

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

Nursing Home Transition

- 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

Why Collaboration Matters

“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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