations and having safe disposal kit sent to their home.

Dose of Reality – Youth Prevention to inform and educate others and youth about avoiding opioids, how to find resources, conducting trusted talks to teens, and identifying how to spot and respond to an opioid overdose.

Hernando County proposed to provide program analyst of projects and funding to ensure best use and dissemination of information about projects and resources to the community and providers.

Project 7 – Hernando County Data Analyst- position to provide program support and analyze, interpret, and report program deliverables of old and new programs to effectively combat opioid abuse.

Project 8 – Hernando County Resource Coordinator position to community hub for accessing information regarding prevention, treatment, recovery, and referrals relating to Opioid, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders.

Eckerd Connects will provide two dedicated treatment beds for a period of 10 months, offering critical care and support to youth impacted by substance use disorders.

Project 9 - Eckerd Connects - Provide Critical Youth Treatment Beds to dedicated to helping at-risk youth and families through a variety of services, including education, workforce development, and behavioral health programs.

Premier Community HealthCare Group proposed to provide Outpatient Counseling and Therapy, Primary Care and Dental, Case management, Medication Assisted Treatment and Management, prevention Services prior to Opioid and or/after an Overdose Crisis events.

Project 10 – Premier Community HealthCare Group Connection to Care increase access to care for the targeted population by providing outpatient counseling, medication-assisted treatment (MAT), primary care, and case management services to meet the growing demand for mental health support.

BayCare Behavioral Health proposes a project to enhance addiction care for Hernando County residents, focusing on individuals with substance use disorders (SUD), opioid use disorders (OUD), and co-occurring mental health conditions. The initiative prioritizes vulnerable populations, including overdose survivors, pregnant or parenting women, and those at risk of homelessness or incarceration. Key enhancements include expanding warm handoffs, increasing telehealth services, and boosting recovery support funding to create a sustainable, integrated system of care aligned with Opioid Abatement Plan priorities. These projects aims to improve access, recovery support, and long-term well- being for the community.

Project 11: Expansion of Warm Handoffs and Transitions

This project focuses on improving seamless connections between care providers and recovery services, ensuring individuals receive continuous support during critical transitions in their treatment journey.

Project 12: Increased Addiction Telehealth Services

This initiative aims to expand virtual access to treatment and recovery support, providing greater flexibility and accessibility for individuals in need, especially those in underserved areas.

Project 13: Enhanced Recovery Support Funding

This project will strengthen resources for long-term recovery, including funding for evidence-based recovery programs, community resources, and support for vulnerable populations such as overdose survivors and pregnant or parenting women.

Each project aligns with the Opioid Abatement Plan priorities, addressing core strategies and approved uses to create a sustainable, integrated system of addiction care for Hernando County residents.