

Hepatitis C and SUD Treatment:

didg<sup>w</sup>álič Wellness Center

Presented by:

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**didg<sup>w</sup>álic (deed-gwah-leech) Wellness Center is a multi-specialty community health organization providing counseling, medication assisted treatment, primary care, and social services to both Native and non-Native patients with substance use and behavioral health disorders.**

# Our Services



- ✓ Full-service MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment)
- ✓ Primary medical care
- ✓ Hepatitis C screening & treatment
- ✓ Clinical Pharmacist services
- ✓ Dental care (starting May 2021)
- ✓ Intensive SUD counseling by certified professionals
- ✓ Psychiatric diagnosis & medication management
- ✓ Comprehensive behavioral & mental health services
- ✓ Naloxone training & distribution
- ✓ Group Counseling & classes
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Childcare
- ✓ Acupuncture
- ✓ Medication lockbox training
- ✓ Client services/Social Work

# Barriers to Hepatitis C Treatment in SUD



- ✓ Previous healthcare interactions/Stigma of addiction
- ✓ Access to healthcare/Established Primary Care Provider
- ✓ Unknown Hepatitis C status
- ✓ Lack of follow up
- ✓ Homelessness
- ✓ Fearful of treatment regimen
- ✓ Lack of insurance
- ✓ Lack of support system

# Hepatitis C Treatment Pathway



- ✓ All patients admitted to the program are screened for Hepatitis C, HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis A.
- ✓ Consult performed after lab work reviewed to determine readiness/engagement for treatment.
- ✓ Immunization to Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B if indicated.
- ✓ Presentation of case to ECHO for treatment recommendations.
- ✓ Review of ECHO recommendations with patient by provider.
- ✓ Selected medication reviewed with patient by Clinical Pharmacist.
- ✓ If high risk for HIV due to IVDU HIV PrEP may be initiated.
- ✓ Patient has the option to take medication at home or at the clinic daily through our MAT dispensary.
- ✓ Frequent lab & PCP visits at week 1, 2, 4, week 8 and 12 weeks after treatment is completed.
- ✓ Annual lab work including screening for re-infection or sooner if clinically indicated.

# Hepatitis C Program Results to Date



## ✓ Since January 2018

- 33% prevalence of HCV RNA
  - 431 Patients screened
  - 144 Cases of HCV RNA
  - 32 Patients have completed treatment at DWC since fall of 2019
    - 100% success rate clearing HCV at week 8
    - 1 Patient re-infected with different genotype after week 8 negative HCV RNA
  - 7 Currently on treatment
  - 17 Awaiting Treatment
  - 22 Referred out for closer monitoring
  - 66 inactive patients

## ✓ Mavyret insurance preferred medication

# Considerations



- ✓ Active drug use is not a barrier to treatment
- ✓ Establishment of support system for treatment follow through is essential
- ✓ Enlist a coordinated team
- ✓ Identify support system
- ✓ Address any underlying mental health concerns
- ✓ Identify and link to community resources
- ✓ Develop plan to manage side effects
- ✓ Promote and support harm reduction
- ✓ Dedicated staff to manage Hepatitis C program

Questions?

