

Ohio Department of Mental Health

Document Number: MD-13

Type of Document: Policy

AUTHORITY SOURCE: Operational Need

DOCUMENT TITLE: Discharge of Persons from ODMH BHOs to Homeless Shelters

APPLICABILITY STATEMENT: All IBHS BHOs

"EXCEPTIONS" IF APPLICABLE: None

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 19, 2003 (Reviewed 4-28-2006)

REPLACES: Discharge of Persons from ODMH Hospitals and Programs to Homeless Shelters (12/1/00)

DIRECTED TO: Chief Executive Officers, Community Support Network Administrators and Chief Clinical Officers, Office of the Medical Director

DISTRIBUTED BY: Office of the Medical Director

Discharge of Persons from ODMH BHOs to Homeless Shelters

- A. Housing is a fundamental element of a community support program. Housing denotes a sense of permanence, a place where persons intend to reside. Providing shelter is a temporary option for homeless persons when a more stable residential option is absent. It is the position of ODMH that homeless shelters are not appropriate living arrangements for persons with mental illness. Discharging patients from ODMH BHOs to homeless shelters is strongly discouraged.
- B. CSN programs are required to have emergency housing plans in place in the event their clients undergo unexpected residential change. This emergency housing plan must be approved by the relevant ODMH BHO Chief Executive Officer, the contracting Board for the CSN program, and the BHO CSN Coordinator.
- C. ODMH BHO and CSN programs, in conjunction with the responsible or contracting Board or agency, shall exhaust all reasonable efforts to locate suitable housing options for patients being discharged. Patients in ODMH BHOs shall not be discharged to homeless shelters and clients in an ODMH CSN program shall not be removed or relocated from community housing options to homeless shelters unless the responsible board or contract agency has been involved in the decision making process, and:
 - 1. It is the expressed wish of the affected person; and
 - 2. Other placement options have been offered to the affected person and refused.

When a discharge or relocation to a homeless shelter occurs under these guidelines, the

reasons shall be thoroughly documented in the person's chart and reviewed via the BHO's quality improvement process.

D. Persons may not be discharged or relocated to homeless shelters for the convenience of staff, as a punitive measure, or for expediency.

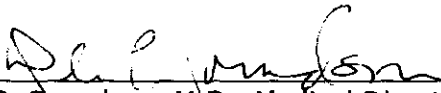
E. ODMH BHO policies shall be consistent with this directive.



Michael F. Hogan, Director
Department of Mental Health

Date

8/22/06



Dale P. Svendsen, M.D., Medical Director
Department of Mental Health

Date

9-20-06