

Saginaw, Michigan—Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC)

Session Date: January 18, 2024

Summary

A non-public listening session was held on January 18, 2024, with justice-impacted individuals.

The session was held in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC)¹ and included individuals currently supervised by probation services (MDOC) within Saginaw County.

The listening session was approximately 90 minutes in length and held at time that aligned with existing group programming (MDOC). The session was held at the MDOC field office, located within the 48601 ZIP code; Saginaw County.² The session was offered in hybrid format and included both in-person and virtual options for participation. Approximately 9 attendees were present, with most individuals sharing personal and/or familial lived experience with substance use, substance use disorder(s), and/or mental health conditions. All participating individuals were considered “justice-impacted” and had current involvement with the criminal-legal system.

Attendees were provided a brief overview of the Opioid Advisory Commission (OAC) and the Community Voices initiative. Facilitation format and participation expectations were discussed at the beginning of the session. Session structure was flexible, allowing for roundtable discussion, with voluntary participation, as desired. Clarifying questions from the OAC facilitator were permitted by the group. Attendees were provided with the following considerations for discussion:

Your experience—*What would you like to share about your experience(s)?
Professionally and/or personally*

Your observations—*What are you seeing in your community?
Strengths/Benefits; Needs/Gaps*

Your input—*How should the State be spending [state share] opioid settlement dollars?*

Your questions—*What questions do you have for the Opioid Advisory Commission or state government officials?*

¹ <https://www.michigan.gov/corrections>

² “48601” ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) ranked in the 96.9th percentile, per the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Use Vulnerability Index (2020 MI-SUVI ZCTA Results); noting Saginaw County ranked in the 74th percentile (2020 MI-SUVI County Results).
<https://www.michigan.gov/opioids/category-data>

The following themes were identified from discussion with participating attendees. The "Recommendations" category was developed by OAC staff to capture thematic elements shared during the MDOC/Saginaw listening session.

Recommendations

- **Increase local housing options**, especially recovery housing and sober living.
- **Ensure monitoring and oversight of all housing providers**, especially those providing recovery housing and/or sober living.
- **Establish and ensure [housing] provider adherence to minimum standards** for safety and security.
- **Establish and expand specialized housing options for justice-impacted individuals** that include ancillary case management services, linkage to peer recovery support networks, transportation supports, and access wraparound services.
- **Increase transportation options and ensure linkage to transportation supports** for justice-impacted individuals. Ensure that individuals involved in the criminal-legal system, especially those currently involved in treatment courts/problem-solving courts and/or community supervision (probation/parole) have sufficient resources for transportation.
- **Establish and expand wraparound services for justice-involved individuals;** ensure support for case management, transportation, employment, recovery, housing, and health/behavioral health.
- **Ensure provider understanding of justice-involvement**, including stigma and barriers encountered in housing, transportation, employment, court, and behavioral health treatment sectors.
- **Ensure culturally responsive care for justice-impacted individuals**, including provider understanding of trauma, multi-systems involvement, complex needs, substance use disorder (SUD), mental health conditions, co-occurring needs.
- **Ensure delivery of trauma-informed care to justice-impacted individuals**, delivered in all key recovery, legal, health, and behavioral health sectors. Ensure that both local and state correctional facilities receive ongoing training on trauma-informed care.
- **Expand mental health, SUD, and recovery supports in local and state correctional facilities.**
- **Ensure access to medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD), medication assisted treatment (MAT) within local and state correctional facilities**
- **Ensure access to necessary medications, upon community transition** ("re-entry"; "release"); ensure that individuals receive prescriptions for or continuity of necessary medications, including psychiatric medications, upon release from local/state correctional facilities.
- **Increase provider education on MOUD** and ensure that hospital systems, including local emergency departments, have knowledge of MOUD and offer options for linkages to care.
- **Increase recovery support services and expansion of peer professionals** within correctional, court, criminal-legal, health, behavioral health, housing, and recovery settings.