



# Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Governor Scott Walker | Secretary Jon E. Litscher

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DOC Communications, 608-240-5060

[DOCMedia@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DOCMedia@wisconsin.gov)

## Department of Corrections Celebrates Opioid Addiction Treatment Program Participants

APPLETON – Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) Secretary Jon Litscher joined Outagamie County Circuit Court Judge Mitch Metropulos, family and friends, community treatment providers, and other invited guests to celebrate the third group of completers of DOC's Opioid Addiction Treatment Program.

This program is funded and supported as part of Governor Walker's efforts to address opioid abuse in Wisconsin. To date, 42 participants have completed the program, including 15 participants whose completion is being celebrated today.

The program was established as part of Governor Walker's 2015 – 17 biennial budget and funding has been continued in the 2017 – 19 biennial budget. Other states, including Colorado, Missouri, and Florida, are exploring similar programs. Participation in the program is voluntary.

Offenders releasing from certain DOC facilities to community supervision or already on community supervision in northeastern Wisconsin receive monthly injections of Naltrexone and intensive AODA treatment during the program. The Department is currently evaluating potential expansion of the program to other parts of the state.

DOC is partnering with ThedaCare, Acadia Healthcare, Options Treatment Programs, and Holy Family Memorial Medical Center to provide various services as part of the program.

Naltrexone is an opioid antagonist that binds to opioid receptors, preventing opioids from attaching and blocking the effects of opioids. Using naltrexone can help to decrease the likelihood of relapse while an individual is completing AODA treatment.

Secretary Litscher said: "I firmly believe it's critically important for offenders to get the tools they need to move beyond drug addiction and find success in the community. This ground-breaking program provides inmates releasing from prison the chance to deal with their drug addiction, find a job, and continue their lives drug-free. I'm hopeful we'll be able to build on this early success and expand this program in the coming years."

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