

The Strategic Goals from FY 2022-2024 were implemented statewide. Progress was made as evidenced by OUD patients having accessibility to MAT services through SOR funding support in over 20 clinics across the state to purchase doses of FDA-approved OUD medications. Providers also received consultation services through the MAT Recovery Initiative for Arkansas Rural Communities (MATRIARC). The Arkansas Community Corrections also continued the MAT Reentry Project with OUD services for justice-involved populations. However, the Pulaski County program did not achieve its desired goal of sustained and re-entry services due to constraints within the justice system. Further progress was made with the passing of Act 811 in Arkansas in 2023. This legislation mandates all public schools have naloxone on site and shifted the focus for the Arkansas College Network (ACN) from developing a toolkit for reducing marijuana use to the distribution and training of Naloxone. Additionally, The UAMS Reynold's Institute on Aging (RIOA) continued their program of advocacy, education, and outreach regarding the impact of opioids on the aging and senior population, a population of focus. The Criminal Justice Institute and MidSOUTH provided OUD trainings and outreach to law-enforcement and first responders, medical providers including EMS, hospital staff, and primary care, as well safe storage and disposal of drugs at several Early Childhood Education facilities. Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) distributed Naloxone and trained hospital staff on the impact of opioids and overdose. Through SOR funding, Peer Recovery Specialists worked within justice-involved and primary care clinic settings through eight Peers Achieving Collaborative Treatment (PACT) programs. Development of the Advanced Methamphetamine Investigations training from the Criminal Justice Institute and several outreach and educational events in collaboration with MidSOUTH to educate the public and medical community on OUD were successful.

The SOR IV Strategic Plan for FY 2025-2028 is a statewide effort responding to the evolution of services expanding the continuum for issues related to substance use disorder, assisting providers in enrolling in Medicaid and building capacity for recovery services. Areas of focus includes the rural areas of the state, the underserved communities, maternal health, justice-involved populations, and youth and young adults (ages 16-25). Arkansas currently does not have a federally recognized Tribes or Tribal Organizations.

Strategic Objective 1: Develop, educate, and distribute culturally relevant prevention trainings and materials statewide.

Action Plan: Maintain above 50% of naloxone saturation across all 75 counties; Partner existing prevention providers in developing action plans for SOR and SUBG activities; Partner with ACN to continue the development and growth of colligate programs.

Strategic Objective 2: Develop full continuum of care for substance use services.

Action Plan: Develop the State Opioid Response IV application to move towards Medicaid sustainability for any applicable program; Partner with agencies inside DHS to develop braided funding for Specialized Women's Services programs, identify behavioral health disparities and collaborate for the use of assessments using the social determinants of health; Obtain CMS approval of the Reentry/IMD waiver; Develop policies for AR Medicaid for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) continuum of services. Including the use of ASAM criteria for residential SUD treatment.; Work with existing SUD service providers to prepare for AR Medicaid enrollment.

Strategic Objective 3: Refine and develop sustainable funding for substance use recovery services.

Action Plan: Develop a plan for movement to new contracting and funding to include AR Medicaid payment for sustainability; Update training and move certification from the AR DHS Division of Provider Support and Quality Assurance (DPSQA) to an external partner.