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Bridging Recovery Assistance Program (BRAP) Monitoring Report Quarter 4 FY2015 (April, May, June 2015)

The Bridging Recovery Assistance Program (BRAP) has been established in recognition that recovery can only begin in a safe, healthy, and decent environment, a place one can call home. The Office of Substance Abuse and Adult Mental Health Services also recognizes that recovery is achieved on an individual basis which is not predicated by length of time but rather individual progress, successes and the necessity for rental assistance for persons with mental illness where length of assistance and amount of services are measured in need rather than in months. There is not a single housing market in the country where a person receiving Social Security as his or her sole income source can afford to rent even a modest one-bedroom apartment. According to a report issued by the Technical Assistance Collaborative, *Priced out in 2012* in Maine, 95 percent of a person's SSI standard monthly payment is needed to pay for the average one-bedroom apartment statewide. In Cumberland County the amount is 94 percent and Sagadahoc 98 percent. In the City of Portland 115 percent of a person's SSI is necessary to pay for the average one-bedroom apartment and in the KEYS area (Kittery, Elliot, York and South Berwick) 110 percent.

BRAP is designed to assist individuals who have a psychiatric disability with housing costs until the individuals are awarded a Housing Choice Voucher (aka Section 8 Voucher), another federal subsidy, or until the individuals have an alternative housing placement. All units subsidized by BRAP funding must meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Housing Quality Standards and Fair Market Rents. Following a **Housing First** model, initial BRAP recipients are encouraged, but not required to accept the provision of services to go hand in hand with the voucher.

The monitoring of the Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) is the responsibility of the Office of Substance Abuse and Adult Mental Health Services (SAMHS) and particularly the Data, Quality Management, and Resource Development team.

The bullets below highlight some of the details regarding the 154 persons who are currently waiting for a BRAP voucher: The percentage terms reflect the percentage of relative change compared to the last report.

- Priority #1 applicants (Discharge from a psychiatric hospital within the last 6 months). Riverview and Dorothea Dix consumers are typically not waiting more than 3 business days from the date of a completed application. Statewide priority 1 waiting for BRAP services is 27.
- Priority #2 applicants (Homeless). Statewide priority 2 waiting for BRAP services is 117 persons.
- Priority #3 applicants (Substandard Housing). Statewide priority 3 waiting for BRAP services is 3 persons.
- Priority #4 applicants (Community Residential Facility). Statewide priority 4 waiting for BRAP services is 6 persons.
- Total number of persons on the waitlist greater than 90 days is at 15 persons, this is a reflection in the maximum use of funds available .Note: With the increase in funding going forward in FY16 this is expected to be addressed in the first quarter.

Since inception of the wait list, there has been a total of 3,203 BRAP vouchers awarded broken down as follows: Priority #1, 1,456; Priority #2, 1,405; Priority #3, 46; Priority #4, 274. Note that 22 vouchers have been awarded to persons with no priority. In the last quarter 87 BRAP vouchers were awarded.

The BRAP census as of June 30,2015 was 1022 vouchers.

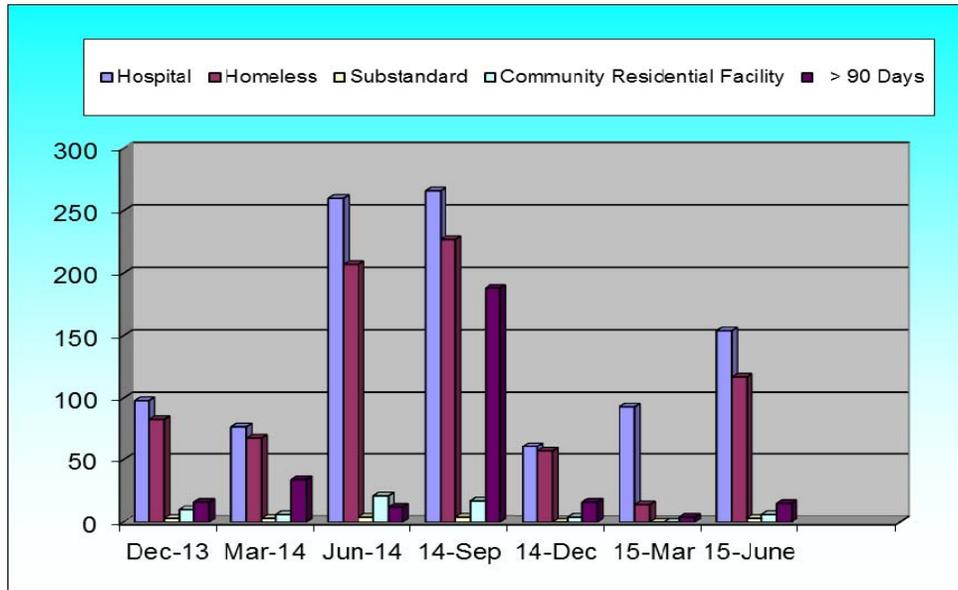
The overall BRAP budget for FY 15 is now a part of the baseline budget at SAMHS and remains at \$5,372,414.00. With additional funding of \$1,233,947.00 in FY16 budget this brings the total of BRAP funding to \$6,606,361.00 which will allow for an additional 150-200 additional vouchers.

