Fast Facts: AzMAT Mentors

The Arizona Center for Rural Health (AzCRH) contracted with the Arizona Department of Health Services to launch the Arizona Medication Assisted Treatment mentorship program known as AzMAT Mentors. This program connects seasoned MAT providers to oversee newly trained MAT providers or “MAT Mentees” and offer continued support and hands-on training. The purpose is to increase capacity to provide MAT services statewide.

What is MAT?
Medication-Assisted Treatment, or MAT, is a whole-patient practice that uses FDA-approved medications and behavioral therapies to treat substance use disorders.

Arizona MAT Mentoring
MAT providers are addiction-trained specialists AND non-specialist, “x-waivered” providers. X-waivered providers are allowed to prescribe buprenorphine (suboxone). In Arizona, there are currently 1,128 DEA-registered x-waivered providers.

- Many x-waivered providers are not treating OUD patients or are treating under their waivered limit
- Lack of confidence, support, and time are commonly reported barriers
- Through mentorship, experienced MAT providers can assist mentees to overcome these barriers

The MAT Mentors Project runs from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020 and includes the following activities:

1. Develop a MAT Mentor Curriculum containing information on clinical resources
2. Recruit and train experienced DATA-waivered clinicians to serve as MAT Mentors.
3. Recruit newly DATA-waivered clinicians to participate as MAT Mentees.
4. Document completed training and mentoring activities.

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