

PUBLIC HEALTH & PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

GRAND ROUNDS

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A New Role for Departments' of Corrections: Public Purchaser and Regulator of Community Based Treatment

ABSTRACT

Funding for publicly funded community based treatment is often assumed to be through the Single State Agency (SSA). However, many Departments of Corrections (DOC) also purchase treatment within the community, often funding the same providers. Our previous research in one state (Kubiak & Arfken, 2007) suggests that these purchases may lead to different regulations and result in different behaviors at the provider level. The aim of this study is to describe the national pattern of DOCs as purchasers of community based treatment for offenders as a first step in examining these distinct systems. According to SSA administrators, 23 states have experienced increased treatment funding for offenders in past two years. Within the US, there are a myriad of systems for purchasing community treatment for offenders but it is not clear which system is superior and how public systems integrate resources and data. Data sharing and comparative studies are needed to examine impact on processes and outcomes. Our current study embarks on a six state case study to examine these issues. Supported by Robert Wood Johnson Substance Abuse Policy Research Program.

Food and beverages will be provided.