

Issue Brief – Substance Abuse Treatment for Women with Children

DIVISION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH

NUMBERDHS-08-06

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FOR WOMEN WITH CHILDREN

The Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) is requesting \$5,051,300 with \$2,525,600 from General Funds and \$2,525,700 from Medicaid funds for FY 2008 for substance abuse treatment for women with children.

OBJECTIVE

The goal of the DSAMH is to reduce drug and alcohol use, and the negative social consequences associated with substance abuse. In addition, the division works closely with the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), law enforcement and courts to provide treatment services.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Women and Drug Abuse

The use of methamphetamine and other illicit drugs have increased the demand for substance abuse treatment services for women. Between 1991 and 2005, substance abuse treatment services for women have increased by 170.4 percent while men during that same time period had a decrease of 5.18 percent as shown in the following table:

Drug Treatment Statistics			
	1991	2005	% Increase
Men in Treatment Programs for Substance Abuse	12,383	11,742	-5.18%
Women in Treatment Programs for Substance Abuse	2,679	7,243	170.4%

The largest challenge is the number of women with children entering treatment particularly of the child bearing age. DCFS reports that during 2005, 1,200 women were involved with DCFS because of substance abuse. In FY 2005, the DSAMH served about 500 of the 1,200 women involved with DCFS. There are three scenarios for these women in treatment services: 1) they still have custody of their children and are working with DCFS because they are at risk of losing custody; 2) the children are living with a relative while the mother is in treatment; or 3) the federal court has ordered women whose children are in state custody into treatment as a condition of getting their children back. Statistics show that about 60 percent of children in state custody have a parent with a drug addiction and 80 percent have a parent with alcohol and/or drug addiction.

Treatment Programs for Women with Children

There are currently five treatment centers for women with children operated through the local substance abuse authorities. The treatment centers are as follows:

1. The Cottonwood House operated by Valley Mental Health located in Salt Lake County – slots for 11 women and up to 13 children
2. The House of Hope in Provo – slots for 16 women and up to 32 children (birth to 8 yrs.)
3. The House of Hope in Salt Lake City - slots for 45 women and up to 55 children (birth to 8yrs.)
4. The Odyssey House in Salt Lake County – slots for 16 women and up to 19 children (birth to 8 yrs.)
5. The Volunteers of America also provides treatment services in Salt Lake County – 30 treatment slots usually for 24 women and 6 children and 10 detox slots

According to DSAMH, for every treatment slot, there are 4 individuals waiting for services.

Annual Costs of Substance Abuse & Treatment

The cost of substance abuse treatment is between \$1,900 and \$28,300 per individual depending on the level of treatment. In contrast, the cost of incarceration is \$26,000 per prisoner and the cost of foster care per child is \$30,200.

Treatment Services' Results

The DSAMH reports that treatment decreases drug use by 59 percent, increases employment by 6.5 percent and reduces the number of arrests by 87 percent.

DSAMH Proposal

DSAMH would like to expand treatment services by 600 for women with children. The funding request would provide a full continuum of services ranging from out patient to residential services. The proposal is to open two residential facilities bringing the total number of facilities to seven, where mothers could live with two dependent children while receiving treatment services. The DSAMH will contract with the local providers for these services. The annual cost of treatment per person for this program would range from \$1,915 to \$28,300 depending on the level of treatment needed. The following table shows the proposal:

Request for Substance Abuse Treatment for Women with Children						
Level of Treatment	Service Level	Rate	Admissions	General Funds	Medicaid Funds	Total Costs
Low Intensity	Outpatient	\$1,914	215	\$266,949	\$144,660	\$411,609
Moderate Intensity	Intensive Outpatient	\$5,670	225	\$827,397	\$448,353	\$1,275,750
High Intensity	Residential	\$13,720	80	\$518,990	\$578,610	\$1,097,600
Highest Intensity	Residential with 2 Kids	\$28,330	80	\$912,324	\$1,354,076	\$2,266,400
	Total		600	\$2,525,660	\$2,525,699	\$5,051,359

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Analyst that this program be appropriated \$2,172,500 of one-time General Funds and \$2,172,600 of federal Medicaid funds to expand substance abuse treatment services for women with children by about 516 for FY 2008. It is further the recommendation of the Analyst that if this program is funded, the following intent language be adopted: *It is the intent of the Legislature that the funds appropriated for substance abuse treatment for women are nonlapsing. It is further the intent of the Legislature that the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health in conjunction with the Division of Child and Family Services provide a written report to the Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee by the 2008 General Session on the use of the funds, how many individuals were served, the effectiveness of the treatment services, and the fiscal impact on current funding levels for children in state custody.*