Wisconsin Department of Corrections
Vivitrol Pilot for Opioid Addiction

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Background

Wisconsin State Council on Alcohol and other Drug Abuse (SCAODA) Prevention Committee’s Heroin

Wisconsin’s Heroin Epidemic: Strategies and Solutions, July 2014
Wisconsin State Council on Alcohol and other Drug Abuse (SCAODA) Prevention Committee’s Heroin Ad-hoc Committee released *Wisconsin’s Heroin Epidemic: Strategies and Solutions*, July 2014
SCOADA Recommendations

“Engage the Department of Corrections to ensure a system for providing interventions to incarcerated persons who have a substance use disorder (specifically heroin).”

“Pilot programs for the administration of Vivitrol to persons as they leave incarceration should be established.”
Support for a Vivitrol Program
One year recidivism rate
standard parole supervision with or without Vivitrol

Wisconsin’s Approach

Governor Walker’s 2015-17 Executive Budget Proposal included annual General Purpose Revenue (GPR) funding in the amount of $836,700 ($1,673,400 over the biennium) for an opioid addiction treatment pilot program within the Department of Corrections (DOC).

2015 Act 55 (2015-17 Biennial Budget) states: “Before January 1, 2016, the department of corrections shall submit to the joint committee on finance a request for the release of funds from the appropriation under section 20.865 (4) (a) of the statutes and a detailed plan for implementing a pilot program for treating offenders who have been assessed with an opiate addiction.”
Vivitrol

• Extended release naltrexone
• Once monthly intra-muscular injection
• Prevent relapse to opioid dependence after detoxification
• Approved for opioid dependence treatment in October of 2010
Benefits

• Administered once monthly by medical staff
• Decreases issues with patient compliance
• Long acting nature gives steady blood level and drug effectiveness
• Not divertible
• Outside of injection site reactions, minimal to no side effects
Risks

- The amount of heroin or other opioid needed to overcome the blockade of Vivitrol is such that the risk of overdose is very high
- May cause liver damage in some patients
- Very rarely cause an allergic pneumonia
- Patients taking opioids within 7 days of the injection who receive the injection can be put into abrupt withdrawal
Limitations to Expanded Use

• Expensive: Average cost $1100, variable insurance coverage
• Seven days opioid free before the first injection-difficult for patients to comply with
• Limited addiction medicine providers, even fewer providing Vivitrol
• Extended release makes acute pain management more difficult
The DOC project

• Pilot the project at facilities with early release/AODA programs to offenders with upcoming release dates
• Pilot the program to offenders on community supervision in the Department of Community Corrections.
Participation Guidelines

- Voluntary
- Addiction is present
- Medically cleared for the drug
- Offender must continue AODA treatments
- In DCC region 4 or releasing to region 4
Why Region 4?

- Significant rise in heroin use compared to other regions statewide
- According to the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratories, heroin cases analyzed in this region of the state increased 111% from 2012 (93 cases) to 2014 (196 cases).
- Concentrated volume of Addiction specialists and AODA services in this area
- Focus the pilot’s attention on one area before addressing the entire state
Challenges

Despite focusing on only 5 institutions and one DCC region there are still a large number of staff to coordinate.
Goals

• **Short-term goals:** Pilot participants receive AODA treatment and medication assisted treatment to abstain from opiate use.

• **Medium-term goals:** Reduce number of AODA-related probation violations. Decrease incidence of opioid-abuse relapse.

• **Long-term goals:** Reduce recidivism rates of program participants. Decrease rates of overdose among program participants.
Goal

Offer positive contributions to the public health crisis identified by the SCAODA report in 2014.