

# CONTINGENCY MANAGEMENT

Welcome! We are glad you are joining the Consortium's 10<sup>th</sup> annual meeting today!

## INTRODUCTIONS

- Session host & co-host
  - Jessica Eaddy & Teresa Cantwell
- Speakers
  - JK Costello, MD, MPH
  - Lindsay Houston, MPH

## HOUSEKEEPING

- Participants are muted
- Session is being recorded
- Questions and comments can be put into the chat box

**JOIN US FOR THE GENERAL SESSION STARTING AT 10:00**

- New Zoom link will be provided at the end of this presentation

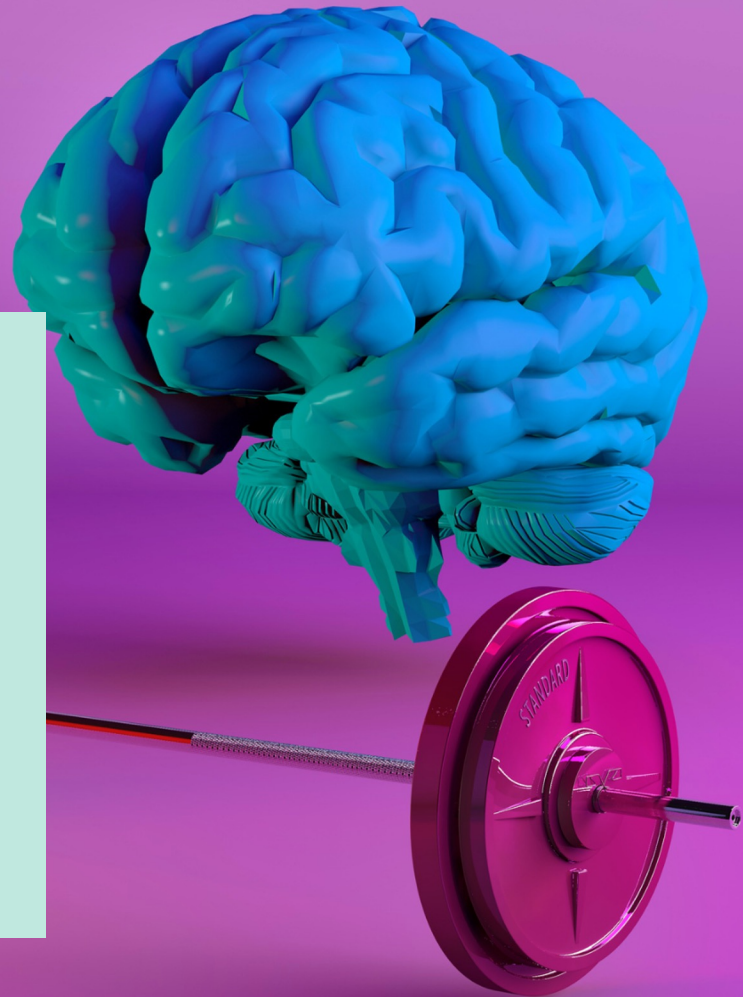


**“[CM is] a type of behavioral therapy in which individuals are ‘reinforced’, or rewarded, for evidence of positive behavioral change”**

-Nancy Petrie, author of Contingency Management for Substance Abuse Treatment

# Operant Conditioning

- Addresses delay discounting as part of the intervention
- ‘Rewires’ the brain’s reward circuits to activities in line with sustained healing and recovery
- Effectively intervenes on neurological level for clients with complex health issues **without clear pharmacological solutions to support a change in lifestyle**



# What is Contingency Management?

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- **Evidence-based practice** that provides tangible incentives for desired behavior changes
  - Diverse settings
  - Many substances
  - All subpopulations
- Usually conducted over 3-6 month course of treatment
- Often coincides with individual/group/IOP treatment



# Incentives

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- No upper limit
- Incentive size moderates effectiveness
- Best outcomes from \$400-\$500 (cash or equivalents) over course of program; Total incentives below ~\$200 are insignificant
- Cash or cash equivalents
- Immediately upon displaying desired behavior



“I was hesitant to try it — like, hey, is this legal?”

