



TeleWell Behavioral Medicine Indian Health Program MAT Project

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Introduction to TeleMedicine Direct Care

Native American communities are experiencing Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) at crisis proportions. Access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for natives with complicated diagnostic pictures (co-occurring conditions) is further challenged as many natives live in rural areas, often lacking regular access to services as compared to other Americans.

The TeleWell Indian Health Program MAT Project (TeleWell IHP/MAT Project) is funded via the 21st Century Cures Act, signed into law in 2016. This Act provided funding to SAMHSA, who distributed non-competitive State Targeted Response grants to all 50 states. When received by the State of California, the Department of Healthcare Services Substance Use Division, thought it was important to specifically address the opioid problem in Indian Country. In fact, California is the only state with a separate Tribal MAT Project. The TeleWell IHP/MAT Project is one of several contracts delivering service specifically to Indian country.

TeleWell IHP/MAT Project has three main components: 1) Technical assistance to programs developing their own MAT programs, 2) Educational (including monthly webinar, case consultation), and 3) TeleMedicine-Based direct care for MAT and treatment of co-occurring conditions. This flyer is to further introduce this direct care component.

The TeleMedicine direct care component was developed to provide an additional MAT service delivery option for those programs who want to be able offer this service to their patients, but do not currently have their own MAT program. Additionally, it can be an option for programs which have their own MAT program, but do not have the capacity to treat the complicated co-occurring conditions that frequently accompany opioid use disorder. These services will be offered beginning September 12, 2018.

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The following are some specific situations for which TeleWell TeleMedicine-Based direct care may be appropriate:

1. Health program not currently planning to develop their own MAT program due to staffing shortages, provider preference, etc
2. Health program planning to develop their own MAT program in the future, but would like to begin offering these services to their patients now
3. Health program planning to develop their own MAT program in the future, but would like to observe the treatment process offered by TeleWell first
4. Health program willing to provide MAT maintenance treatment, but do not feel comfortable with inductions
5. Health program already offering MAT services, but already at capacity and in need of additional treatment assistance
6. Health programs already offering MAT services, but have patients with complicated co-occurring conditions which are, or potential can, interfere with successful MAT

If you think your program could benefit from our TeleMedicine direct care MAT services, please contact our Clinical Coordinator, **Gerry Shea** MSW, LCSW at (916) 689-1062 or g.shea@telewell.org

Welcome to the TeleWell Indian Health Program MAT Project, and for your willingness to be part of powerful and positive change.

Best Regards,

David Sprenger, MD
Project Director
TeleWell Indian Health Programs MAT Project