

DIVERTING AND DISCHARGING PEOPLE FROM NURSING HOMES

Connecticut government leaders recognize the need to avoid unnecessary institutional care and provide stable community living for people with psychiatric disabilities. This includes helping to **divert** people with serious mental illness from nursing homes **AND** working to **discharge** those who no longer need to live in a nursing facility. In order to reduce the number of people with psychiatric conditions in nursing homes, Connecticut has embarked upon two exciting new initiatives: The **WISE Program**—which starts April 1, 2009 and is operated by DMHAS, and **Money-Follows-the-Person** operated by the Department of Social Services.

WISE Program

WISE stands for **Working for Integration, Support and Empowerment**. The DMHAS WISE Program is a Medicaid – Home and Community Based Services waiver, **funded mainly by the federal government**. WISE will help people with serious mental illness avoid being placed in nursing homes and will help many others with the transition back to a fulfilling life in the community.

WISE creates a **new source of federal revenue** to support mental health service providers in Connecticut.



Each year **WISE** community based services are expected to **cost about \$15,000 less per person** than institutional care in a nursing home.

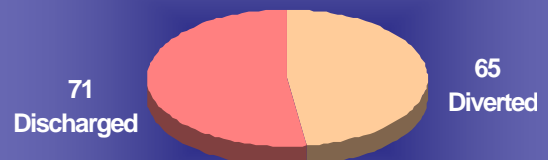
WISE Services

Most WISE **services are provided in the home or in other community settings** and focus on rehabilitation and skill building.

- ✘ Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)
- ✘ Community Support Program (CSP)
- ✘ Supported Employment
- ✘ Peer Support
- ✘ Recovery Assistant
- ✘ Short-Term Crisis Stabilization
- ✘ Transitional Case Management

WISE also covers Non-Medical Transportation, Specialized Medical Equipment, and Home Accessibility Adaptations. The State of CT helps program participants find a safe, affordable place to live and supports the cost of housing for them.

DMHAS interventions at Nursing Homes As of March 23, 2009



In the six month period before the official start of the WISE Program, DMHAS staff diverted and discharged 136 people from nursing homes.

WISE services are delivered in accordance with a **Person-Centered Recovery Plan** developed by the program participant with his/her Recovery Team.



Money-Follows-the-Person is another Medicaid program designed to help people with disabilities in nursing homes return to community living.