But the results have been striking, he said, adding, “I’m talking about significant improvements in attendance to therapy sessions, significant reductions in drug and alcohol use.”

-Dr. Shawn Ryan, CMO and president of BrightView Health

# Brain Reinforcement: The Origins of Addiction

## Questions:

1. What percent of U.S. treatment programs report using CM?
2. In what specific population(s) are contingencies routinely used as a treatment adjunct in addiction treatment?
3. To what extent do these promote recovery?

\*Thanks To David Gastfriend, MD, for slides 9-11!

# Brain Reinforcement: The Origins of Addiction

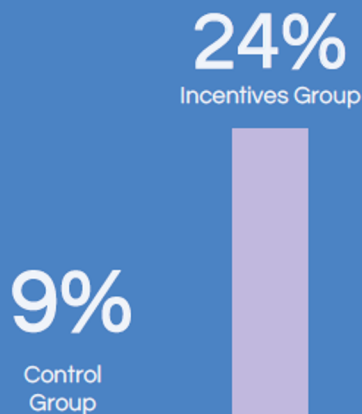
## Answers:

1. ~13 % of U.S. treatment programs report using CM
2. Contingencies are routinely used in:
  - Physician SUD & mental health disorders
  - Methadone take-homes
  - Drug/DUI courts
3. Response rates are best established in Physician health programs:
  - 5-year abstinence & employment success rates = 70–90%



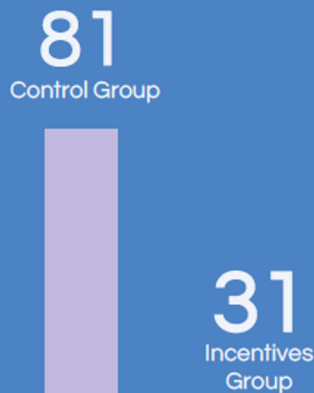
# Contingency Management: The Evidence

Drug Abstinence  
Increased by 2.7x



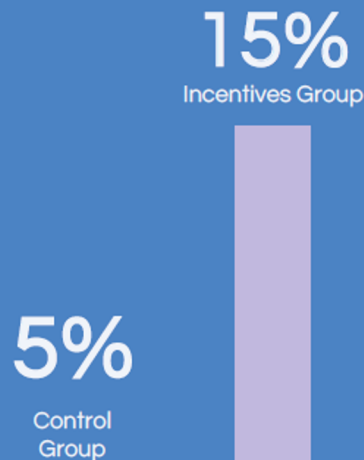
% of patients reaching 4 weeks of continuous abstinence in 12-week study. n=800 cocaine/meth using patients. [Peirce et al 2006](#)

Drinks per Month  
Reduced by 62%



Proof-of-concept pilot, n=30 heavy drinkers, 1-3 selfie breathalyzer tests/day over 28 days, earned \$219 on avg. Pilot Study Publication: [Alessi & Petry 2013](#)

Smoking Quit Rates  
Increased by 3x



% of patients testing negative for nicotine at 9-months. n=442 GE employees. [Volpp et al 2009](#)

# Contingency Management: The Evidence

## In various populations, settings & treatment modalities:

- **Dual Diagnosis Patients**

Negative drug tests: 59% (CM) vs. 25% (Control) ([Bellack et al 2006](#))

- **People Experiencing Homelessness**

Abstinence @ 6 months: 41% vs. 15% ([Millby et al 2000](#))

- **Criminal Justice System**

Days of abstinence: 27 vs. 19 ([Carroll et al 2006](#))

