BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTATION, PART 2:

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• Describe **three strategies to overcoming common internal program barriers** to implementing an effective MAT program

• Identify **three types of community partnerships** that can improve outcomes for those engaged in MAT

• List **three policy issues** related to MAT that impact both providers and patients
POLICY BRIEF FINDINGS

• Significant increases in both prescribers and patients at all health centers, as well as HCHs

• Patient need and care model likely drive focus on this service

• Many strategies exist to overcome common challenges

Check out this awesome resource!
SUCCESSFUL STRATEGY #1

• Building organizational support and buy-in

  → Identify champions within the program who will advocate for MAT and obtain support from leadership and staff

  → Consult with more experienced programs to share lessons learned and address concerns

  → Acknowledge concerns about diversion but also acknowledge harm reduction aspect
SUCCESSFUL STRATEGY #2

• Providing staff training and support

  → Provide **training** to clinicians who lack expertise in treating OUD

  → Engage staff throughout the organization and foster **coordination** between primary care and behavioral health

  → Dedicate **administrative staff** to alleviate burden and allow for more patient care

  → Set **expectations** for MAT and recruit already-waivered providers
SUCCESSFUL STRATEGY #3

- Considering program flexibility
  
  → Modify internal systems to increase capacity and facilitate patient engagement

  → Adopt a more flexible approach to the therapy component
SUCCESSFUL STRATEGY #4

• **Building community partnerships and resources**

  → Work with community partners to reduce barriers to treatment (*this includes policymakers!*)

  → Maximize funding and training resources to initiate and expand MAT programs
DISCUSSION

• What is your biggest barrier to moving forward right now?
• How are you engaging your policymakers?
• What’s working well for you?
• Describe a strategy that you tried that did NOT work. What did you learn from that experience?
COUNCIL RESOURCES

- Numerous policy briefs, webinars, clinical guidelines, and fact sheets available
  - Medication-Assisted Treatment: Buprenorphine in the HCH Community
  - Medication-Assisted Treatment: Changes in Federal Law & Regulation
  - The SPOT: Boston’s New Harm Reduction Program for Opioid Users Forges New Ground (webinar)
  - Addressing the Opioid Crisis: Medication-Assisted Treatment at Health Care for the Homeless Programs (with Kaiser Family Foundation)
  - Addressing the Opioid Epidemic: How the Opioid Crisis Affects Homeless Populations (fact sheet)
  - Adapted Clinical Guidelines: Recommendations for the Care of Homeless Patients with Opioid Use Disorders