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DATE: October 25, 2016
TO: All Adult SUD Treatment Programs
FROM: Nora Bock, Director of Adult Community Treatment
RE: Certification Requirements for Medication Assisted Treatment

This memo is to formalize the information provided in the recent Quarterly Update for SUD Providers.

For many years we have been saying that to remain certified and contracted with DMH, an agency must offer or arrange for MAT. This means ensuring the availability of ALL forms of MAT for Opioid Use Disorders and Alcohol Use Disorders, including buprenorphine products (e.g., Suboxone), injectable naltrexone (Vivitrol), oral naltrexone, acamprosate, and disulfiram. The one exception is methadone, which can be administered only in certified Opioid Treatment Programs.

Not only must an agency offer or arrange for MAT, but it must be delivered in a way that is supported by evidence. For example, we have recently become aware that in some agencies, buprenorphine products are used only in a defined, time-limited regimen, even though the evidence shows that for some individuals, a longer course of therapy ("maintenance") is clinically appropriate and leads to better outcomes.

The point is that we will be looking not just at whether MAT is offered, but also whether it is delivered in a manner consistent with evidence-based practice.

We are identifying agencies that we believe are not meeting the requirements for MAT and will notify them. In the next 12 months, any of those agencies that do not show progress in advancing MAT will be required, at a minimum, to submit plans of correction. We will also offer on-site training and technical assistance. After that, agencies that do not improve will be placed on CONDITIONAL certification and may ultimately lose certification. **Department Director Mark Stringer and Division Director Rick Gowdy have instructed that, after taking the steps above, we discontinue contracting with agencies that do not adequately offer this evidence based intervention to individuals for whom it is clinically appropriate and potentially lifesaving.**

Please contact me at nora.bock@dmh.mo.gov if you have any questions.

NB:ldn

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