



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This memorandum of understanding is entered into between Helen Farabee Centers subcontracting with Abilene Recovery Council and Montague County for the purpose of providing intervention/treatment/recovery programs that offer constructive methods designed to prevent and/or interrupt the onset or progression of substance misuse. This Understanding will be submitted to meet the requirements of the community-based process for the Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral program funded by the **Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)**.

**Abilene Recovery Council will be responsible for facilitating the following tasks and objectives:**

- Attend meetings of community and social service agencies, judicial and/or law enforcement departments, probation/parole departments, mental health and co-occurring psychiatric and substance misuse disorders (COPSD) service providers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Regional Public Health Centers, 2Ingage, and the Department of Family and Protective Services to foster networking, service enhancement, regional substance misuse treatment system issue resolution, and community mobilization through the community-based process. These meetings also include quarterly collaborative meetings organized by the Council.
- Provide screening, assessment (when requested by treatment provider), and problem identification and referral services for adults/youth who have indulged in or are at risk of indulging in the use of ATOD and their families that may include as appropriate: placement into treatment programs such as medication assisted recovery (also known as Medication Assisted Treatment), detoxification, outpatient, and intensive residential; recovery support services; interim services; and follow-ups to determine if the client presented at referral locations.
- Brief interventions including, but not limited to crisis intervention and Motivational Interviewing (MI) will be offered as pre-treatment services to help individuals move through the stages of change to a state of readiness to address substance use problems. Motivational counseling and referrals to other support services will be offered to assist the client in maintaining engagement in the recovery process and while waiting for residential treatment.
- Provide initial interim services through weekly interim services groups in Abilene and Wichita Falls for individuals awaiting residential treatment placement. The Abilene Interim Services Group meets on Mondays at 4:00 p.m. at 104 Pine St., Suite 217. The Wichita Falls Interim Services Group meets on Mondays at 4:00 p.m. at 2910 Kemp Blvd., Suite 214.
- In addition to offering the weekly Interim Services Groups, OSAR counselors will maintain weekly contact with clients who are on treatment waiting list(s) until they are admitted into treatment.
- Counselors will contact the treatment facility as needed to determine the facility's current capacity and treatment availability.
- When immediate treatment capacity is not available, counselors will contact multiple treatment facilities to determine which facility has the shortest wait list and make every effort to ensure the shortest waiting period possible for the client. Counselors may also contact HHSC OSAR and Treatment Program Specialists to assist in finding treatment placement. Counselors may place the client on waitlists at multiple treatment facilities as part of the referral process. Once the client is successfully admitted into a treatment facility, the counselor will contact the other facilities to remove the client from their wait list.
- Determine and document financial eligibility for services through HHSC and/or other funding sources at the time of screening. If the client is not eligible for HHSC funding, counselors will provide and document referrals to alternative service providers consistent with the client's needs and financial resources.
- Follow screening procedures to identify members of priority populations. HHSC has established priority populations for treatment in accordance with Federal Substance Abuse Block Grant regulations and state designation. Treatment Contractors shall give preference for treatment services in the following order of priority: pregnant injecting drug users; pregnant substance misusers; injecting drug users; parents with children in foster care; and veterans with honorable discharges. Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)/ 2Ingage referrals must receive priority admission behind the priority population. OSAR counselors will coordinate with the treatment provider to ensure that clients on the OSAR waitlist are being admitted in an appropriate and timely manner.
- Conduct and document an Informed Consent for all opioid/opiate dependent individuals seeking treatment. The Informed Consent will include the following options: 1) medication assisted treatment 2) medically supervised withdrawal (detox) or 3) no treatment.
- Provide general overdose prevention education to all clients (to include education on naloxone) and specific overdose prevention activities for clients with opioid use disorders and clients that use drugs intravenously.
- Provide referrals to the Council's Parenting Awareness and Drug Risk Education Services (PADREs) program for parents (adult and youth) with substance use disorders or who are at risk of developing substance use disorders, as appropriate.

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- Provide referrals to the Council's or another HHSC-funded Recovery Support Services (RSS) program for integrated recovery support for qualified individuals who are motivated to sustain their substance misuse recovery and work toward achieving recovery-oriented personal goals, as appropriate.
- Provide screenings for tuberculosis (TB), hepatitis B and C, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Counselors will make referrals to community resources for further testing and counseling when appropriate.
- Upon determining that a client has a Co-Occurring Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorder (COPSD), the OSAR counselor will refer the client to an HHSC-funded Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA), HHSC-funded COPSD provider, or other appropriate community resources.
- Assess tobacco use for all clients and provide tobacco cessation assistance for clients who choose to pursue quitting.
- Agree to comply with all state and federal laws, regulations, rules, procedures and policies regarding confidentiality and protection of client information and records, including, but not limited to: Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations Part 2 requirements (42 CFR Part 2), confidentiality requirements, Protected Health Information (PHI) transmission, and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance.
- When funding is available, the Council shall provide opioid overdose prevention kits (naloxone/Narcan) to individuals, first responders, and community organizations for use and distribution throughout the 30 counties of HHSC Region 2.

**Montague County agrees to support and assist in the following tasks:**

- Utilize Abilene Recovery Council services for clients and/or staff when appropriate.
- Provide consents for release of confidential information to Outreach Coordinators (OSAR counselors) and Abilene Recovery Council in order to ensure coordination of services for OSAR clients and assist in the continuum of care process when appropriate.
- Agree to comply with all state and federal laws, regulations, rules, procedures and policies regarding confidentiality and protection of client information and records, including, but not limited to: Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations Part 2 requirements (42 CFR Part 2), confidentiality requirements, Protected Health Information (PHI) transmission, and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance.
- Provide confidential office space for the Council's OSAR counselors to provide OSAR services when appropriate and mutually agreed upon by both organizations.
- Accept referrals from the Council for clients who qualify for services and coordinate with OSAR counselors to ensure OSAR clients are admitted in an appropriate and timely manner.
- Refer clients back to the Council's OSAR, PADRES, and/or RSS programs for continuum of care services to include interim services groups, and/or recovery support services when appropriate.
- Offer networking and coalition building assistance for community mobilization, environmental and social policy making, cross referral, and regional substance misuse treatment system issue resolution purposes.

**FISCAL YEAR 2022 GRANT PERIOD (September 1, 2021-August 31, 2022)**

Either party may terminate this MOU immediately without cause by furnishing the other party written notice of the date of termination to the appropriate contact party named herein or their designate.

Signature:

Karla Rose  
Karla Rose

Executive Director  
Abilene Recovery Council

Abilene Recovery Council Contact Person:  
Misty Ross-Finley, LMFT, LCDC  
OSAR Program Director  
940-224-6200

Signature:

Kevin L. Benton 10/9/21  
Date

Kevin L. Benton  
Printed Name

County Judge  
Title

Kevin L. Benton  
Key Contact Person

940-894-2401  
Telephone Number