

# Outreach Partners

*Northern NJ MAT Center of Excellence*

Becky Cocito, LSW, Program Manager

Petros Levounis, MD, Medical Director



# Northern NJ Medication-Assisted Treatment Center of Excellence

## *Mission*

To increase statewide capacity to provide evidence-based care for patients with SUD, through:

- Mentoring and education;
- Developing novel and innovative models of service delivery
- Building working collaborations
- Research and quality improvement

## *Vision*

To end the stigma of addiction and to ensure that all people with substance use disorders have access to high-quality care so they may live full and satisfied lives.



# CARE Center: Comprehensive Addiction Resources & Education Center

- Medications for substance use disorder
- Co-occurring mental health disorder treatment
- Patient navigation
- Counseling
- Connection to community resources
- Incentives
- Assistance obtaining insurance



# Outreach Partners Program

- **Direct Services**

- Street Outreach
- Shelter-based activities
- In-home support
- Telemedicine Clinic

- **Education and Training**

- Statewide Learning Community
- Quarterly trainings
- Monthly learning circles
- Hands-on support for shelter staff to develop skills and knowledge around medications for addiction treatment (MAT)



# Direct Services Rollout



- Integration of new services into existing team activities
- Street Outreach
  - Hired 4 patient navigators (Community Coordinators)
  - Tabled at community events
  - Reconnected with community partners
- Shelter-Based Activities
  - Developed MOU with the City of Newark
  - Individually reached out to managers at emergency shelters and housing organizations around Newark
  - Began weekly visits to city shelters in April



# Direct Services Rollout (cont.)

- In-Home Support
  - Reached out to the Division of Family Assistance & Benefits (DFAB) to discuss opportunities. The administrative roadblock has inhibited moving this partnership forward
  - Shelter residents were not getting vouchers or referred to permanent housing (limited affordable housing in Newark)
- Telehealth Clinic
  - Telehealth services are already integrated into our CARE Center. Our providers can conduct telehealth visits as medically appropriate and clinically indicated



# Education and Training Rollout

- Statewide Learning Community
  - Hired full-time Training Support Specialist
  - Attended/taled training events with partner organizations and academic institutions
  - Defined “housing stakeholders”
- Quarterly Learning Collaborative Trainings
  - Advertise through COE newsletter, social media, and individualized outreach
  - Topics include patient engagement, staff self-care, structural competency, community partner appreciation



# Education and Training Rollout

- Monthly MOUD Learning Circles
  - Worked with the clinical team to connect with Essex/Newark-based housing organizations
  - Met with shelter managers in person or virtually to discuss the needs of each facility
- Hands-on support for shelters
  - Visited and connected with staff at shelters
  - “Meet them where they are”

