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SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WORKING IN OUR NATION'S JAILS

American Jail Association Resolution

Treatment of Individuals with Opioid Use Disorders (MAT) in America's Jails

- WHEREAS,** the findings from an in depth analysis of drug overdose death data by the Center of Disease Control (December, 2018) noted opioids were involved in over two-thirds of overdose deaths in the U.S. in 2017, and
- WHEREAS,** individuals with a history of incarceration are, in general, at higher risk of overdose, and
- WHEREAS,** Opioid use disorders are classified under the Federal American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and prohibits discrimination against people in recovery, and
- WHEREAS,** Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) is one of the most effective forms of treatment available for incarcerated individuals with opioid use disorders, and
- WHEREAS,** MAT has been shown to lower rates of illicit drug use, lower risk of overdose, lower rates of drug-related crime, and increase engagement with many other essential forms of healthcare, and
- WHEREAS,** providing MAT in the correctional setting brings healthcare in correctional facilities in line with current medical standards for the treatment of opioid use disorders, and
- WHEREAS,** the MAT program should be an opt-in program, providing all individuals in the correctional setting and upon release, access to all available forms of MAT medications, and
- WHEREAS,** MAT should be made available as a standard of care for incarcerated individuals with opioid use disorder, and
- WHEREAS,** an effective system for referral and linkage to care should be in place so that individuals on MAT can be linked with appropriate care providers in the community to continue MAT upon release;
- THEREFORE BE
IT RESOLVED
THAT** the American Jail Association urges its members to improve the care of individuals with opioid use disorders who come in contact with the criminal justice system by developing and promoting programs, policies, and legislation that accomplish the following goals:
- Identify that the solution to this multifaceted problem is contingent on an effective and accessible MAT program.
 - Integrate MAT as the standard of care for incarcerated individuals with opioid use disorder.
 - Improve collaboration with community stakeholders so an effective system for referral and linkage to care is in place, enabling individuals on MAT to continue care upon release.

**FURTHER BE IT
RESOLVED
THAT**

the American Jail Association recommends that Congress and officials from the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services work with State and local government officials across philosophical and partisan lines to achieve the following:

- Assist with funding State and local governmental treatment agencies interested in creating resolutions to the multifaceted problem of incarcerated individuals with opioid use disorder.
- Increase funding and grant programs which enable states to obtain funds for efforts that target individuals with opioid use disorders who are in contact with the criminal justice system.
- Facilitate partnerships between correctional agencies and community based medical organizations.

Adopted by the AJA Board of Directors on May 18, 2019 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Revised by the AJA Board of Directors on May 22, 2022 in Columbus, Ohio.