

Federal and Model State Warm Hand-Off Legislation

How NAMSDL's model warm hand-off act complements and strengthens the "SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act" (Pub. L. 115-271)

Warm Hand-Off Provisions in the "SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act" (Sections 7081 and 7121)



Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to facilitate the development of best practices for:

- emergency treatment of known or suspected drug overdoses
- using recovery coaches to encourage overdose survivors to seek treatment for substance use disorders
- coordinating and continuing care and treatment after a drug overdose



Establishes a grant program to support implementation of voluntary programs for care and treatment of individuals after a drug overdose that includes:

- withdrawal and detoxification services
- using recovery coaches to help support recovery
- establishing policies and procedures to support long-term treatment, prevent relapse and reduce recidivism and future overdose
- establishing integrated models of care



Establishes a grant program to enable operation of comprehensive opioid recovery centers that will provide, among other things:

- intake, evaluation and periodic patient assessments meeting individualized clinical needs
- the full continuum of treatment services
- patient assessments to support sustained and clinically-significant recovery
- onsite access to medication and toxicology services
- family support service offerings to stabilize affected families

NAMSDL's Model Act Providing for the Warm Hand-off of Overdose Survivors to Treatment:

Directs the single state authority on drugs and alcohol to collaborate with state/local agencies to ensure that emergency services personnel and emergency departments are trained on and follow the most effective practices for successfully transferring stabilized overdose survivors to appropriate treatment and recovery support services. These practices include the use of intervention services (which can include recovery coaches) to encourage survivors to accept treatment.

Directs the single state authority on drugs and alcohol to aggressively pursue federal funding opportunities to support a state grant program covering warm hand-off initiatives, including the development of Overdose Stabilization and Warm Hand-Off Centers ("OSWHCs"), based on proven integrated care models established by WestCare Foundation in Nevada.

Creates a task force to develop and implement state OSWHCs, which are staffed locations that:

- can medically oversee the stabilization of overdose survivors;
- begin detoxification;
- engage survivors with intervention specialists;
- complete full addiction assessment;
- connect and refer survivors to all modalities and levels of treatment, including MAT; and
- address the needs of survivors' families and children, including using them in the engagement and treatment of the survivor.