

# **South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS)**

## **Mission**

The mission of DAODAS is to ensure the availability and quality of a continuum of substance use services, thereby improving the health status, safety, and quality of life of individuals, families, and communities across South Carolina.

## **Governance**

DAODAS operates under the leadership of its Director, who is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the South Carolina Senate.

## **State Law**

The agency is referenced in numerous sections of the Code of Laws, but DAODAS was created under S.C. Code Ann. 1.30-10(A) and reports to the Governor, as a cabinet agency, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 1-30-10(B).

## **Brief Overview of the Department**

Currently, the 36 employees of DAODAS oversee a total budget of \$75 million in state and federal funds that are used to address the more than \$700 billion in annual costs exacted on the state by the use of illicit drugs and the misuse of alcohol and tobacco. These costs are related to crime, lost work productivity, and healthcare expenses.

Recognizing the need for direct services for the general public, as well as for specific high-risk groups, DAODAS contracts for a wide array of prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services through a community-based system of care. DAODAS subcontracts with 32 county alcohol and drug abuse authorities to provide the majority of direct services to citizens in all 46 counties of the state. The department also contracts with a range of public and private service providers to address substance use disorders throughout South Carolina. The agency has expanded its partners to include 23 opioid treatment programs, six recovery organizations, and 74 community distributors of Narcan<sup>®</sup>. Since the county alcohol and drug abuse authorities were created in 1973, these local agencies have provided intervention and treatment services to more than 3 million South Carolinians and touched the lives of countless individuals and families through the many prevention activities coordinated and provided by this system.

DAODAS estimates that approximately 451,000 individuals in South Carolina are suffering from substance-related problems that require immediate intervention and treatment. With a problem of this magnitude, the department must continue to ensure that individuals and families access the vital core services provided through the statewide system of county alcohol and drug abuse authorities (i.e., DAODAS' local provider network), as well as other public and private contractors. During fiscal year 2019-20 (FY20), DAODAS and its provider network delivered services to 46,839 South Carolina citizens.

## **Planning**

As the Single State Agency (SSA) for Substance Abuse Services recognized by the federal

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), DAODAS is responsible for developing a comprehensive plan for service delivery and capturing data describing the services provided. DAODAS does this in a number of ways. Each year, the agency requires a strategic plan to address alcohol and other drug issues from each county alcohol and drug abuse authority. These plans are required to follow the strategic prevention (or planning) framework and must consider the most updated data available for a needs assessment. As DAODAS understands each county's unique needs, capacity, and strategies to address substance use issues, the agency then creates a state plan for service delivery supported by federal and State funds available through DAODAS. Additionally, DAODAS supports the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW), composed of statisticians, epidemiologists, and data holders across State agencies. The SEOW's annual reports on prevalence and burden of substance use in South Carolina inform priorities for planning and are shared with stakeholders statewide. Finally, DAODAS co-leads the state's Opioid Emergency Response Team that develops and manages the emergency plan to address the opioid epidemic across sectors in South Carolina.

### **Managing the Federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant**

DAODAS manages the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG), which is administered by SAMHSA. The SABG serves as the cornerstone of the publicly funded service delivery system and helps ensure that all individuals receive the prevention, treatment, and recovery services that they need. The SABG serves as an efficient mechanism through which federal resources can be invested into substance use disorder services. DAODAS uses SABG funds in a flexible manner to address all substance use disorders, utilizing state-level data and trends to inform their allocation decisions.

### **Reporting Data**

The SABG requires states to collect and report data describing the services and programs supported by the funding. These data include information on the number and characteristics of people served by the SABG. In addition, DAODAS collects and reports performance outcome data to help demonstrate the positive impact that services have on:

- reducing the use of alcohol and other drugs;
- employment; and
- criminal justice involvement.

### **Managing Other Substance-Specific and Programmatic Grants**

As the SSA for South Carolina, DAODAS is the only eligible applicant for State Targeted Response (STR) to the Opioid Crisis grants. These grants, created in December 2016 by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century CURES Act, provided \$1 billion to states to address the opioid crisis. DAODAS received \$13,151,246 (\$6,575,623 per year for two years) for the period April 30, 2017, through April 29, 2019.

In March 2018, Congress passed an omnibus appropriations bill that allocated \$1 billion in new funding for grants to states to address the opioid crisis. Once again, only SSAs were eligible to apply for the State Opioid Response grants, and DAODAS received \$28,508,648 (\$14,254,324 per year for two years) for the period September 30, 2018, through September 29, 2020. The SOR grant were used to fund an ongoing comprehensive response to the opioid epidemic that:

- addresses stigma and the need for action through a statewide multi-layered media campaign. DAODAS launched this campaign, “Just Plain Killers” ([www.justplainkillers.com](http://www.justplainkillers.com)), to educate the public on the prescription opioid crisis and to provide prevention information to help stop the epidemic, as well as providing information on treatment and recovery resources;
- expands and enhances the state’s Opioid Overdose Prevention Program, providing Narcan® to all county alcohol and drug abuse authorities, recovery community organizations, and opioid treatment programs; and
- provides financial assistance to indigent South Carolinians for medications and talk therapy, expanding access to clinically appropriate, evidence-based practices for opioid use disorders. DAODAS developed a funding stream for county alcohol and drug abuse authorities to provide access for indigent persons to behavioral therapies and medicine to treat opioid use disorder and also supported the new position of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Coordinator in local agencies across the state. This position was tasked with supporting integrated health care and building behavioral health teams. MAT Coordinators serve persons via care coordination services.

In addition, the matter of substance misuse in rural areas is being addressed, supporting rural counties to develop relationships with medical providers, either internally or through external relationships, to provide comprehensive evidence-based care to patients. The SOR grant also provides funding to increase MAT services for 23 opioid treatment programs (OTPs) in 15 high-need counties across the state.

### **Ensuring Quality**

An important focus for DAODAS is the promotion of effective, high-quality services. Service providers are expected to implement evidence-based screening tools and to use American Society of Addiction Medicine placement criteria to ensure that patients are placed in the appropriate level of care. All of the agency’s contracted treatment providers are required to maintain either accredited by CARF International or the Joint Commission. DAODAS also conducts real-time compliance checks year-round with ongoing reviews of the clinical charts of all of its contracted treatment providers. This is to ensure compliance with best practices and Medicaid standards. DAODAS requires its providers to use evidence-based services across the continuum – including prevention services – and to support community programs that use the strategic prevention framework process. The department ensures its contractors’ use of evidence-based data from trusted sources and informed practices that DAODAS approves. The agency supports its providers year-round with training and technical assistance as requested and as deemed appropriate.

### **Coordinating With Other State Agencies**

DAODAS works collaboratively across State government to ensure that addiction issues are addressed with a coordinated, cross-agency approach. For example, the department works with the State departments of mental health, criminal justice, child welfare, education, and more. Because alcohol and other drug issues cross every sector and impact citizens statewide, DAODAS partners closely with the other public health and social service agencies in South Carolina.