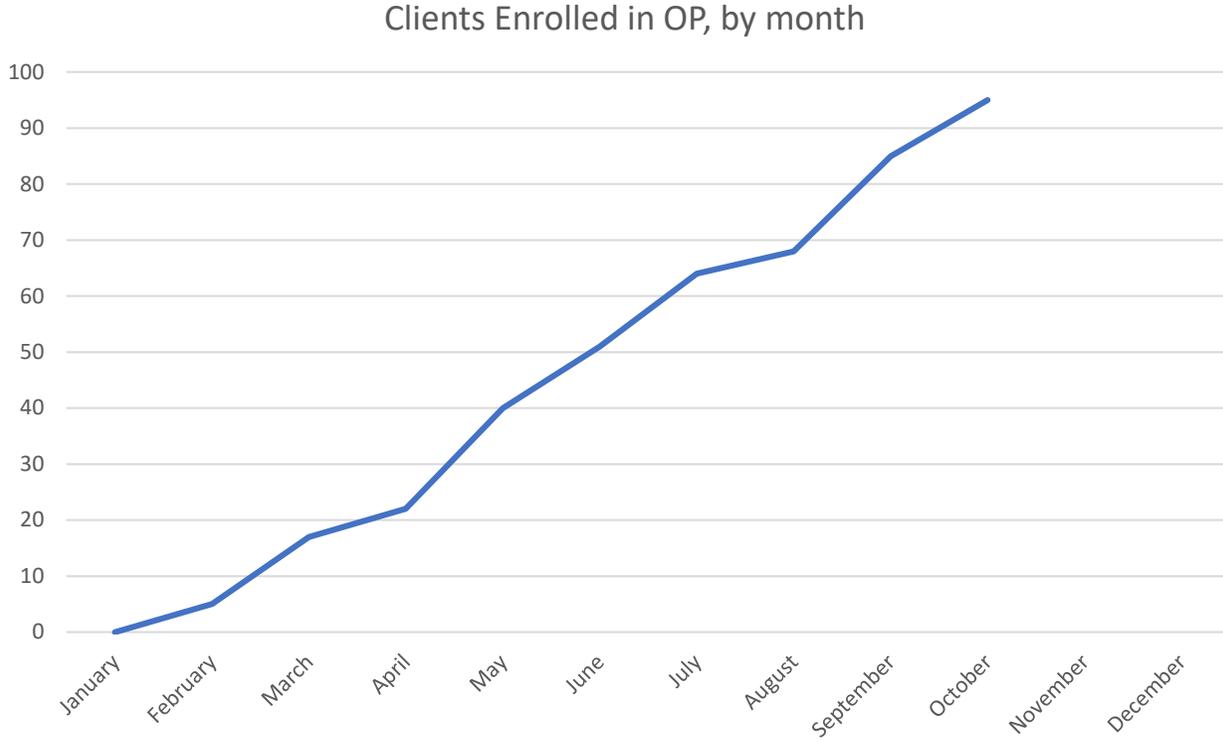


# Select Community Partners

- Better Life Recovery Center (emergency drop-in center)
- Bridges Outreach, Inc. (ID and social services)
- CareWell Health (hospital)
- Center for Great Expectations START Program (housing and SUD treatment, pre/post-natal care)
- City of Newark, Office of Homeless Services
- CURA Treatment Center
- Elev8 (detox/rehab facility)
- Essex County Correctional Facility
- Essex County Division of Community Action, Continuum of Care (CoC/CEAS)
- Kintock Newark Community Resource Center (reentry services)
- Integrity House, Inc. (OTP)
- New Directions Behavioral Health Center
- Newark Community Solutions (social/legal services)
- **Newark Community Street Team** (social Services)
- New Bridge Medical Center
- NJCRI: North Jersey Community Research Initiative (drop-in)
- **New Jersey HIV Housing Collaborative** (supportive and transitional housing)
- Newark Police Department, Hope One
- Patriot First Professional Services: Valor Program (housing and MAT)
- RealFix Paterson (connect to MAT)
- Silver Lake Medical Center
- UBHC Intensive Recovery Treatment Support
- UH Division of Ambulatory Services (Internal Medicine, Infectious Disease)
- UH Division of Community & Population Health (Hospital Violence Intervention Program, Trauma Recovery Center)
- UH Overdose Response Team
- United Community Corporation
- Veritas Recovery Services
- YMCA of Newark (housing)



# By the Numbers



# Benefits to Rutgers and Northern COE

- Expanded/deepened community partnerships
- Increased funding opportunities
- Increased new patient enrollment in our clinic
- Smoother referral process
- Better experience for our patients
- Rich learning opportunity for medical students
- Added research opportunities



# Any Questions?

<https://sites.rutgers.edu/mat-coe/>



@Rutgers\_ADM



@rutgersaddictionmedicine

Petros Levounis

Email: [levounpe@njms.rutgers.edu](mailto:levounpe@njms.rutgers.edu)

Becky Cocito

Email: [becky.cocito@rutgers.edu](mailto:becky.cocito@rutgers.edu)

