CMS Housing and Services: Why Collaboration Matters

HCBS Conference September 17, 2014
Emerging Role of Housing in HCBS

• Olmstead Decision
• Movement towards (re)balancing the system
• CMS (HCFA) offers housing grant Opportunities for State Medicaid
• Year of Community Living
• Housing Capacity Building initiative
• New HCBS Settings Regulations
Olmstead

• “The unjustified segregation of people in institutions, when community placement is appropriate, constitutes a form of discrimination prohibited by Title II [of the ADA].”

• Department of Justice enforcement efforts
  – 40 matters in 25 states in recent years

• HHS Office of Civil Rights
  – Complaints
  – Investigations
In response to Olmstead, CMS (HCFA) awarded 12 Nursing Facility Transition Grants (NFTG) to states between 1998-2000.

- Demonstrated that housing was the #1 barrier to transitioning from institutional settings.
- Began early collaborations between housing and services programs in the context of long-term care.
Real Choice Systems Change Grants

• First round in 2004: addressed *housing availability* as a challenge. The state Medicaid agency grantees awards to establish collaborations with housing agencies:
  – Local Public Housing Agencies’ set-asides for persons with disabilities
  – State Housing Finance Agencies’ low income housing tax credits projects for persons with disabilities
  – Statewide database on affordable, accessible housing

• Then in 2011 RCSC  **Housing collaboration focus**
  – Medicaid/MFP agencies developing sustainable partnerships with housing agencies, including Sec. 811 applications
  – Creating permanent, affordable, integrated rental housing
Money Follows the Person

- Today 44 states & DC
- Over 40,000 people have transitioned into community living through the MFP program
- 40% are non-elderly, 37% are elderly, 18% are people with intellectual disabilities, 6% are people with mental illness
- Where They Move:
  - 29% move into a home they or a family member own, 41% move into a qualified assisted living facility/group home with 4 or fewer, 30% move into an apartment
- **MFP allows admin funding for housing-services staff**
  - Those MFP programs with housing staff are most successful in using housing resources like vouchers
Community Living Initiative
Housing Capacity Building Initiative

- HHS/HUD Housing Capacity Building Initiative for Community Living (CBI) TA contract:
  - A landmark project joining Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Health and Human Services (HHS), under the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
  - To assist federal, state and local agencies as well as community partners to create sustainable, collaborative relationships between housing and services agencies
CBI Collaborative Efforts

• HUD & HHS collaborations: Federal Agencies & States/Local Grantees
  • Housing Capacity Building TA Contract
    – HUD Non-elderly disabled (NED) Category 2 Housing Choice Vouchers for transitioning from institutions
  • 28 local PHAs with MFP partners
    – HUD Sec. 811 Project Rental Assistance for non-elderly disabled grants
    • 13 state HFAs with MFP/Medicaid partners in 2012
      – 2014 applications currently under review
CBI Collaboration Outcomes

• Regional Trainings
  – Regions 4 & 6, Dallas, TX – March 2012
  – Regions 9 & 10, Seattle, WA – May 2012

• Achievements:
  – **Texas**: 200 rental vouchers and public housing units set aside for MFP, following Dallas Regional Training
  – **Tennessee**: 18 new housing units for MFP from TN Housing Finance Agency, following Dallas Regional Training
  – **California**: 335 housing units under HUD Sec. 811 PRA grant with CA HFA, following Seattle Regional Training
  – **68 Original Products**: Developed by Team to support housing/services collaboration now available at www.MFP-TAC.com
CBI Collaboration Outcomes

- MFP Q&A for PHAs/Housing Q&A for Medicaid
- HUD Olmstead Guidance to PHAs
- Admission Preferences for transitioning individuals
- Portability
- Webinars for MFP/PHAs to support NED voucher & 811 activities
- NED & 811 NOFA development & application review
"In the end, it is a culture of collaboration and a willingness to change by both partners that appear to be the most important determinants of success in the NED 2 Choice Voucher program."

-- Report on Lessons Learned in the NED-2 program
Why Collaboration Matters

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