

#ODNOMORE

OVERCOMING DECADES OF SUBSTANCE USE

A homeless, 62 year-old male was referred to Operation PAR for medication assisted treatment and counseling services by the Bayside Health Clinic. At admission he reported a 46-year history of Opioid dependence, with his first use being at age 15. His primary substances preferred were Oxycodone and Hydromorphone, both used intravenously. He reported a history of legal involvement, inclusive of 96 lifetime arrests and prison sentence(s) served. He engaged in outpatient services and was consistent with counseling sessions throughout treatment. Treatment focused on relapse prevention, life skills, budgeting, and multidimensional wellness. He appeared to have relapsed throughout the course of treatment. However, he continued to engage in treatment regularly and work on his recovery.



He began to rebuild his life so that it was enjoyable again, including fulfilling and rewarding activities. He sought support from recovery meetings for the first time in 10 years. During his recovery journey, his self-esteem and self-confidence began to improve. Clinically, we recognized that he began to care more about himself and engage in healthy self-care by addressing physical and health issues, dental, vision and hearing needs, as well as dietary changes.

Even though fear and anxiety were apparent in addressing dental concerns, he visited the dentist for the first time in 35 years. Recently, he confided, "I never felt as good as I do now" and "I didn't know I could feel like this." After 8 months in treatment, he is no longer experiencing homelessness and has secured permanent housing. He reports he now finds serenity in simple things such as brewing his own pot of coffee at his home, for the first time in many years. He was discharged from outpatient treatment and is re-engaging in a passion of his... playing guitar.

Funding for the 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. If you have any questions or a need to help a friend or family member, please contact Operation PAR at 1 (888) 727- 6398.

To learn more about Human Services Programs visit: www.pinellascounty.org/humanservices

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