SAMHS is working closely with community providers and councils in order to direct these vouchers to those most in need as well as those leaving State funded Hospitals and Residential Facilities. The PATH program, also managed by SAMHS, is being directed to outreach, engage and enroll literally homeless individuals into housing and mainstream resources with their focus being those literally homeless individuals who are eligible for sec.13+17 of the Maine Care Manual and would be prioritized for BRAP and Shelter Plus Care.

The number of persons on the program for greater than 24 months remains steady at 50% of the entire program. This is principally a result of decades of federal and state cuts to low-income and supportive housing programs, including persons who will not qualify for Section 8 due to criminal history. The lack of availability of these resources, particularly Section 8 at the federal level, has translated to increased pressures on state programs such as BRAP.

SAMHS administers a substantial number of Shelter Plus Care vouchers, more than any other state on a per-capita basis. The census as of June 30,2015 is 1,093 vouchers. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and has seen significant growth over the last decade, the result of SAMHS aggressively applying for and receiving new grants each year. There has been no increase in HUD funding over the past two years resulting in no increase in grants funded. SAMHS is focusing vouchers, that do become available through turnover, on the Chronic and Long Term homeless population who generally qualify for this program.

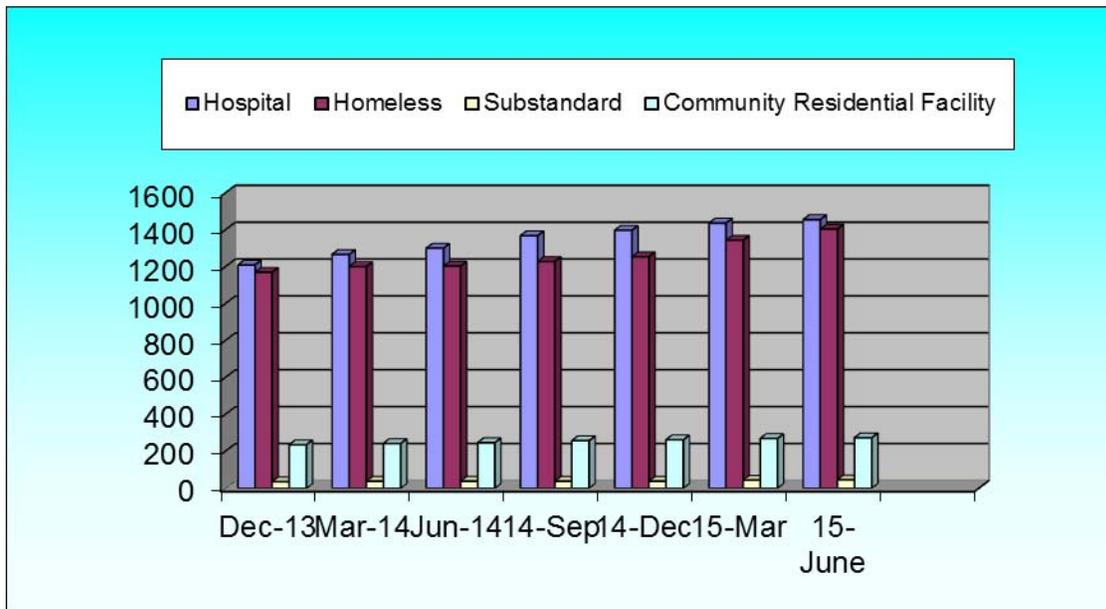
**BRAP Waitlist Status--Graph:
Detail by Priority Status to include those persons waiting longer than 90 Days**



**BRAP Waitlist Status—Table:
Detail by Priority Status to include those persons waiting longer than 90 Days**

Reporting Period	13-Dec	14-Mar	14-Jun	14-Sep	14-Dec	15-Mar	15-June	% Change relative to Last Report
Total number of persons waiting for BRAP	98	77	260	266	61	93	154	66%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	2	0	26	17	0	0	27	27%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	83	68	207	227	57	14	117	105%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	3	3	4	4	0	0	3	3%
Priority 4—Leaving a Community Residential living facility	10	6	21	17	4	0	6	50%
Total number of persons on wait list more than 90 days awaiting voucher	16	34	12	188	16	4	15	-6%

**BRAP Awards—Graph
Cumulative Since Inception of Waitlist**



**BRAP Awards—Table
Cumulative Since Inception of Waitlist**

Reporting Periods	13-Dec	14-Mar	14-Jun	14-Sep	14-Dec	15-Mar	15-June	% Change relative to Last Report
Cumulative number of persons awarded BRAP	2668	2767	2808	2914	2974	3116	3203	3%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	1210	1267	1301	1369	1398	1437	1456	1%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	1171	1202	1204	1229	1255	1344	1405	5%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	36	38	38	38	38	44	46	5%
Priority 4—Leaving a DHHS funded living facility	236	243	247	258	263	270	274	1%

*Note: 1 persons awarded with no priority in 15-Jun reporting period