

# #ODNOMORE

## Recovery Success Story – MATE #3

A 35 year old client was referred to Operation PAR for medication assisted treatment and counseling services by the Bayside Health Clinic to participate in the Health Care for the Homeless Program's Medication Assisted Treatment Program (MATE).

At admission the client reported a 15-year history of opioid abuse. Primary substances reported were Morphine and Hydromorphone intravenously and a 3-year history of cocaine use. The client entered the program after a 2-month long hospital stay motivated for treatment and a lifestyle change.

While struggling at first to go substance free, the client began to recognize the need for help and continued resuming counseling sessions and applying coping skills learned. Previously homeless, the client found housing in a community residence program seven months into treatment. With stable housing, counseling, case management, and medication assisted treatment, and psychiatric medication, the client became more stable improving physically, emotionally, mentally and financially.

After 11 months in treatment and after being out of the workforce for four (4) years, the client obtained a full-time job. Unfortunately, a second round of health issues caused the client's resignation from the job. However, at the time, the client had also begun rebuilding family relationships and was able to move home with immediate family.

Nearly two years later, the client remains stably housed and is surrounded by family. The many challenges experienced during treatment could have hindered recovery, however, the client remains abstinent and has been able to experience the benefits of a substance free lifestyle.

---

*The client wrote: "I am glad to say that I now have self-esteem, a clear head, family support, and the sober fellowship to help me clearly see any type of manipulation. I am happy to say it has been 2 years since I have allowed myself to become entangled into a web of lies and abuse."*

---

As of February 2020, the client continues counseling sessions and negative drug screens. The client understands the importance of building a support system and is on the road to self-sufficiency.

---

*The client continued: "I am officially no longer 17 and am on the road to becoming the woman I was always meant to be. I am still learning who she is, but one thing I can say for sure is that I love her very much."*

---

The Health Care for the Homeless Program provides primary medical care, dental services, behavioral health services including substance use and medication assisted treatment for homeless individuals.

To learn more, visit:

[www.pinellascounty.org/humanservices/hch.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/humanservices/hch.htm).



**Doing Things for You!**

For more information,  
visit us online at

[www.pinellascounty.org](http://www.pinellascounty.org).

Funding for the MATE program comes from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for the Pinellas County Health Care for the Homeless Program. Human Services has partnered with Operation PAR and the Florida Department of Health to provide medication assisted treatment services for those homeless clients with substance use concerns including opioid and alcohol dependence. According to the Pinellas County Opioid Task Force, more than one person dies every 48 hours from an opioid-related overdose.

[www.pinellascounty.org/humanservices](http://www.pinellascounty.org/humanservices)