


THE MONITOR



The New Mexico Monitored Treatment Program

Quarterly Newsletter

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Summer 2005

Changes Made at MTP

Changes in the operations of MTP are underway, as a result of a series of events that reflected a need to make changes to the program. These changes will not effect those nurses who are involved in the drug screen coordination program for the Board of Nursing or the Nurse Diversion Program.

For the past several years, MTP staff have been looking at the program and how it could be improved. One major issue identified, was a conflict of the therapists facilitating group, and being compliance monitors. Some participants had expressed concerns regarding information being shared in the MTP groups and how that information might be affect his or her monitoring. It had also been discussed by the group therapists and the medical director, the difficulty in being effective as a treatment provider when also being a compliance monitor and reporting agent.

The concerns of the staff lead to an independent evaluation done during the winter of 2004-05 by Yvonne Garber, LCSW of Garber & Associates. Ms. Garber provided the results of her evaluation to the MTP staff and the MTP Board of Directors on February 2, 2005. Her report identified the same concerns of the staff and several other major issues that, she believed were impacting the quality of services the program offered. She felt the foundation of the program was very good and services were of high quality, but changes were necessary to improve the program, ensure longevity, and to provide more comprehensive services both to the individual participant and to the health care community. As a result of these events, the MTP staff, through our program retreat process, began looking at the recommendations made by Ms. Garber and how MTP might institute those changes.

In May of this year, the New Mexico Medical Board published a request for proposals(RFP) to provide a comprehensive physician health program, as the current contract held by MTP would expire on June 30, 2005. MTP wrote a proposal in response to RFP. The scope of services requested in the RFP were considerably different from previous RFPs. MTP outlined how the requested services would be provided. The proposal made by MTP encompassed both the recommendations made by Ms. Garber in her evaluation and the specific requests made by the Medical Board. Thus a major change in MTP.

One of the most significant changes will be MTP becoming a statewide program. There will be population centers developed around the state to provide services that encompass a 150 mile radius of the population

see changes page 2

Summer Issue

**President/CEO; Tim Grenemyer D.O.; President Elect Robert Lucero DDS; Secretary/Treasurer Randy Marshall
Immediate Past President Ernest Dole, Pharm D.**

**Executive Director: Jon Thayer, MA, RN, CARN; Medical Director: Daniel A. Collins MD;
Clinical Director Connie Merrell-McDonald LADAC, LPCC, LPAT
Program/outreach Assistant Nancy Lewis; Office Assistant Robyn Kusiciel**

centers. These centers will be: Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Farmington, Taos, Las Cruces, Silver City, Roswell, and Clovis. Although MTP will not have satellite offices, MTP will provide services similar to those in Albuquerque if there are enough MTP participants to warrant the services, otherwise MTP will provide substitute services. MTP staff will periodically be in the various population centers to meet with MTP participants, referral sources and local medical services.

MTP will be changed from a treatment model to an employee assistance model program. MTP will provide assessment, referral, treatment planning, monitoring and reporting. The treatment component, most commonly known as “group”, will still be an integral part of the program, however instead of being an internal function of MTP, it is contracted to providers. Thus responding to the concerns of both the participants and the facilitators of the group.

Each participant will have an individualized treatment plan that incorporates referrals that MTP staff, along with the participant, believes is the most appropriate treatment plan for the participant. These referrals include group, individual therapy, or other forms of treatment, depending on resources available in your area, your diagnosis, and progress in “recovery”. There will not be a “cookie-cutter” approach.

MTP staff will see participants on a periodic basis. (excluding nurse diversion and board of nursing clients). Those participants who have been involved in MTP will have an initial meeting with the staff for contract review and treatment plan development. Most participants will then be seen quarterly at their assigned population center. Treatment plan development will include, at what stage of recovery a participant is at, and what needs are identified and how those needs can be met. New referrals will be asked to come to Albuquerque for the initial assessment. Once a treatment plan has been developed, the staff will then follow-up with the participant in his or her assigned population center.

The random drug screen program will not be changed in the near future. It will continue as a color coded call in system. So those of you who are only doing drug screen testing will meet with MTP staff, periodically, when the staff are in your population center.

Another major change will be the marketing and outreach of the program to the health care community. There will be a major effort to educate and assist organizations in the identification, intervention, referral, monitoring and re-entry of health professionals participating in MTP. MTP staff will provide consultation to these organizations. Additionally, MTP will provide education and referral services to associations, boards and education centers.

