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**Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP)
Monitoring Report
Quarter 2 FY2012 (October, November, December 2011)**

The Bridging Rental 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 Adult Mental Health Services recognizes the necessity for rental assistance for persons with mental illness, particularly those being discharged from hospitals, group homes, and homeless shelters. There is not a single housing market in the country where a person receiving Social Security as their sole income source can afford to rent even a modest one-bedroom apartment. According to a recent report issued by the Technical Assistance Collaborative, *Priced out in 2010*, in Maine, 98% 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 104% and Sagadahoc 106%. In the City of Portland 126% 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) 125%.

BRAP is designed to assist individuals who have a psychiatric disability with housing costs for up to 24 months or until they are awarded a Housing Choice Voucher (aka Section 8 Voucher), another federal subsidy, or 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 Adult Mental Health Services (OAMHS) and particularly the Policy Development Manager within the OAMHS.

On July 13, 2007, because the number of persons with BRAP vouchers was 41 over the maximum, the BRAP Wait List Protocol was fully activated. The following report details the census activity over the most recent four quarters. Trending information from the previous reports is provided so ongoing activity can be readily measured against longitudinal trends.

The additional OAMHS allocation funding for BRAP in the amount of \$995,000 for FY'12 was made available on August 23rd. Since that time, the waitlists have dramatically decreased in every BRAP priority category we measure. In fact, all applicants on the waitlist prior to July 2011 (with the exception of one person who is not yet ready to leave a PNMI) has been offered a BRAP voucher. This represented award letters being issued to the 264 persons who were on the Waitlist as of June 30, 2011. As of December 31, 2011 there were 55 persons on the waitlist, all of whom have been issued award letters. There remains capacity for an additional 100 persons

to be awarded a voucher. The Department is pursuing a legislative 'no lapse in funds' clause pertaining to the BRAP program which will help keep the BRAP census more consistent between fiscal years and allow us to maximize the resources dedicated to this program.

The bullets below highlight some of the details regarding persons who are currently waiting for a BRAP voucher: The percentage terms reflect the percentage of relative change compared to the last report, the formula is $((\text{Current Report Number} - \text{Previous Report Number}) / \text{Current Report Number})$.

- Priority #1 applicants (Discharge from a psychiatric hospital within the last 6 months). Riverview and Dorothea Dix consumers are typically not waiting more than 5 days from the date of a completed application. Priority 1 applicants waiting for a BRAP voucher have decreased from 15 to 9 persons, down 67%.
- Priority #2 applicants (Homeless) have decreased from 55 to 40, down 38%
- Priority #3 applicants (Substandard Housing) have no change, remaining at 1.
- Priority #4 applicants (Community Residential Facility) have decreased from 56 to 4 persons, down 1,300%.
- Persons on the waitlist greater than 90 days have decreased from 17 to 3 persons down 467%.

Since inception of the wait list, there has been a total of 1,566 BRAP vouchers awarded broken down as follows: Priority #1, 751; Priority #2, 617; Priority #3, 24; Priority #4, 164. Note that 10 vouchers have been awarded to persons with no priority.

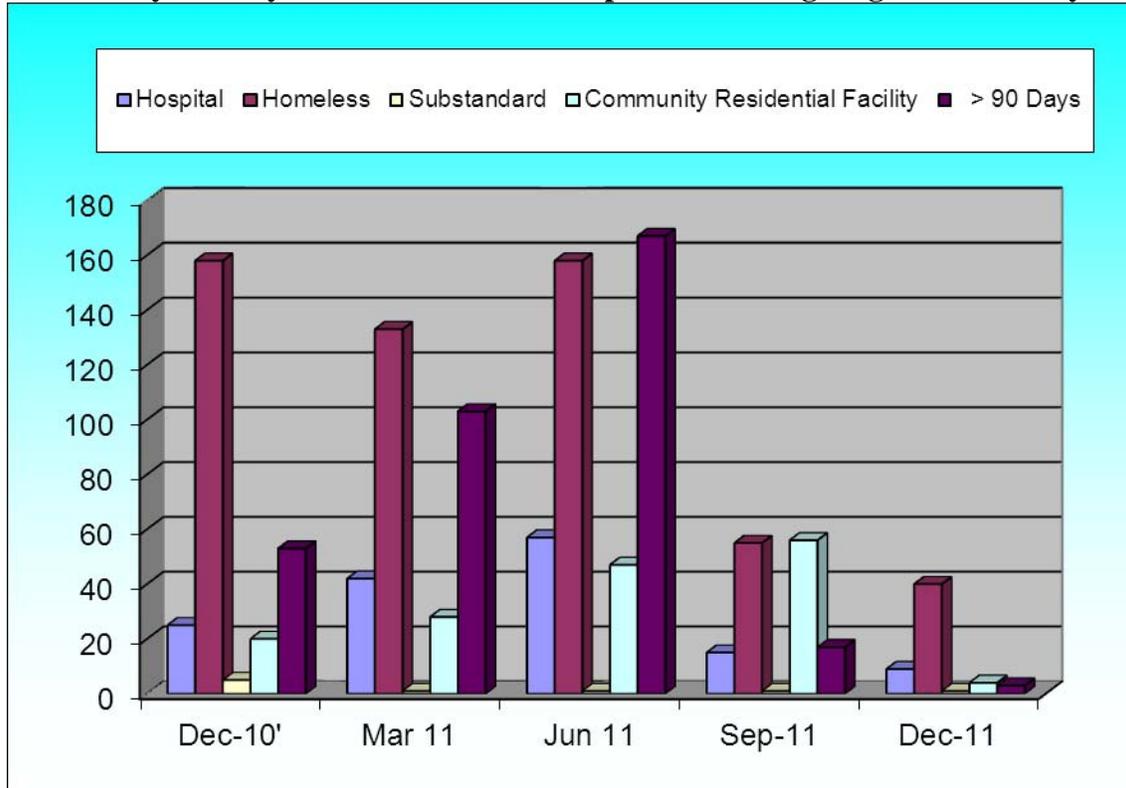
The current BRAP census as of December 31, 2011 is 706 vouchers. The number of persons on the program for greater than 24 months remains steady at 25% of the entire program. This is principally a result of decades of federal and state cuts to low-income and supportive housing programs. The lack of availability of these resources, particularly Section 8 at the federal level, has translated to increased pressures on state programs such as BRAP.

