

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Department of Health and Human Services
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: March 27, 2014

TO: Supervisor Peggy Romo West, Chair Health and Human Needs Committee

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
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SUBJECT: From the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, providing an informational report on the status of the closure of Rehabilitation Center Hilltop and Central at the Behavioral Health Division

Background

The Behavioral Health Division's (BHD) Rehabilitation Center Hilltop (Hilltop) and Rehabilitation Center Central (RCC) are licensed programs that provide services to individuals who have complex medical, rehabilitative, and intellectual disabilities. The Hilltop is an Intermediate Care Facility for Intellectual Disabilities (ICF-ID) and the RCC is a 70-bed, Title XIX certified, skilled-care licensed nursing home.

The 2014 Adopted Budget reflects the closure of Hilltop by November 2014 with the relocation of its residents into community-based settings as well as relocation of 24 Central residents by July 1, 2014. This report serves to provide an update on the status of these two closure projects.

In August 2012, BHD submitted a notice of intent to downsize Hilltop to the State of Wisconsin as required by section 50.03(14) of the Wisconsin Statutes. This notice of intent of relocation plan was approved effective September 10, 2012. In September 2013, the State approved a closure plan for both Hilltop and Central to be closed by November 2014 and December 2015 respectively.

Discussion

Rehabilitation Center Hilltop Closure

As part of the 2014 Adopted Budget initiative, BHD plans to close Hilltop in by November of 2014. As of January 2014 considerable progress toward this goal has been accomplished. While a total of 20 individuals have been relocated to community-based settings from Hilltop, nearly 40 individuals and their guardians have received options counseling and have been enrolled in one of the Family Care programs. Although much progress has been made in placing residents in appropriate community-based settings, there remains more work to continue expansion of community programs as well as development of additional community-based crisis response resources. However, the department

continues to be hopeful that as new resources are developed, the pace at which relocations occur will increase.

| Hilltop Census & Placements | Count |
|--|--------------|
| Starting Point under Declared Closure | 66 |
| Placements Under Official Closure | -20 |
| Current Census | 46 |

The Disabilities Services Division (DSD) and the Department on Aging (MCDA), have been working to permanently close Hilltop by conducting options counseling with guardians. In addition, Hilltop staff are working with the Family Care Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) which are responsible for developing individualized service plans for all persons who will be relocated. The overall goal of this collaborative effort is to provide successful community relocation options with appropriate supportive services for individuals to be successful.

As shown in the chart below at the writing of this report, a total of 34 Hilltop residents are now enrolled in one of the Family Care options. It should be noted that four resident’s families/guardians are working to relocate family members outside the Milwaukee area. This will reduce the number of individuals who will require relocation from Hilltop. It should also be noted that DSD staff have worked diligently with guardians to educate and advise on this lengthy process of relocation. There are five publicly funded long term care options with different models of care. This process was overwhelming for many guardians. Many have visited several community living options to get a sense of what is available. Indeed, several guardians who were initially opposed to this relocation have now proceeded with options counseling and selected an MCO with whom they are working to arrange a community living option.

| Hilltop Enrollments | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Current Census | Number Currently Enrolled in Family Care | Number Remaining to Enroll |
| 47 | 34* | 12 |

**Does not include those individuals who have been enrolled and relocated.*

Managed Care Organizations

The relocation of individuals to community-based living options is a function of the MCOs who are responsible to begin the process of working with the individual and guardian at the point the enrollment occurs and the guardian makes a selection. This is a complex process that requires the MCO to determine if there is existing capacity in their provider network to provide the needed supports for the individual. If a suitable provider is not currently in the MCO provider network, it may

be necessary to develop new provider capacity which may include additional Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF) beds, Adult Family Home (AFH) beds or new individualized supported apartment settings. This is a person-centered individualized process which is developed on the strengths of that person and their support system.

At this time, those individuals who are currently enrolled and remain at Hilltop are awaiting completion of this relocation process. Each individual is at a different phase of planning for their transition to a community based setting. The number of individuals at the writing of this report that are working with each MCO is as follows:

| MCO | Number Enrolled |
|--|-----------------|
| Milwaukee County Department of Family Care | 13 |
| Community Care, Inc. | 19 |
| iCare | 2 |
| Total | 34 |

The three MCOs represent two different models of publicly funded long term care including the Family Care model which provides only long term supports and the Partnership model which is an integrated model providing both primary care, e.g., medical services, pharmacy, hospital, doctor office visits, etc. and long term support services. The integrated model may be a good option for individuals with complex medical needs to help provide critical medical services effectively.

The average number of days since enrollment (or the number of days the MCOs have been working on relocation efforts) for those individuals who enrolled since the Hilltop closure project began is 120.

Rehabilitation Center Central Closure

The RCC provides services to primarily individuals who experience co-occurring physical disabilities and severe and persistent mental illness. BHD had budgeted to relocate enough individuals by July 1, 2014 to be at a census of 46 which reflects a reduction of 24 licensed beds in Rehabilitation Center Central. About one-half of the individuals who are served by RCC are ineligible for the Family Care program (approximately 22) due to their primary needs being mental health. As such, the efforts to assist individuals with community living options involves both the Family Care program as well as the BHD Community Services Branch who have historically provided services to individuals who leave RCC.

It has been BHD's experience that typically about one third of the 70 residents, or about 23 individuals complete treatment and are relocated from RCC each year to move back to community-based living alternatives. Therefore, once the closure of RCC was approved by the State Department of Health Services, new admissions were discontinued per State Statutes (Chapter 50) and those individuals who completed treatment have been steadily relocating to the community resulting in a decreasing census. This reduction has gradually occurred over the last few years. In fact, BHD has met its goal for 2014 as RCC is currently at a census of 44. DSD and MCDA have been working closely with the MCOs to

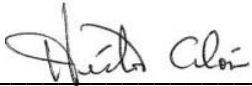
facilitate relocations and RCC staff have been working with the Community Services Branch in securing community placements for those individuals who are ineligible for Family Care.

Summary

Both Hilltop and RCC are making progress toward the goal of closure in 2014 and 2015 respectively. Of the 46 individuals remaining at Hilltop, 34 have been enrolled in Family Care and plans for relocation are under way. The number of residents at RCC is 44 which reflects a reduction of 26 individuals who have been relocated or are no longer living at RCC. Efforts to work with guardians, managed care organizations, provider agencies as well as BHD Community Services Branch also continue. New programs to support individuals in crisis also continue to be developed. It is anticipated that Hilltop will close by November 2014 and RCC will close by the end of 2015.

Recommendation

This is an informational report. No action is necessary.



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

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