Substance use disorder reform

• Minnesota is working to reform our substance use disorder (SUD) treatment system.

• SUD reform seeks to provide the right level of service at the right time and to treat addictions like any other chronic health condition.
SUD reform efforts are the product of years of planning and stakeholder input, culminating in reforms passed during the 2017 legislative session.

More information about SUD reform efforts

- 2012: Legislation creates steering committee, Substance Abuse Strategy formed
- 2013: Model of Care Report
- 2014: Model of Care Pilots
- 2015: Listening Session, Summary Report
- 2016: Community meetings, Workgroups, Recommendations
- 2017: SUD reforms passed, Community meetings
Rule 25 changes

• Moving away from “Rule 25” to direct access is part of the reform.

• “Direct access” means allowing individuals to go directly to providers to receive an assessment for substance use disorder treatment.
Current process

• The current process for accessing treatment is for a person to get a “Rule 25 assessment” from a placing authority (county, tribe or managed care organization), who then authorizes a treatment placement.

• A rule 25 assessment is a process where a trained individual assesses the individual for whether they need substance use disorder treatment services.
Challenges with the current system

• People have to wait up to 20 days to receive a Rule 25 assessment.
Wait times must be reduced

• Timing is critical for someone seeking treatment.
• We need to get people into treatment as soon as possible.
• We need to help reduce possible negative health, safety and social consequences of untreated SUD.
• To get treatment, individuals will get an assessment by a licensed alcohol and drug counselor or by an individual with another license that includes addictions counseling.

• In other words, they will likely go directly to a treatment program for an assessment. This is “direct access.”
Benefits of the new system

- Up to 20 days less wait time for treatment.
The transition

• July 1, 2018 to July 1, 2020 will be a transition from the old system to a new system.

• During the transition, we will be running both processes while we build up to the capacity to do direct access state-wide.

• This means that for those two years, a person can go to a provider for a comprehensive assessment or get a Rule 25 assessment from a placing authority.

More information on the timeline
Going forward

• Some providers and counties will be poised to be early implementers beginning almost immediately after this date.

• However, other counties and providers will be in different circumstances and this timeline might be too ambitious.

• So even while the new process is gradually phasing in, the existing placing authority system will continue in place.
Role of the county

• Initially, as we run the Rule 25 process parallel to the new direct access process, some counties will continue to provide Rule 25 assessments.

• During that time, counties may choose to become eligible vendors for comprehensive assessments and treatment coordination.
Role of the county (cont.)

- Each county will be in a position to make its own determination to what extent it will provide these new services.

- Counties that choose to become eligible vendors of comprehensive assessments will also receive reimbursement for each assessment they complete.

- The county will continue to be responsible for a share of the cost of SUD services when the comprehensive assessment is used for placement.
Conclusion

That’s the big picture for Rule 25 and the transition to direct access. By working together, we can help more people get the right care at the right time.

• For detailed information, see Moving to Direct Access: in Depth

• More information about SUD reform is available at the SUD Reform Page at of the DHS Website.

• Questions or comments? YourOpinionMatters.DHS@state.mn.us
Thank you!

Learn more about substance use disorder treatment reform