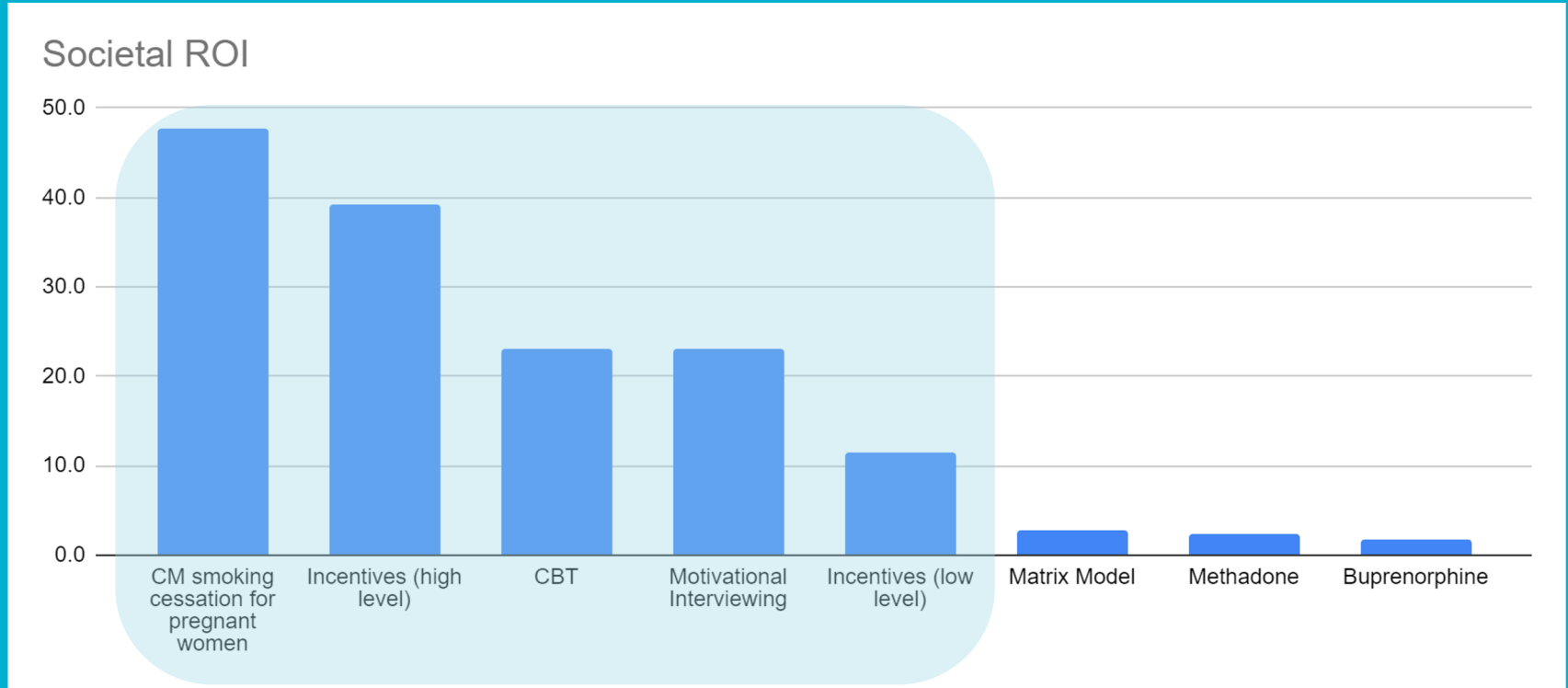
- **Pregnancy**

Opioid-negative samples: 90% vs. 82% ([Jones et al 2001](#))

- **Adolescence**

Smoking abstinence @ 1 month: 53% vs. 0% ([Krishnan-Sarin et al 2006](#))

# Cost-Benefit - from the Payers' Perspective



Source: [Wash. State Inst. for Public Policy, 4/2021](#)

# Barriers

01

Stigma:

“You shouldn’t pay  
people for doing  
what they should do  
anyway”

02

Stigma:

Cash might lead to  
misbehavior!

