



Phoenix Recovery Services, LLC

1601 E. College Way, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

360-848-8437 FAX 360-848-5250

"Be The Change You Want To See In The World"

Phoenix Recovery Services, LLC was established in Skagit County in 2003. Phoenix grew from a desire to provide substance abuse treatment in a supportive, patient centered environment based on respect and high accountability. Since opening in 2003, Phoenix has served over 7000 patients.

Phoenix is a Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery Certified Agency for the treatment of Substance Abuse and Pathological Gambling. Additional to our DBHR contract we are the Skagit County contracted agency for Federal Probation and Pre-Trial Services and The Washington State Department of Corrections. We are contracted to provide services for Skagit County Family Treatment Court. In Island County we provided all treatment services for Adult, Youth, and Family Drug Courts. We also have been contracted to provide substance abuse treatment services for Skagit County Mental Health Court. Each year we place more than 100 patients into inpatient treatment at Pioneer Center North or East under the involuntary treatment act. We are currently in the process of licensing for provision of Community Mental Health services.

Prior to opening Phoenix, I began to study emerging trends in substance abuse treatment. I wanted to know what worked, what didn't work, and most importantly, what was on the horizon...how best I could provide services that would actually make a difference and provide my patients with tools for a sustainable recovery life. Fortunately my findings complimented my philosophy that substance abuse disorders are, in large part, physiological. In other words, based on the disease concept of addiction, there is a strong biological component that must be addressed for a recovery program to be successful. I found that Medically Assisted Treatment was the answer to the physical component of recovery. Every study found that a combination of medical management and substance abuse counseling had, by far, the best outcomes.

This was the answer I had been looking for. I decided to seek a contractual partnership with medical providers in the community and the Phoenix Recovery Services, LLC Medically Assisted Treatment program was born. Since September of 2008, we have treated 916 patients with either Suboxone or Vivitrol. As of December 31, 2012 there are 189 active patients in the program. Of these patients, 30% are Medicaid funded and 70% are private pay or insurance. When we look at patient's drug of addiction, 70% are heroin, 24% are non-prescribed opiates, and 5% are medically prescribed opiates. We find the majority of the heroin dependent patients began with a prescribed opiate and moved on to the illicit drug. This progression generally happened when they could no longer afford the prescribed medication and moved on to street heroin.

Shortly after opening the Suboxone Clinic, I began to research drug courts who use Suboxone as a cornerstone of their program. Because Suboxone was a relatively new recovery option, there were few drug courts to study. However, knowing the success rates of treatment with Suboxone AND the success rates of drug courts, I was determined

to seek out information. My research took me to Fairfield County in Ohio. In 2007 Fairfield County had a population of 134,543, whereas Skagit County's population at that time was 117,546. In 2007, Fairfield County received two large grants from the Department of Justice to start drug court programs. At about the same time, the county began a one-year pilot program to administer Suboxone to 20 people addicted to opiates. Within three weeks the program reached capacity. After the first year, the program was so successful the county allocated an additional \$190,000 to the program for expansion. ***Most of the people admitted to the Suboxone program were referred from drug courts.*** The results were remarkable. Within the first year the medically assisted drug court saved the county more than \$1 million in suspended jail time. Those diverted to the program also saved the county thousands of dollars in public defender fees, jail medical expenses and theft related crime. If we look specifically at a crime that is likely partnered with substance abuse such as larceny, the smaller county of Skagit's rate in 2007 was 4,969 compared to Fairfield's rate of 3,121. This difference was in the first year the medically assisted court was active. Fairfield County found that after six months drug court participants who used Suboxone were three times more likely to maintain sobriety than those who went through abstinence-based treatment alone. The 6 month sobriety rate without Suboxone was 23% and the 6 month sobriety rate with Suboxone was 77%. The combination of the drug court wrap around monitoring and accountability with treatment and medication was a resounding success. Every year since the pilot program began in 2007, Fairfield County has renewed its commitment to Suboxone. Even in the face of massive budget cuts, the county allocates \$190,000 a year to Suboxone treatment.

This information is important as the justice system is the largest catchment area for people with addictions. As many as 87% of arrestees test positive for at least one illicit drug. As many as 40% of arrestees test positive for MORE than one illicit drug. The courts have the opportunity to not only hold down criminal justice costs, but to provide an intervention allowing addicts and alcoholics to begin a program of recovery. Because the criminal justice system has the ability to hold patient's accountable AND to provide swift consequences, the probability of a successful recovery is enhanced. Orman Hall, Executive Director, Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addition and Mental Health Board member says, "The treatment is much less expensive and we have a dramatically improved success rate when we can keep people local and provide them with Suboxone." Fairfield County Drug Court graduate, Aaron Hoplite says, "Suboxone is like a stepping stone. It helps during the transition of using every day to not having anything. It takes the cravings away. I know I can't go back to the way I was. I won't allow it."

Today, we stand at a crossroads. Public policy has already recognized addiction as a brain disease. Despite this, there is a slow uptake in understanding and accepting the physiological and psychological nature of addiction. Public policy must reflect a scientific understanding of the value of treatment and recovery support mechanisms such as Medically Assisted Treatment. If programs begin to use proven, innovative practices based on scientific studies and outcomes, the cyclical nature of addiction and crime can be addressed in a way that provides taxpayers a return on their investment in public safety and public health.



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Who We Are:

Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery certified agency for the treatment of substance abuse and problem/pathological gambling. Number 29 1146 00

Where We Are Located: 1601 East College Way, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

What We Do: Intensive outpatient and outpatient treatment services for Adults and Youth. Services include assessment, individual and group counseling, intervention, and random UA (CLIA waived) and hair follicle collection. Additionally we are certified to do deferred prosecution and court evaluations. We do CPS/DCFS expanded evaluations and placement. We provide specialized programming in Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) with Suboxone. We have medical doctors available for the Suboxone program. Additionally we are the contracted provider for Federal Probation and Pretrial, as well as Washington State Department of Corrections. We facilitate Skagit County Family Treatment Court and provide urinalysis collection services for Skagit County Mental Health Court. We are certified to provide Problem Gambling treatment and have a State Certified Problem Gambling Specialist on staff. We facilitate the trauma recovery group Seeking Safety.

Outreach includes Skagit Valley Hospital, United General Hospital, Skagit County Crisis Center and the Skagit County Jail.

We are the primary facilitators for Involuntary Treatment Act services for inpatient placement at Pioneer Center East and North.

Funding We Accept: Private Pay, Insurance (*Preferred provider for Group Health, Regence Blue Shield, Premera, United Behavioral Health, and many others*), Medicaid, DL, ADATSA, low income grants, Federal Probation and Pre-Trial, DSHS, DBHR/Problem Gambling Grant.

Best Practice Protocols: Matrix Model, Hazeldon Teen Intervene, Living In Balance, Seeking Safety, CAAPE, SASSI, MAT and Incentive Based Treatment.

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