As noted in the last report the recent HUD change in Fair Market Rents will impede the ability of persons with a voucher to find a unit to rent within HUDs guidelines, as landlords are facing continued upward pressure on operating costs. Our Local Administrative Agents have worked with their respective Landlords and have largely mitigated the potential negative impact of this change. HUD has recently issued a second definition of homelessness which has a direct impact on the Shelter Plus Care program. We will consider implementing this new definition into the BRAP program beginning July 1st.

The Office of Adult Mental Health Services also administers a substantial number of Shelter Plus Care vouchers, 915 as of December 31, 2011. 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 OAMHS aggressively applying for and receiving new grants each year. The FY2012 annual budget for Shelter Plus Care is \$7.2 million. The total dollars for all SPC grants (one year renewals to 5 year new contracts) currently administered by OAMHS is \$11,173,212. Shelter Plus Care (SPC) is designed to provide permanent rental subsidies (housing vouchers) and supportive services (provided by MaineCare) to literally homeless individuals with: severe and persistent mental illness (63%), chronic substance abuse and mental illness (30%), and chronic

substance abuse and HIV/AIDS (7%). For a detailed breakdown of the Shelter Plus Care program by disability type and CSN please see attached, *FY 2010 Shelter Plus Care Disability Categories*

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

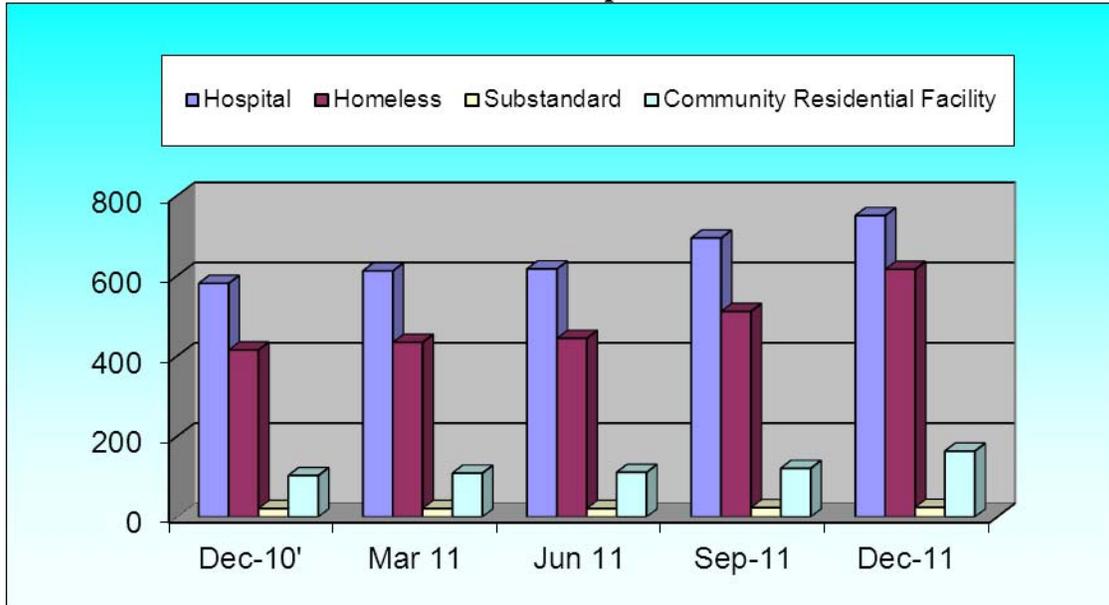


**BRAP Waitlist Status—Table:
Detail by Priority Status to include those persons waiting longer than 90 Days**

Reporting Period	Dec-10'	Mar 11	Jun 11	Sep-11	Dec-11	% Change relative to Last Report
Total number of persons waiting for BRAP	209	205	264	127	55	-131%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	25	42	57	15	9	-67%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	158	133	158	55	40	-38%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	5	1	1	1	1	0%