There will be cost associated with the new program. The Medical Board is not expected to provide administrative funding for all health professionals. MTP will work to get other regulatory boards to provide funding for their licensees but until they do, each health professional (except physicians, physician assistants, medical students) will be expected to pay an administrative fee. These fees will be established on the amount of earning potential of the profession. Boards who only minimally fund MTP will result in the participant paying a portion of the administration fee. It is hoped that at some point in the distant future, the program could be at minimal cost to the participant. All participants pay for treatment services including, but not limited to, intensive treatment, counseling group, drug screen testing, therapies, etc. MTP staff will work with participants health plans as much as possible.

Although change is difficult for everyone, often change is necessary to continue providing services and to improve the services. The changes at MTP are to provide a more comprehensive service to the health professional. A program that gives the participant control over his or her success in the program, a comprehensive monitoring file that supports the participants activities and rehabilitation, or for intervention when a participant is non-compliant and an opportunity to address issues that might be problematic in having a successful record of rehabilitation. MTP staff welcomes feedback and suggestions on how our services might assist you better. We look forward to working closely with you and providing services that work for you.



**MTP RANDOMLINE 271-0800 or 1-800-431-0090
or 341-8320 direct
RANDOM DRUG SCREEN MESSAGE IS RECORDED BY 6 A.M.**

Meet the Staff

Daniel A. Collins, Medical Director, signed a contract on August 1, 2005, after a six month, nationwide search. Dr. Collins is certified in addiction medicine, psychiatry and neurology, and soon will be certified as a Medical Review Officer (MRO). His experience includes working with the Department of Defense in both psychiatry and alcohol/drug programs, Veterans Administration and Department of Corrections.

Connie Merrell, Clinical Director, began in the newly developed position on July 1, 2005. Ms. Merrell is a licensed mental health counselor, licensed substance abuse counselor, licensed art therapist and certified employee assistant professional. She previously work for MTP as a contract therapist and as the family program therapist. She previously worked for Megellan as employee assistant area supervisor for the Postal Service in New Mexico.

Jon Thayer, Executive Director, has worked for MTP for the past nine years. He is a registered nurse with certification in addiction nursing. He has a masters degree in behavioral sciences with emphasis on workplace behaviors. He was the Program Director for the Health Professional Diversion Program in California for ten years prior to moving to New Mexico.

Nancy Lewis, program and outreach assistant has worked for MTP for the past eight years. She has an extensive background in medical office administration and is a retired radiology technician.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- The random message is online by 6 am
Always call the MTP office prior to coming by for reasons other than group meetings or appointments.
- All participants need to call MTP with out of town dates prior to going out of town.
- All payments to MTP are due on the 15th of the month unless prior arrangements have been made. A late fee is applied if payment is not received by the 25th of the month. Credit card payments are welcome.
- Be sure your **MTP number is on your drug screen requisition or it might not get processed.**

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

When making a credit card payment be sure to include the CWS # which is a 3 or 4 digit number on the back of the card.

MTP PROVIDES EDUCATION

MTP staff is available to provide health care organizations with lectures, presentations and training sessions relating to health professionals & substance abuse. Brochures and information packets are available. Contact MTP @ (505) 271-0800 or by e-mail @ MTP@swcp.com

NETWATCH

- There are many places on the internet and world wide web where information about chemical dependency, recovery, mental health, health and medicine can be found. Some may be of interest while some others may not. Information will be updated as it is made available to us. If you have any website information, please pass it on to us. mtp@swcp.com **Updated 8/20/05**
- **MTP:** www.monitoredtreatment.com
- **NM Medical Society:** www.nmms.org/nmms
- **State physician health programs:** www.fsphp.org
- **Gamblers anonymous:** www.gamblersanonymous.org
- **NIDA-What's new:** www.nida.nih.gov/whatsnew.html
- **Mayo Health Info:** www.mayohealth.org
- **Books That Change Lives;** from the Life Issues Publisher www.hci-online.com
- **International Nurses Society on Addictions**
http://www.intnsa.org
- **American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Peer Assistants Page** www.aana.com/peer
- **On line physician's support group** by Jeffrey Roth
ww.workingsobriety.com
- **Joint Commission** www.jcaho.org
- **Office of Diversion Control**
www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubs/brochures/drug_hc.htm

MTP is not responsible for information on the websites listed here. It is just providing the site address for you.



For Information Call (505) 271-0800

MONITORING

CONSULTATION

EDUCATION

EVALUATIONS

CONTINUING CARE TREATMENT

MTP PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING SERVICES FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS:

MTP

**11930 Menaul Blvd, NE, Suite 102
Albuquerque, NM 87112**

Inside this issue: Summer 2005

- **A New MTP**
- **Meet the staff**
- **Announcements**