

***Aryeh Levenson, M.D. 3141 Legacy Dr. Anchorage, AK 99516***

February 2, 2015

Dear Sirs,

I am a psychiatric physician involved in treating substance abuse and mental health issues here at South Central Foundation.

I have been particularly involved in the treatment of opiate addiction, a condition that is increasing to epidemic proportions in Alaska.

I currently utilize both Buprenorphine and Naltrexone injectable (Vivitrol) for opiate addiction.

Evidence based medicine now indicates that medication assisted treatment (MAT) is a best practice in the treatment of opiate addiction. Moreover, such MAT treatment is seen as a best practice in the treatment of all forms of substance addiction, as it significantly increases the positive prognosis for individuals in recovery.

As such, I very strongly recommend that Alaska State provides a mechanism for individuals who do not have Medicaid be able to receive such medications (e.g. as provided to individuals upon discharge from API, who are involved in the wellness court, and for individuals who are involved in the criminal justice system. Otherwise, we will continue to see tremendous recidivism rates in such populations.

Sincerely,

Aryeh Levenson, M.D.