



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PROFESSIONAL WELLNESS ACADEMY AWARDED \$250,000 TO EXPAND LOCAL OPIATE USE ADDICTION TREATMENT AND CARE TO 500+ PATIENTS ACROSS VENTURA AND LOS ANGELES COUNTIES

Westlake Village, Calif. – Last Thursday, The Professional Wellness Academy (PWA) was awarded \$250,000 to enhance therapeutic and counseling services across 5 offices in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, as part of a \$16.4 Million effort to support Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) projects across California. MAT combines behavioral therapy and medications to treat substance use disorders.

With 19 offices across California, prescribers/physicians incorporate PWA's opioid use disorder (OUD)-experienced, licensed therapists, case managers, and social workers to strengthen their approach to treatment for each of their OUD patients. With this award PWA expects to expand service to an additional 500+ patients across 5 of our offices located in Encino, Torrance, Santa Monica, Ventura, and Westlake Village. Additionally, PWA will be holding monthly best-practice and educational meetings for prescribers and behavioral health professionals, to enhance regional collaboration and awareness of federal opioid treatment expectations around each of the 5 sites.

“Our staff and partners are thrilled to have the opportunity to enhance our services for and assistance of additional MAT physicians and their patients. We are seeing such a high demand for OUD collaborative, case management-counseling services, and appreciate the opportunity to further help those who may not have access to resources for a ‘whole-person’ approach to treatment.” said Cynthia Kieffer, CEO and Managing Director, The Professional Wellness Academy.

The MAT Access Points Project is funded through the Department of Health Care Services California MAT Expansion Project and administered by The Center at Sierra Health Foundation as part of an effort to ensure that the delivery of MAT facilitates positive treatment outcomes, safe management of care transitions and long-term recovery for people with opioid and other substance use disorders.

“A critical component of our effort is building the capacity of partners who have the commitment and relationships required to reach people and families in communities that are disproportionately experiencing poor access to MAT substance use disorder treatment and high opioid-related mortality rates.” said Chet P. Hewitt, president and CEO of The Center at Sierra Health Foundation.

For more information about the MAT Access Points Project please visit www.mataccesspoints.org, and for more information about The Professional Wellness Academy, please visit <https://prowellness.academy/>.

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