

LONG TERM CARE PLANNING COMMITTEE

**ERIN LEAVITT-SMITH, DIRECTOR, LONG TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS,
STATEWIDE SERVICES DIVISION
DMHAS, OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

RECOVERY IN ACTION

MARCH 14, 2023

NURSING HOME DIVERSION AND TRANSITION PROGRAM (NHDTP)

The program focuses on the following goals:


- Diverting individuals from institutional level of care (loc), when possible,
- Ensuring that nursing home placements for DMHAS clients are necessary, appropriate, and safe.
- Transitioning nursing home residents with a mental illness back to the community
- Diverting individuals from ED's & avoiding unnecessary acute care hospitalizations

NURSING HOME DIVERSION AND TRANSITION PROGRAM (NHDTP)


- 8 nurses & 3 case managers cover the 5 DMHAS regions
 - Provide consultation to nursing home discharge staff regarding behavioral health options in the community
 - Consult with community providers regarding:
 - medical issues such as diabetes education, healthy lifestyle choices
 - mental health service linkage
 - substance use treatment & linkages including MAT & MOUD
 - RCH placement
 - Ongoing collaboration with Money Follows the Person & Mental Health Waiver
 - Assessment for level of care to determine the most appropriate community based residential option

NURSING HOME DIVERSION & TRANSITION PROGRAM RCH COLLABORATION

The NHDTP program collaborates with the CT Association for Residential Care Homes (CARCH) :

- Develop curricula for the training of RCH direct care staff to better serve residents. Trainings topics: Mental illness 101 , Establishing Professional Boundaries and Avoiding Power Struggles, Crisis Stabilization and De-escalation Bullying in Congregate Care Settings, Substance Use and Addictions, The Mind, Body, Spirit Connection (Self Care), Working with People with Intellectual Challenges, Working with People with Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia
 - Assist with residents who are in crisis by assessing clients for the most appropriate level of care; act as liaison between the residential care home and the hospital emergency department
 - Assist in the emergency placement of RCH residents and coordinate with DPH, DSS, and the State Long Term Care Ombudsman program in securing alternative housing.
- 

MENTAL HEALTH WAIVER (MHW)

- Allows clients with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) who are in or at risk of a nursing home admission to live independently in the community
 - Cost neutrality must be met; no more than what's being paid in nursing home for all Medicaid billing.
 - The MHW is a DSS/Medicaid program that is operated by DMHAS
 - Advanced Behavioral Health is the fiscal intermediary and is responsible for:
 - Credentialing providers
 - Ensuring fidelity
 - Quality Assurance
 - Training and certifying Recovery Assistants
- 

MENTAL HEALTH WAIVER

The MHW's recovery orientation encompasses:

- Intensive psychiatric rehabilitation provided in the participant's home, and in other community settings;
- Attention to both psychiatric and medical needs;
- Emphasis on wellness and recovery;
- Person-Centered Planning leading to development of an individualized Recovery Plan; and
- Use of peer supports provided by people trained and certified in rehabilitative care, who know from first-hand lived experience about recovery from mental illness.

ELIGIBILITY

What does “serious mental illness” mean?

- Schizophrenia
- Bipolar Disorder
- Major Depression
- Delusional/Paranoid Disorder
- Psychotic Disorders, NOS (Brief Reactive Psychosis, Schizoaffective Disorder, and Psychotic Disorders NOS)

-OR-
Another mental illness that may lead to a chronic disability, requires assistance or supervision, and have limitations in at least one area of functioning due to the mental illness

Are these 5 criteria met?

- 1) 22 years of age or older;
- 2) Has Medicaid (“Husky C”);
- 3) Meets criteria **for nursing home level of care**
- 4) Voluntarily chooses to participate in the waiver
- 5) Has a diagnosis of **serious mental illness**

What does “nursing home level of care” mean?

The individual must have at least **3** Critical Needs...bathing, dressing, feeding, meal prep, medication, toileting, or transfer

OR 2 critical needs AND 4 or more Cognitive Deficits...orientation, concentration, abstract reasoning, comprehension, planning, judgment, or attention

MHW Services

Rehabilitative Services
Community Support Program
Peer Support
Supported Employment

Support Services
Recovery Assistant
Transitional Case Management
Brief Episode Stabilization
Assisted Living
Chore Service

Ancillary Services
Specialized Medical Equipment
Non-medical Transportation
Personal Emergency Response
System
Home Accessibility Adaptations
Home Delivered Meals
Adult Day Program

SENIOR OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Mission: To outreach and engage at risk older adults with behavioral health and substance abuse treatment needs

Programming in all 5 DMHAS regions

Provides outreach through visits to residences, nursing homes, senior centers and other community locations

Assist providers in navigating mental health and substance use treatment system

Assist with linkages to all levels of treatment services to help older adults “age in place” and avoid unnecessary institutionalization

Added a full time position to each region as of March 1, 2023



QUESTIONS:

ERIN.LEAVITT-SMITH@CT.GOV