

**Missouri State Medical Association  
House of Delegates**

Resolution #10  
(A-20)

Introduced by:            Adrienne Visani, Medical Student, Washington University School of Medicine

Subject:                    Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in Correctional Facilities

Referred to:              Reference Committee A

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1       WHEREAS, Missouri’s rate of opioid overdose deaths per capita is higher than the national average  
2       and opioid misuse poses a significant public health risk including increased rates of bloodborne  
3       infections and neonatal abstinence syndrome<sup>1</sup>; and  
4  
5       WHEREAS, an estimated 65% of individuals in US prisons or jails meet criteria for a substance use  
6       disorder and an estimated 88% of individuals in Missouri prisons report substance misuse during the  
7       year preceding incarceration<sup>2</sup>; and  
8  
9       WHEREAS, incarcerated individuals with opioid and other substance use disorders have higher  
10      recidivism rates and are at a tenfold higher risk of overdose upon release compared to other  
11      incarcerated individuals<sup>3,4</sup>; and  
12  
13     WHEREAS, at least 430 incarcerated individuals have overdosed in Missouri prisons since May 2017  
14     and rates of in-prison overdoses are increasing, despite efforts by the Department of Corrections to  
15     prevent inmates from accessing narcotics<sup>5</sup>; and  
16  
17     WHEREAS, opioid agonist pharmacotherapies such as methadone and buprenorphine in conjunction  
18     with counseling (known as medication-assisted treatment or MAT), is considered to be the standard-  
19     of-care for long-term management of opioid use disorders and is endorsed by the National  
20     Commission on Correctional Health Care<sup>6</sup> and the World Health Organization<sup>7</sup> for use in individuals  
21     with opioid use disorder in correctional facilities; and  
22  
23     WHEREAS, forced detoxification or denying MAT to incarcerated individuals experiencing opioid  
24     withdrawal symptoms may be considered cruel and unusual punishment under the Eighth  
25     Amendment to the United States Constitution or a violation of the Due Process Clause of the  
26     Fourteenth Amendment<sup>8</sup>; therefore, be it  
27  
28     RESOLVED, that our Missouri State Medical Association will adopt policy congruent to the American  
29     Medical Association’s position, as stated in resolution H-430.987, to support legislation that (a)  
30     encourages or requires correctional facilities to assess incarcerated or detained individuals for  
31     opioid use disorder, (b) encourages or requires correctional facilities to make available evidence-  
32     based treatment for opioid use disorder, including initiation and continuation of Medication-

- 33 Assisted Treatment (MAT) in conjunction with counseling, to all incarcerated or detained individuals  
34 including pregnant women, or (c) expands funding for such assessment and treatment.

**Fiscal Note:**

**Current Policy:**

References

1. Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Bureau of Reportable Disease Informatics. *Missouri Opioid Overdose and Bloodborne Infection Vulnerability Assessments 2020*. Available at <http://health.mo.gov/data/opioids/assessments.php>.
2. Missouri Dept of Corrections. *Substance Use in Missouri Prisons*. Available at <https://doc.mo.gov/divisions/rehabilitative-services/substance-use>
3. Center on Addiction. *Behind Bars II: Substance Abuse and America's Prison Population*. (February 2010.) Available at <https://www.centeronaddiction.org/addiction-research/reports/behind-bars-ii-substance-abuse-and-america%E2%80%99s-prison-population>
4. Binswanger, I. A., Blatchford, P. J., Mueller, S. R., & Stern, M. F. (2013). Mortality after prison release: Opioid overdose and other causes of death, risk factors, and time trends from 1999 to 2009. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 159(9), 592-600.
5. Farzan, Shahla. "Missouri Inmates Are Overdosing on Drugs. How Are They Getting Them?" *St. Louis Public Radio* 12 Aug 2019. Available at: <https://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/missouri-inmates-are-overdosing-drugs-how-are-they-getting-them#stream/0>
6. National Commission on Correctional Health Care. *Position Statement: Substance Use Disorder Treatment for Adults and Adolescents*. Adopted October 2016. Available at: <https://www.ncchc.org/filebin/Positions/Substance-Use-Disorder-Treatment-2016.pdf>
7. World Health Organization. *Health in Prisons*. Available at [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/99018/E90174.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/99018/E90174.pdf)
8. Legal Action Center. *Legality of denying access to medication assisted treatment in the criminal justice system. (2011)* Available at [http://lac.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/MAT\\_Report\\_FINAL\\_12-1-2011.pdf](http://lac.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/MAT_Report_FINAL_12-1-2011.pdf)