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 AzMAT 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 Mentors

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. However, issues exist:

• Many “x-waivered” providers are not treating Opioid Use Disorder patients or are treating under their waivered limit

• Lack of confidence, support, and time are commonly reported barriers

Through the MAT Mentors Program, experienced MAT providers can assist mentees to overcome these barriers

The AzMAT MAT Mentors Program runs from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020 focusing on the following activities:

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

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