

Progress Report on Completing the Secure Residential Program

As required by Act No. 43 of 2009 §31 (f)(3) – Required Quarterly Update to Joint Fiscal Committee and the Mental Health Oversight Committee

Development of the Secure Recovery Residence

Consistent with the Capital and Appropriations bills, the Department of Mental Health has been engaged in developing a 15-bed Secure Recovery Residence (SRR) to be located on the grounds of the Waterbury State Complex. Completion of this facility would be the final residential project (joining Second Spring and Meadowview) to replace the long term care function of the Vermont State Hospital. It will serve current VSH patients who no longer need acute inpatient treatment but do require an intensive clinical program for longer term care and a level of security commensurate with the current VSH program.

Certificate of Need Process

Early this fall, DMH amended the application filed last March to reflect a change in building site to a location approximately 350 feet south of the site originally proposed. The new location is directly west of the “A” and Osgood buildings on the Waterbury State Complex. The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services provided notice of the final location to the chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions in July. The application for a Certificate of Need was ruled complete by BISHCA on October 7, 2010 after multiple rounds of questions and answers.

The Public Oversight Commission (POC) held a hearing on the application on November 3rd. The POC invited Interested Parties, amicus curiae, and members of the public to offer comments at the hearing. The POC will deliberate at their next meeting on December 1st, and will formulate their recommendation to the commissioner of BISHCA. The commissioner is to make a final decision on the application to develop the SRR within 120 days from the date that BISHCA ruled the application complete, in this case by February 4, 2011.

Participation in Medicaid under the Global Commitment Waiver

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recommended that the Secure Recovery Residence be included in the renewal agreement for the Global Commitment waiver as a residential treatment service under the CRT program.

While the waiver renewal negotiation is still in progress CMS and the state are not negotiating the types of coverage of the programs the state would be able to fund through Global Commitment as that discussion has been completed. There is specific language in the renewal document concerning the Community Residential Treatment (CRT) program and confirming coverage for residential treatment services. The Department of Vermont Health Access plans to include the Secure Recovery Residence in the CRT program

claim for matching funds in the same manner and under the same authority that the other CRT residential treatment programs are reimbursed.

Licensing of the Secure Recovery Residence

The Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) will introduce a revised regulation for Residential Care Homes to the rule making process early in 2011. The new proposed rule will accommodate a secure residential program such as the SRR.

Acute Inpatient Services

The 2010 Capital Bill (§37 (d)) directs the Commissioners of Mental Health and Buildings and General Services to plan for the replacement of Vermont State Hospital inpatient beds in consultation with Brattleboro Retreat, Rutland Regional Medical Center, and Dartmouth Medical School. Current estimates are that forty-five (45) inpatient beds are required to fulfill the needs of Vermonters requiring intensive, psychiatric inpatient care.

Rutland Regional Medical Center: Twelve (12) Beds

DMH recommends developing a new 28 bed facility at Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC) that builds on the existing psychiatric inpatient program and creates a net increase of twelve (12) VSH replacement beds. RRMC remains interested in advancing this proposal pending available capital financing. The interested financial institution advised that the financing arrangement would need to include both a long-term operating agreement between the State and RRMC, and an agreement from both the State and RRMC to contribute to capital construction cost. DMH and RRMC continue to explore options to finance the project.

Veteran's Administration & Dartmouth Medical School

DMH continues its ongoing conversations to explore ways to develop a 16-bed psychiatric facility on Veteran's Administration donated land with psychiatric and other medical services to be provided through contractual arrangements with Dartmouth Medical School and the Veteran's Administration.

Brattleboro Retreat

DMH and the Brattleboro Retreat are developing a planning agreement to further develop the conceptual proposal that the Retreat brought forward. This planning agreement will develop cost estimates for facilities renovations and daily program operations, and resolve the outstanding question of whether the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital or a third party would license the proposed 16-bed program.