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Agency of Human Services

To: ALL STAFF

From: Andrew Pallito, Commissioner 

Subject: INTERIM REVISION MEMO on Directive # 363.01 Methadone Facilitation

Date: October 14, 2014

This interim revision memo pertaining to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) issued by the Commissioner of Vermont Department of Corrections will become effective as of 10/20/14.

Pursuant to Act 195 the Department will undertake a yearlong pilot study to evaluate the feasibility of expanding the number of days; presently thirty (30) a person entering incarceration and *who prior to entry was legally being prescribed methadone or buprenorphine for treatment of opiate addiction can continue MAT while incarcerated.*

This pilot is limited to Chittenden Regional and Northwest State Correctional facilities (CRCF and NWSCF respectively). All other facilities will continue under the current Directive.

Individuals entering DOC custody and who reside in either of these two facilities during the period of the demonstration project shall be continued on MAT for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days. The individual status as a sentenced or detained person will not prohibit continuation of treatment.

The individual must be in good standing with their treatment provider upon incarceration and remain in good standing with respect to medical and facility rules related to treatment with MAT for continued treatment with MAT.

Inmates who enter incarceration at NWSCF and are transferred to another DOC facility within the 30 day timeframe will not be eligible to continue MAT beyond that period. Individuals who are transferred after 30 days and have continued in good standing shall be allowed to continue treatment to the extent allowed by this Interim Directive; 90 days. All persons who require discontinuation whether under this revision memo or who remain covered as per the current Directive, #363.01 shall be provided an appropriate taper.

Persons entering as being detained or sentenced who remain so beyond the time specified for continuation of treatment shall be given an appropriate taper at the conclusion of their of treatment.

Release- Alcohol Drug Abuse Prevention (ADAP) in partnership with DOC and the Hubs has worked to ensure that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) exists between the DOC and the Hubs to support a transfer of care process that is seamless and that occurs in a timely fashion.

Those persons who are in good standing in treatment and for whom the treatment has not concluded at the point of release shall be referred back to their Hub or an alternative site should they no longer reside in the same region.

Those persons who undergo taper and discontinuation for any reason shall prior to their release be referred by their Case worker to a Regional Hub for re-assessment of treatment eligibility at the time of their release.

At the conclusion of the demonstration project and at specified points throughout DOC shall report on the project to the Legislative Committees as specified in statute. DOC shall advise the Legislature as to a proposed expansion of the project at the time of its conclusion.