



Department

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For Immediate Release

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Adventist Health and Rideout Selected for Program to Expand MAT for Opioid Use Disorder *New Training Program Will Enable 31 Health Centers Statewide to Initiate Treatment on the Spot*

Marysville, California. (March 6, 2019) — *Adventist Health and Rideout* is among 31 health facilities in California selected to participate in an accelerated training program to provide around-the-clock access to treatment for substance abuse disorders.

Adventist Health and Rideout was selected to participate in the Public Health Institute's California Bridge Program, and will receive funding, training, and technical assistance to improve and increase access to facility-wide treatment and referral of acute symptoms of substance use disorders. The Bridge program is funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grant to the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

According to the California Department of Public Health, the rate of emergency room visits for all drug overdoses by Sutter County residents (166.17 per 100,000 residents) was 41 percent higher than the state average (117.28 per 100,000), and the rate of emergency room visits for all drug overdoses by Yuba County (150.4 per 100,000) residents was 28 percent higher than the statewide average in 2017. The death rate from overdoses in Yuba County exceeded the statewide average, while Sutter County's was below the statewide average.

In 2017, there were 90,293 opioid prescriptions written to Sutter County residents, a number equal to about 88 percent of the population, while there were 70,300 prescriptions written to Yuba County residents, a number equal to about 100 percent of the population.

"Creating this program in the Emergency Department means that anyone – anytime – can access evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder. Our aim is to stop withdrawal symptoms *now*, and then be able to bridge patients into an urgent follow-up appointment with a community doctor that can provide them with ongoing Medication-Assisted Treatment. We are partnering with several local primary care clinics and substance use treatment centers, and have hired a full-time Substance Use Navigator dedicated to working with patients every step of the way to assure that anyone and everyone who wants help, gets help." Eileen Morley, MD Adventist Health and Rideout ED Bridge Program Director



Though California ranks only 37th in the country for prescription opioid deaths, the death rates in 16 rural California counties are high enough to put them in the top 10 for the whole nation, and overdoses by synthetic opioids were up 44 percent in California in 2017.

A referral to an addiction treatment program has been the most that hospitals have generally been able to provide for patients identified as needing treatment for opioid use disorder. The Bridge model treats emergency rooms and acute care hospitals as a critical window for initiating treatment. When patients in opioid withdrawal come seeking medical care, including for reasons not related to opioid use, they will be offered a dose of medication such as buprenorphine to ease severe symptoms of withdrawal, and then they will be connected with outpatient treatment in the community. Studies have shown that patients given this option of medication designed for addiction treatment are more likely to remain in care than those who are given referral information alone.

“By suppressing withdrawal long enough to create a bridge for patients to enter and remain in treatment, physicians can save lives,” said Andrew Herring, MD, Director of Emergency Department Services for the Bridge program. “We know this model works, and now we are bringing it to hospitals and emergency rooms all across the state that are anxious for real solutions to address the enormous pain and suffering they see every day caused by the opioid epidemic.”

The 18-month California Bridge training program, with funding from the California Department of Health Care Services and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), aims to ensure that any interaction a patient has with the healthcare system can be a potential opportunity to enter into treatment. It approaches substance use disorder as a treatable chronic illness—creating an environment that welcomes disclosure of opioid use, provides rapid evidence-based treatment, and enables patients to enter and remain in treatment.

California Bridge Program Selected Sites Include:

Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital – Willits
Arrowhead Regional Medical Center – Colton
Contra Costa Regional Medical Center – Martinez
El Centro Regional Medical Center – El Centro
Hanford Community Hospital – Hanford
Highland Hospital – Oakland
Marshall Medical Center – Placerville
Olive View-UCLA Education & Research Institute – Los Angeles
San Geronio Memorial Hospital – Banning
Santa Clara Valley Medical Center – San Jose
Scripps Mercy Hospital – San Diego
St. Joseph Health & St. Mary's Medical Center – Apple Valley
St. Joseph's Medical Center – Stockton
UC Davis Health – Sacramento
UC San Diego Health – San Diego
The Wellness Center – Los Angeles

Adventist Health and Rideout – Marysville
Central California Faculty Medical Group – Fresno
Dignity Health Memorial Hospital – Bakersfield
Enloe Medical Center - Chico
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center – Torrance
Kaweah Delta Hospital Foundation – Visalia
Northern Inyo Hospital – Bishop
Shasta Regional Medical Center Prime Healthcare - Services – Redding
Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital – Santa Barbara
Santa Rosa Community Health Brookwood Campus – Santa Rosa
Sierra Nevada Memorial Miners Hospital – Grass Valley
St. Joseph Hospital – Eureka
Sutter Lakeside Emergency Department – Lakeport
UC Irvine Medical Center – Orange
UCSF Medical Center – San Francisco