**Interview of Community Stakeholders in Rhode Island**

**INTERVIEW DETAILS**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** *(MM/DD/YYYY)*

**Interviewer’s initials: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Participant ID: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this study. This interview is completely voluntary, so please feel free to skip any question or stop the interview at any time. Please also feel free to ask questions at any time if anything is unclear. **Today, we will talk to you about medication for addiction treatment or “MAT”. By MAT, I mean treatment for opioid dependence that includes methadone, buprenorphine (Suboxone), or naltrexone (Vivitrol). We are interested in understanding what you think about MAT, the [detention center] MAT program, and a few other topics.** **The interview will last about an hour. Do you have any questions before we start?**

**ELIGIBILITY SCREENER**

1. **Are you currently employed by [community healthcare provider]?**
   * **Yes**
   * **No**
2. **Are you involved in the implementation, oversight, or provision of MAT in the community?**
   * **Yes**
   * **No**
3. **What organization are you employed by? What is your role in the organization?**

**Does participant meet the eligibility criteria for this study?**

* + **Yes**
  + **No**

**Did participant sign consent?**

* + **Yes**
  + **No**

**INTERVIEW PROTOCOL**

**Domain 1: Organizational Characteristics**

**SCRIPT: To begin, I have a few questions about your organization.**

1. What are the priorities and goals of your organization?
2. Do you believe the goals of your organization are being met? Why or why not?
3. Are staff in your organization supportive of new and innovative programs and practices?

*Prompt:* Do staff support innovation and change? If so, how do staff share belief that innovations in treatment (such as MAT) are effective and valuable for treating opioid use disorder in jail or prison? Why or why not?

1. Are members of leadership in your organization supportive of new or innovative programs? Why or why not?

**Domain 2: Knowledge and Attitudes about MAT**

**SCRIPT: Next, I have a few questions about your thoughts and perspectives on MAT in general.**

1. Based on your knowledge, what is MAT?
2. Do you believe the priorities and goals of MAT programs in the communities are being met?
3. What are your feelings about MAT?

*Prompt*: What kind of impact do you think MAT has on people who use it? What kind of impact do you think MAT has on communities?

1. In your opinion, what are the beliefs about MAT among the staff in your agency?

*Prompt*: Are the staff in your agency supportive/not supportive of MAT? What about the leadership?

1. What aids in the success of MAT?

*Prompt*: Do you feel as though MAT programs need to change? What changes would you suggest are in need of consideration? Has MAT improved/gotten worse over time? Do you think MAT will continue and develop (why/why not)?

1. What are barriers that impact the growth of MAT in the community?

*Prompt*: Are there any political barriers? Or issues with funding?

1. What have you heard from anyone who is currently or was enrolled in MAT about MAT in the communities?

*Prompt*: Did you learn something new in speaking with a program participant? If so, what did you learn? Did speaking with someone change your opinion about the MAT programs in communities? If so, how?

**Domain 3: Knowledge and Attitudes about the Formerly Incarcerated Population on MAT**

**SCRIPT: For this next section, we are only looking for your perspectives on MAT and serving people who were formerly incarcerated.**

1. What do you think people who were formerly incarcerated and on MAT at [detention center] need when they are preparing to be released from incarceration? What do you think they need when in the community?
2. What barriers to receiving MAT do formerly incarcerated individuals face in the community?
3. Can you describe your experience serving people who were formerly incarcerated?
   1. Has your experience changed after the [detention center] MAT Program was introduced? Has your experience been different with people who were in MAT at [detention center] compared to people who were not?
4. What have you heard from patients in the [detention center] MAT program about the program?

*Prompt*: Did you learn something new in speaking with a program participant? If so, what did you learn?

Did speaking with someone change your opinion about the [detention center] MAT program? If so, how?

1. Have you or anyone close to you been impacted by the **opioid epidemic**? If so, how? Has this experience informed your opinion about MAT? If so, how?
2. Have you or anyone close to you been impacted by **overdose**? If so, how? Has this experience informed your opinion about MAT? If so, how?

