A cornerstone of Community Health Centers since their inception over 50 years ago is responsiveness to the needs of the communities they serve. This includes having a full-range of comprehensive services: primary medical, dental and behavioral health care as well as substance use disorder treatment.

As communities across the Commonwealth cope with the dramatic increase in substance use disorders, including opioid addiction, health centers are leaders in responding to this need for specialized care.

6 Community Health Centers participate in the Department of Human Services’ Opioid Centers of Excellence program of team-based, whole person-focused care, integrating behavioral health and primary care to help ensure people with opioid-related substance use disorder stay in treatment and are supported within their communities.

As of April 2019, Community Health Centers have 106 clinicians throughout the state offering Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) to patients. These clinicians are offering a variety of medication types including: Suboxone, Subutex, Subclade, Naloxone and Vivitrol based on the patient’s individual needs. With these medication services, clinicians are also ensuring that patients have a recovery specialist or behavioral health provider that is serving as a support system for each individual seeking treatment. These numbers continue to grow as providers obtain their buprenorphine waivers and health centers expand their programs.

4 Community Health Centers, some with multiple satellite sites, are licensed through the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) to provide outpatient services, partial hospitalization and inpatient treatment. Some health centers are providing these services while also offering child care to patients as this can be a barrier when attending treatment. We expect this number to grow as health centers express interest in becoming licensed treatment facilities.

42 Community Health Centers provide behavioral health services in 32 counties throughout Pennsylvania. Many health centers use the Screening, Brief-Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) to determine if a warm-handoff to behavioral health services is needed. Health centers also screen for depression utilizing tools such as the PHQ-2 and PHQ-9.

Community Health Centers employ nearly 300 FTE behavioral health professionals - psychiatrists, licensed clinical psychologists and licensed clinical social workers - offering a full-range of mental health services to over 70,000 patients annually.

Visit our website for a list of health centers providing MAT and the various treatments they prescribe for Substance Use Disorders: http://www.pachc.org/Clinical-Quality/Substance-Use-Disorder