



# First Step – Opioid Response

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# Background

- The crude mortality rates of opioid-related overdose deaths in Minneapolis have increased steadily over the past three years, from 20 per 100,000 in 2019 to 46 per 100,000 in 2021.
- Minneapolis' American Indian and African American communities have been disproportionately impacted by this epidemic.
- The three-year average (2019-2021) mortality rate of opioid-contributed overdose among American Indians (287 deaths per 100,000 persons) is almost nine times as high as that of the city-wide rate for Minneapolis (33 deaths per 100,000 persons), and 12 times as high as that of white residents (23 deaths per 100,000 persons).
- For the African American community, the 3-year average mortality rate of opioid-contributed overdose (61 per 100,000) is almost triple that of white residents.

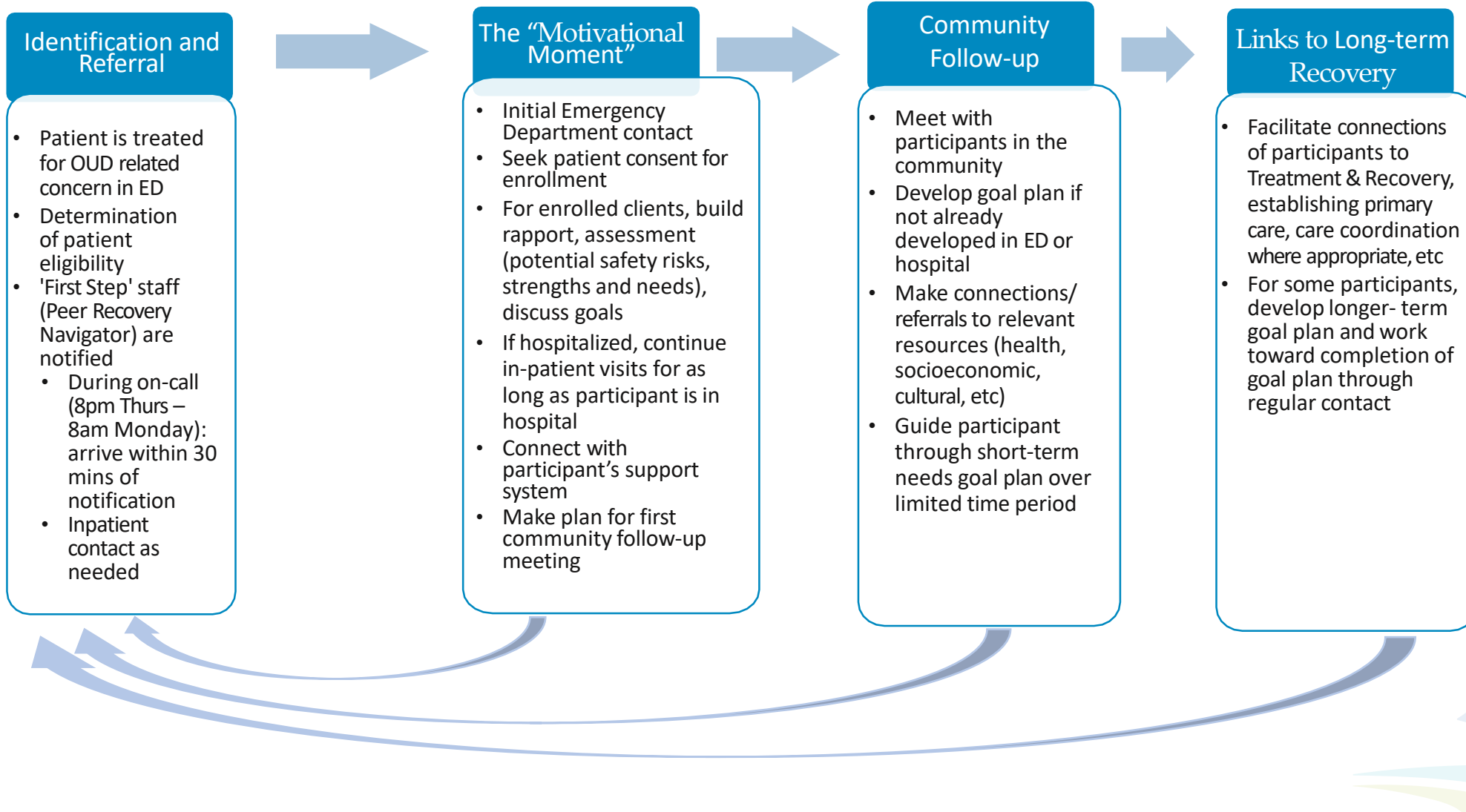


# First Step Program

- First Step is a local adaptation of the Medication First model, which leverages existing systems of care, incorporates evidence-based treatments, and facilitates partnerships between psychosocial and medical providers to offer more effective services to persons with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD).
- First Step will connect clinical care with community resources to provide wrap-around services to those that engage in the First Step program.
- First Step will be implemented through a new contract with Fairview Health Services and leverage existing contracts with community partners.



# First Step Program



# Peer Recovery Navigators

- Peer Recovery Navigators positions will not be impacted by the current nursing strikes.
- Primary qualification for Peer Recovery Specialist is to be a trusted and credible messenger who can provide accompaniment to our OUD patients as they take the critical first step from active daily use through medical stabilization on their journey towards comprehensive treatment and long-term recovery. Their job descriptions will be drawn from those of existing Social Workers, Community Health Workers, Care Coordinators, Patient Navigators, and more conventional Peer Recovery Specialists
- There will be at least one full-time supervisory position and an optimal mix of full- and part-time positions for the rest given the schedule.