**(Skip Domain 4 if stakeholder is not employed by [community healthcare provider])**

**SCRIPT:** Thank you for your responses about the MAT program in the community. I am now going to ask you questions about behavioral action therapy (BAT). BAT is an evidenced-based cognitive behavioral therapy that is delivered by a trained counselor and helps individuals engage in enjoyable and meaningful life activities that do not involve drugs. The therapy also helps people improve their mood and manage life challenges that may place them at risk for relapsing. Members of our team would like to test if offering one-hour sessions of BAT for 6 to 10 weeks would help to prevent relapse and re-incarceration for patients from the [detention center] MAT program.

**Domain 4: Linking to Care Post-Release**

**Do you think there is a need for this type of therapy for [detention center] MAT patients, post-release?**

*Prompt:* Do you think it’s needed in light of the types of services that are available to individuals in the community?

**How likely do you think it’d be that patients from the [detention center] MAT program would participate in these therapy sessions as part of a paid research study?**

*Prompt:* Why do you think it would/would not be likely? What are some retention issues you foresee? If informant asks, the payment for each session would likely be $15.

**What are your thoughts on the study taking place at [community healthcare provider]?**

*Prompt:* From an institutional perspective, what do you think are some facilitators and barriers to hosting the study at [community healthcare provider] (e.g., willingness of staff and space to do the visit)? How about from the client perspective? (e.g., potential benefits of getting MAT and therapy at one location for [community healthcare provider] patients)

[For administrators only] **Are there social workers and/or psychologists at [community healthcare provider] who could be trained and paid to deliver these 1 hour, weekly sessions?**

*Prompt:* About how many staff are there with this type of training? How much available staff time do you think there is for training and delivery of the weekly sessions?

**Alternatively, what are your thoughts on having [detention center] MAT clients travel to [university] or [hospital] to receive the therapy from a non-[community healthcare provider] clinician?**

*Prompt:* Do you think clients will be able to get to these locations? What is your opinion on therapy delivery by a non-[community healthcare provider] clinician? If client cites transportation as a concern, inquire if transportation would still be an issue if public transit passes were provided.

1. **Providing [detention center] patients with 1 to 2 counseling sessions while in jail/prison could be helpful in preparing them to get released and continue with MAT in the community. Do you foresee any potential issues or challenges with having a counselor conduct 1-2 sessions in jail/prison?**

*Prompt:* What are some issues with the logistics of conducting visits in the jail/prison? This could include space to do visits, as well as feasibility of having a [community healthcare provider] vs. [university] clinician delivering the sessions.

**SCRIPT**: Again, thank you for your time today. Before wrapping up this interview, do you have any other thoughts on the [detention center] MAT program you’d like to share?

*Prompt*: Do you have any additional thoughts on ways the program can improve?

**SCRIPT:** To end, I have a few background questions.

**1. What is your age?** *[PPTAGE]*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [minimum value = 18]

**2. What is your gender?***[GEN]*

Male

Female

Nonbinary

Transgender

Something else: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [OTH]

Don’t know/Refused

**3. Are you of Hispanic or Latino decent?***[ETHNIC]*

Yes

No

Don’t know/Refused

**4. How would you describe your racial background?** *(Check only one). [RACE]*

American Indian or Alaska Native

Asian

Black, African, or African-American

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

White

Mixed, bi-racial, or multi-racial

Something else: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *[OTH]*

Don’t know/Refused

**5. What is the highest level of education that you have received?** *(Check only one).* *[EDUC]*

Elementary or grade school

Some high school

Finished high school or GED

Some college

Trade or technical school

College or university degree

Don’t know/Refused

**6. How many years have you been with your current employer?** *\_\_\_\_* *[EXP]*

**7. Which of the following best describe your position and role?**

[List the positions you expect to interview]

Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_