

Substance and Mental Health Programs



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

MISSION

To protect Georgians by operating secure facilities and providing opportunities for offender rehabilitation.

Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner

Alan Watson, Chief of Staff

Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner Inmate Services Division

The Inmate Services Division is responsible for overseeing Academic Education, Chaplaincy, Office of Reentry Services, Substance Abuse, Transitional/Reentry Services, and Vocational Education. Substance and Mental Health treatments were created to assist offenders who have substance use and/or mental health disorders.

RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAM (RSAT)

OVERVIEW

The Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) programs have been in existence for more than ten years and were created to help offenders return to society as law-abiding, self-supporting, pro-social citizens, thereby reducing recidivism.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- A nine-month, highly structured program targeting high risk, high needs offenders nearing release, probationers sentenced by the courts, parole revocations, and other court or GDC-referred offenders who have a need for intensive substance abuse programming
- Offenders have a history of substance abuse, which was the causative factor to their correctional supervision
- Offenders involved are in an intensive, highly structured residential therapeutic treatment community comprised of peer groups and counselors
- The community is responsible for helping offenders work together under the authority and supervision of staff.
- Program incorporates process and psycho-educational groups, individual counseling, work details, and vocational education
- Offenders balance work with intensive individual and group counseling sessions
- Offenders are subject to random drug screening

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- Requires a court-order
- Offenders may have an assessed need as identified by the Next Generation Assessment (NGA) or placement by professional override
- Minimum of 18-24 months on Tentative Parole Month (TPM), Parole Eligibility Date (PED), or probation supervision
- Unsuccessful completion of Aftercare/Day Reporting Center (DRC)/RSAT
- Short-term incarceration graduated sanctions
- Rearrest/Reoffend associated with substance use after completion of above programs

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

- Coastal State Prison, Savannah, Ga
 - 316 male offenders
 - CAT 2 offenders (inmates sentenced two years or less)
- Johnson State Prison, Wrightsville, Ga
 - 384 male offenders
- Pulaski State Prison, Hawkinsville, Ga
 - 96 female offenders
- Valdosta State Prison, Valdosta, Ga
 - 128 male offenders (parole revocations)

INFORMATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

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INTEGRATED TREATMENT FACILITY

OVERVIEW

In July 2012, GDC opened two Integrated Treatment Facilities (ITF), one female facility located in Zebulon and one male facility located in Baxley. ITF's were created to treat offenders with a history of both substance use and mental health disorders. The GDC is the first corrections system in the nation to implement integrated treatment for female offenders who suffer from both mental health disorders and substance use.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- A nine-month, highly structured program that actively combines interventions intended to address both mental health and substance use issues in persons with co-occurring disorders with the intention of treating both disorders, related problems, and the whole person more effectively
- Provides an intensive, highly structured residential therapeutic treatment community
- Participants work within intensive individual and group counseling sessions
- Offenders are subject to random drug screening

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- Screening assessment to include risk-needs-responsivity
- Individualized treatment
- On-going monitoring of mental health symptoms
- Illness Management
- Cognitive Behavioral Treatment programs
- Trauma-focused treatment
- Psycho-educational, therapy and cognitive restructuring groups
- Motivational Interviewing
- Relapse Prevention
- Medication Assisted Therapies
- Psychopharmacologic Interventions and Illness Management
- Problem-solving skills
- Dual recovery
- Mutual self-help recovery
- Reentry plan to include a Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP)

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

- West Central ITF, Zebulon, GA
 - 138 female probationers
- Appling ITF, Baxley, GA
 - 200 male probationers

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- Requires a court-order
- Requires an assessment by NGA or professional override
- Current mental health and substance abuse treatment
- Current prescription of psychotropic medication(s)
- History of mental health and substance abuse treatment within six months of intake/referral
- Unsuccessful Completion at DRCs; Accountability Courts (Mental Health and/or Drug Courts); RSAT programs, and Aftercare Services

TYPES OF DISORDERS

- Co-Occurring: (Dual Diagnosis) the occurrence of a substance abuse problem with a psychiatric disorder.
- Psychiatric: a mood disorder such as depression or bipolar disorder
- Substance use: Use and dependence on alcohol, amphetamines, caffeine, inhalants, nicotine, prescription medications (such as sedatives), opioids (morphine, heroin), marijuana, cocaine, hallucinogens, and/or phencyclidine (known as PCP)
- Substance-induced: include intoxication, withdrawal and various mental states (dementia, psychosis, anxiety, mood disorder) in which the substance induces when used

INFORMATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

PROBATION RSAT (PSAT)

OVERVIEW

The Probation Substance Abuse Treatment Center (PSATC) is a 9-month RSAT program for probationers

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- Requires a court-order
- Unsuccessful completion of Aftercare/Day Reporting Center (DRC)/RSAT
- Short-term incarceration graduated sanctions
- Rearrest/Reoffend associated with substance use after completion of above programs

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

- Bainbridge PSATC - Bainbridge, GA
 - 384 male probationers
- Bleckley RSAT - Cochran, GA
 - 200 female probationers
- Coastal State Prison - Savannah, GA
 - 120 male probationers
- Northwest PSATC - Rock Springs, GA
 - 200 male probationers
- Paulding RSAT - Dallas, GA
 - 200 male probationers
- Turner RSAT - Sycamore, GA
 - 200 male probationers

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