

# Desert Sage Intake Process

Emily L. Streeter, Psy.D., MPH, CPH  
CDR U.S. Public Health Service  
Clinical Director  
Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center  
California Area Indian Health Service

# American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Levels of Care

- ▶ Level I - Outpatient
- ▶ Level II - Intensive Outpatient
- ▶ Level II Partial Hospitalization
- ▶ Level III Residential Treatment - Desert Sage

# ASAM Placement Criteria for Residential Care

- ▶ Poor ability to tolerate and cope with withdrawal symptoms
- ▶ Poor ability to tolerate and cope with physical problems. Stable conditions that are being neglected in outpatient care
- ▶ Recovery efforts are negatively affected by emotional, behavioral, or cognitive conditions in significant and distracting ways

# ASAM Placement Criteria (cont.)

- ▶ Significant functional impairment in areas of family, social, work, or school that can not be managed at less intensive level of care
- ▶ Interventions at current level of care have not achieved stabilization or remission of symptoms
- ▶ Exhibits inconsistent follow through with minimal awareness of SUD and need for treatment

# ASAM Placement Criteria (cont.)

- ▶ Unaware of need or unwilling to change/follow through with treatment recommendations
- ▶ Inability to overcome environmental triggers/cravings. High chronicity/poor treatment response
- ▶ Home environment is dangerous to recovery

# Desert Sage Intake Criteria

- ▶ Meets ASAM criteria for residential care
- ▶ Age 12-17 (within 6 months of 18<sup>th</sup> birthday)
- ▶ Current diagnosis of substance use disorder (moderate - severe)
- ▶ Voluntary
- ▶ Can have co-occurring mental health diagnoses

# Exclusion Criteria

- ▶ Actively suicidal/homicidal
- ▶ Significant history of violence
- ▶ Psychosis
- ▶ Uncontrolled or high risk medical conditions
- ▶ Extreme flight risk

# Referral Process

- ▶ Call to obtain admission packet and provide summary information (951)708-4019
- ▶ Submit completed admission packet to include:
  - ▶ Educational records
  - ▶ Physical exam (within 30 days)
  - ▶ Applicable laboratory and immunization reports
  - ▶ IHS eligibility documentation
  - ▶ Available treatment records and documentation of diagnosis (MH, SUD)
  - ▶ Criminal/legal documents



# Treatment Team Determination

- ▶ Treatment team will review information for appropriateness of admission to Desert Sage
- ▶ Intake/Aftercare Coordinators will work with referral source to identify appropriate facility if deemed inappropriate for Desert Sage

# Unsuitable Referrals

- ▶ Desert Sage Intake/Aftercare Coordinators will work with referring clinic to identify appropriate placement
- ▶ Appropriate residential care for substance use disorder will be reimbursed through CAO funds if available
- ▶ 30 day reviews identifying continued need for treatment, discharge plan, and any barriers to on time discharge are required for CAO funded placements

# Summary

- ▶ ASAM criteria are essential when determining need for residential treatment
- ▶ Desert Sage has first right of refusal for residential SUD treatment
- ▶ Outside referrals will be made if Desert Sage is unable to accommodate

We look forward to  
partnering with you as we  
guide our youth down the  
road toward brighter  
futures!

The background features a dark blue-grey field on the left, transitioning into a series of overlapping, semi-transparent green and yellow-green geometric shapes on the right. These shapes are primarily triangular and polygonal, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The word "Questions?" is centered in the blue area in a bright green color.

Questions?