03

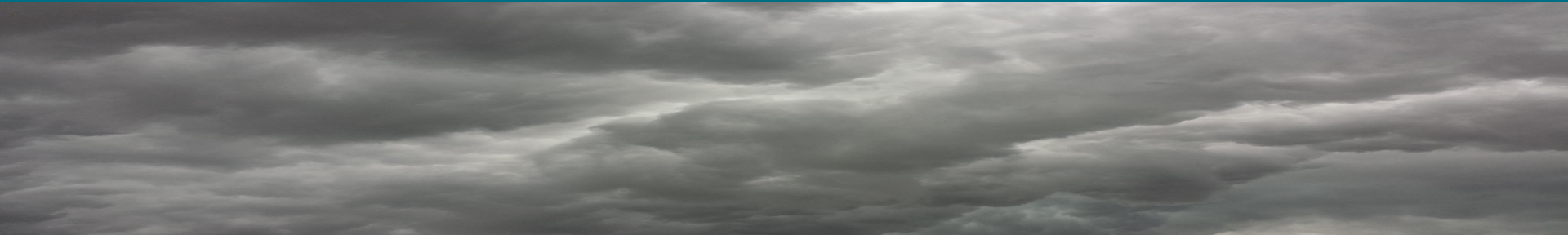
Logistical:

Transferring the  
incentive securely  
to the client

04

Regulatory:

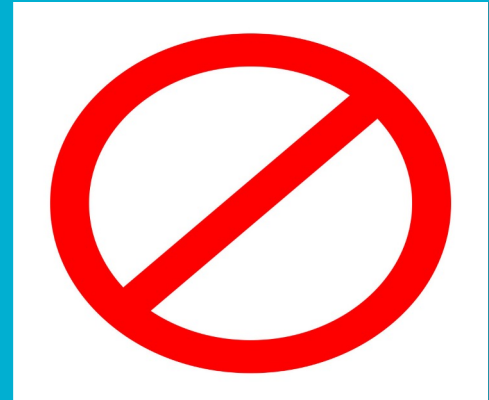
Limits on  
incentives




# What is Not Permissible (OIG)

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- Incentives that result in medically unnecessary or inappropriate items or services reimbursed in whole or in part by a Federal health care program.
- Advertising patient incentives to recruit patients or steer patients away from other providers.
- Using incentives for the purpose of increasing fees.
- Inadequate protection against fraud



A stack of approximately 20 gold coins is positioned in the center of the frame. The coins are stacked in a slightly irregular manner, with some offset. They are resting on a black and white checkered surface, which appears to be a chessboard. In the background, slightly out of focus, is a black chess king piece. The lighting is bright, casting soft shadows. The overall composition suggests a theme of strategy, value, and decision-making.

“...we recognize that research shows that contingency management interventions are the most effective currently available treatment for stimulant use disorders.”

# What is Permissible (OIG)

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- Incentives that have a direct connection to the coordination and management of care of the target population.
- The use of digital health technology such as remote patient monitoring and telehealth
- CM incentives for which the payer only pays when the desired health outcome occurs –attendance, objective, validated measures consistent with treatment (e.g., attendance, abstinent drug tests, and other confirmed behavioral measures).
- Advancing goals, as determined by the patient's licensed health provider, of:
  - adherence to a treatment regimen
  - adherence to a drug regimen
  - adherence to a follow up care plan
  - management of a disease or condition
  - improvement in measurable evidence-based health outcomes for the patient or the target patient population ensuring patient safety.”



**\$75 → \$599**

**SAMHSA UPDATE COMING  
DOWN THE PIKE  
(SOONER THAN LATER)**

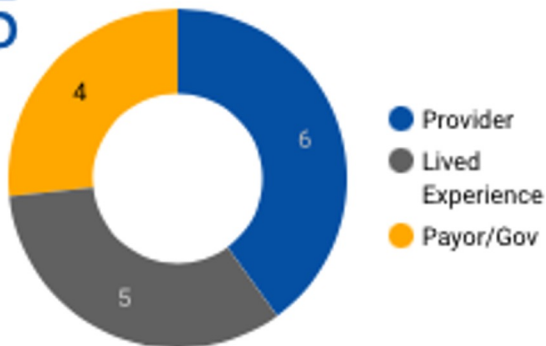


# Education and outreach project learnings

- In spring of 2022, the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention provided funding for the Steadman Group to give statewide presentations and webinars on CM, conduct a survey, and develop a template policy and protocol for providers.
  - Provided education on evidence-base for CM, legal and regulatory nuances, and clinical effectiveness

