

Innovating and Leading Rural OUD Programming

[Stratis Health](#) is a Minnesota-based nonprofit that has improved health care quality and safety for over half a century in Minnesota and nationwide.

For 25 years, Stratis Health has led national efforts in rural health quality, and opioid use disorder (OUD) specifically since 2014. Our OUD work prioritizes communities and improving access to medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) treatment in rural hospitals, emergency departments, clinics, and jails.

Stratis Health's initiatives demonstrate strong alignment with the [CMS Rural Health Transformation Program](#) by:

- **Advancing behavioral health and OUD treatment** as foundational components of rural health transformation
- **Strengthening rural workforce capacity and retention** through scalable learning models
- **Supporting innovative, technology-enabled care delivery**
- **Improving system sustainability** across hospitals, clinics, correctional facilities, and community networks
- **Delivering measurable outcomes** that improve access and quality, and reduce health disparities in rural communities

Stratis Health currently leads OUD initiatives in Minnesota and nationally. Funders include the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the Minnesota Department of Health, county jails, community organizations, and health care organizations. Current and recent initiatives include:

- **Stratis Health Opioid Addiction in Rural (SOAR) Education and Treatment ECHO:** Expand access to and improve the quality of addiction treatment in hard-to-reach rural areas, including the use of MOUD through a bi-weekly case-based virtual learning model for clinicians and care teams.
- **Tackling Overdose with Networks (TOWN) Program:** Promote a rural clinic-based approach to reduce opioid overdose in communities using multiple interventions.
- **Building Bridges:** Assisted county correctional health care teams nationally in implementing medication-assisted treatment and enhancing collaboration between jails and community-based treatment providers across eight states.
- **Community Integration Rural Coordination Learning Embrace (CIRCLE) of OUD Care:** Advance coordinated provision of MOUD between rural hospitals, clinics, county correctional health, and community providers.
- **Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) Community Reentry Workflow and Data Mapping Project:** Train jail and community programming staff to develop reentry workflows for justice-involved individuals on MOUD after their release from jail to facilitate a smooth transition to community treatment resources and other social resources to support recovery.
- **MOUD (Medications for Opioid Use Disorder) in Minnesota Jails Project:** Improve access to MOUD in rural Minnesota county jails through workforce training and technical assistance for jail clinical staff, jail administrators, and corrections officers.

Stratis Health OUD Training and Technical Assistance Offerings

Stratis Health provides training and technical assistance for organizations working to improve care for those experiencing opioid use disorder by supporting health care clinicians and organizations, public health agencies, correctional health, and community organizations. Training and TA include:

Foundational Education Session (virtual, 90-minute session)

- This session includes a 101-level overview of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) and highlights relevant tools and resources.
- This plain-language session is for anyone who wants to learn more about MOUD.

One-Day Learning Intensive Session (in-person, six-hour session)

- Target audiences include clinicians and staff at health care facilities, public health agencies, and county jails, as well as community organizations.
- This session builds on our Foundation Education Session and delves deeper into OUD and its risks when untreated. Topics include:
 - How MOUD can mitigate risks, improve outcomes for individuals, and reduce costs (e.g., staff time, ED visits to manage substance withdrawals).
 - Practical and efficient strategies for implementing MOUD services within organizations.
 - The value of Peer Recovery supports MOUD programming to support OUD recovery.

Technical Assistance (in-person and virtual)

- 1:1 coaching and problem-solving to support complex clinical and operational implementation questions with our subject matter experts.
- Exclusive access to resources, protocols, policies, and tools that include care plans, screening questions, signs of withdrawal, and what staff can do about it, how to seek funding to support the cost of the program, and other helpful tools.
- Structured learning collaboratives and affinity groups with multiple sites and organizations pursuing shared goals
- Progress Assessments
 - Brief surveys of staff knowledge gain, implementation progress ratings, satisfaction with activities, and solicitation of desired training topics.
 - Customized reports for use in organizational improvement activities and to show program outcomes to potential funders (e.g., county commissioners).

We can partner with you to lead rural health transformation!

[Our rural health experts](#) are ready to team up with you. For more information, please reach out to Susan Severson at sseverson@stratishealth.org or 952-853-8538.