Priority 4—Leaving a Community Residential living facility	20	28	47	56	4	-1300%
Total number of persons on wait list more than 90 days awaiting voucher	53	103	167	17	3	-467%

***Note one person waiting with no priority**

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



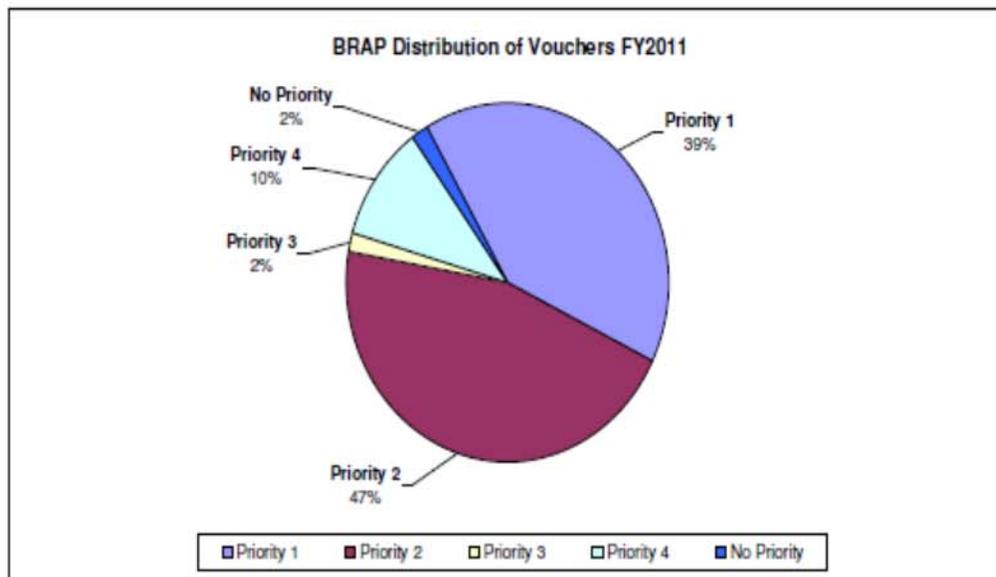
**BRAP Awards—Table
Cumulative Since Inception of Waitlist**

Reporting Periods	Dec-10'	Mar 11	Jun 11	Sep-11	Dec-11	% Change relative to Last Report
Cumulative number of persons awarded BRAP	1132	1188	1205	1361	1566	13%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	582	613	618	695	751	7%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	416	435	445	512	617	17%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	21	21	21	23	24	4%
Priority 4—Leaving a DHHS funded living facility	103	109	111	121	164	26%

Note: 10 persons awarded with no priority

7/1/2010 - 6/30/2011 BRAP PRIORITY CODES

	Priority 1 Hospital	Priority 2 Homeless	Priority 3 Sub-Standard	Priority 4 Group Home	No Priority	Total All
ANDROSCOGGIN	7	56	1	0	2	66
AROOSTOCK	3	4	0	0	0	7
CUMBERLAND	150	133	1	27	6	317
FRANKLIN	1	2	0	0	1	4
HANCOCK	3	0	0	0	0	3
KENNEBEC	49	51	7	17	3	127
KNOX	8	14	1	0	1	24
LINCOLN	2	5	1	0	0	8
OXFORD	0	6	1	0	0	7
PENOBSCOT	66	30	1	30	1	128
PISCATAQUIS	0	0	0	1	0	1
SAGadahoc	11	21	1	0	0	33
SOMERSET	3	20	0	0	0	23
WALDO	7	4	0	0	0	11
WASHINGTON	0	0	0	0	0	0
YORK	41	50	1	17	0	109
Total All	351	396	15	92	14	868
	40.4%	45.6%	1.7%	10.6%	1.6%	



Priority Codes	
Hospital	Eligible adults who are leaving a State Institution (Riverview or Dorothea Dix); or a private psychiatric hospital bed; or has been discharged in the last 6 months from any of these institutions.
Homeless	Eligible adults who are homeless as defined by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development
Substandard	Eligible adults who are living in substandard housing in the community.
Group Home	Eligible adults who are moving from community residential programs and other behavioral health facilities, to more independent living arrangements.
No Priority	DHHS Waiver