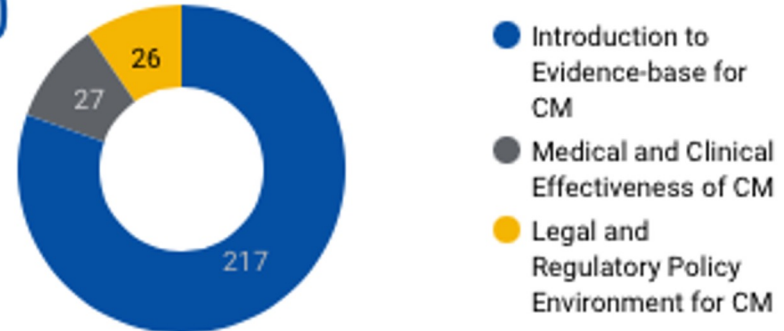
Interview Participants

15










Webinar Participants

270

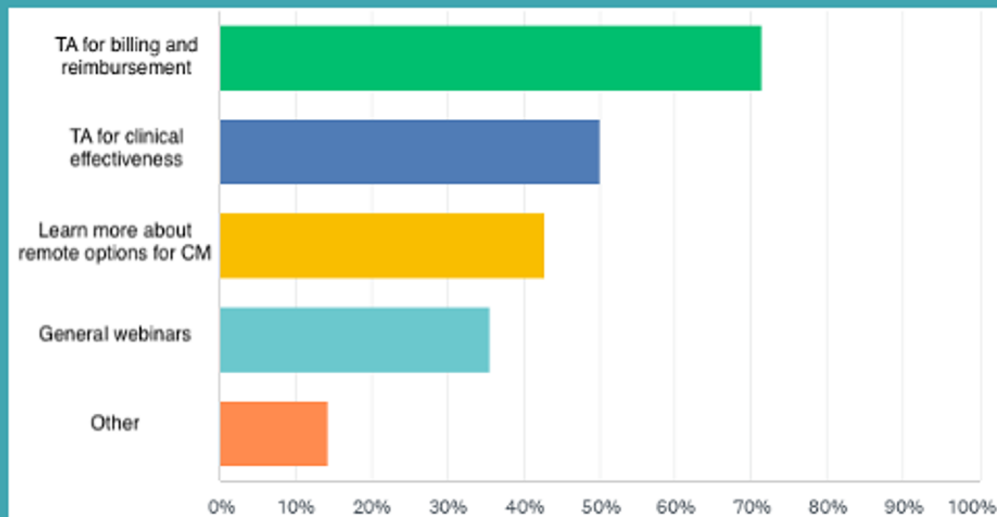


# Lessons Learned

	Key Findings from Interviews
	<b>Myths and Stigma</b> still exist for CM and more education is needed to dispel myths and grow community understanding of the intervention
	<b>Education</b> is needed to fully explain how cash incentives should be distributed
	<b>Challenges</b> with implementing CM include sustainability, jealousy among participants, staffing issues, reimbursement for services, and liability concerns
	<b>Eligibility</b> for CM programs varies-- some respondents want to focus on stimulants only, while others add opioids.
	<b>Move CM outside of treatment settings</b> into settings like recovery community organizations, the criminal justice system, and telehealth
	<b>CM is an excellent method for keeping people engaged</b> in treatment and/or recovery
	<b>Training</b> and developed policy and protocols are critical to reduce the burden of implementation for new CM programs

# Survey Findings

**What kind of information would have the potential to make you more interested in providing CM as a billable service?**



# Funding open to CM

**1287, 222, 202  
grant programs**

**RAEs?**

**Upcoming CM  
Pilot?**

# Next Steps!

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- Start conversations within your teams
- Brainstorm implementation strategy
- Policy and procedures
- **Seek out payers**
- Look for upcoming funding opportunities!



# Available resources through the Colorado Rx Consortium

- Webinars on basics, clinical, and regulatory aspects of CM
- Template document with policy and protocol for clinics
- Template budget

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# ANNUAL MEETING CONTINUES AT 10:00

Please join us for the General Session at 10:00

<https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/91648856059>

## Reminder:

DEA National Rx Take Back Day is **THIS**

Saturday, October 29

Find the site closest to you

<https://www.dea.gov/takebackday#collection-locator>

