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**Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP)
Monitoring Report
Quarter 3 FY2011 (January, February, March 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. In Maine, 96.1% of a person's SSI standard monthly payment is needed to pay for the average one-bedroom apartment in Cumberland or Sagadahoc Counties; and in the Kittery, Elliot, York and South Berwick area (York County), up to 124% of a person's SSI is required to pay for the average one bedroom apartment.

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. Since the last report:

The Governor's budget includes additional grant funding allocated to the Office of Adult Mental Health Services. One million dollars of this allocation is earmarked for the BRAP program. The additional OAMHS allocation funding has already passed through the Health and Human Services Work Session and, if approved by the full Legislature, will support up to 193 additional BRAP vouchers in FY2012, effectively clearing the waitlist. This reporting period continues to reflect longitudinal trends of demand dramatically outstripping available resources. The number of persons waiting for a BRAP voucher remains above 200 persons, down four persons from 209 to 205 as of March 31, 2011. 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 ((Current Report Number – Previous Report Number) / Current Report Number).

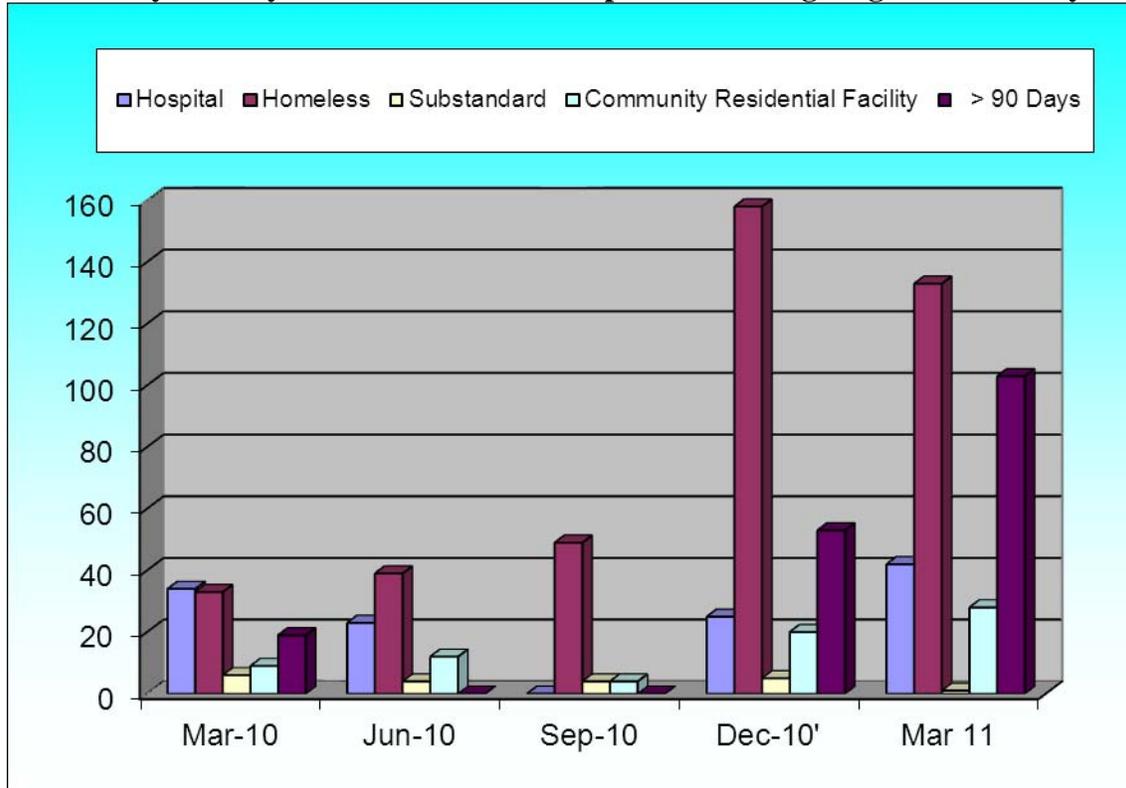
- Priority #1 applicants (Discharge from a psychiatric hospital within the last 6 months). Riverview and Dorothea Dix consumers are typically not waiting more than 5 days from the date of a completed application. Priority 1 applicants waiting for a BRAP voucher have increased from 25 persons to 42, up 40%.
- Priority #2 applicants (Homeless) have decreased from 158 persons to 133, down 19%
- Priority #3 applicants (Substandard Housing) have decreased from 5 persons to 1, down 400%.
- Priority #4 applicants (Community Residential Facility) have increased from 20 to 28 persons, up 29%.
- Persons on the waitlist greater than 90 days have increased from 53 persons to 103 up 49%.

Since inception of the wait list, there has been a total of 1,188 BRAP vouchers awarded broken down as follows: Priority #1, 613; Priority #2, 435; Priority #3, 21; Priority #4, 109. Note that 10 vouchers have been awarded to persons with no priority.

The current BRAP census as of March 31, 2011 is 646 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.

The Office of Adult Mental Health Services also administers a substantial number of Shelter Plus Care vouchers, 890 as of March 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 over \$10 million. Shelter Plus Care requires a person to be literally homeless with a disability, principally: mental illness, chronic substance abuse, dual-diagnosis, or HIV/AIDS. The majority of these vouchers are targeting persons with mental illness. 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*

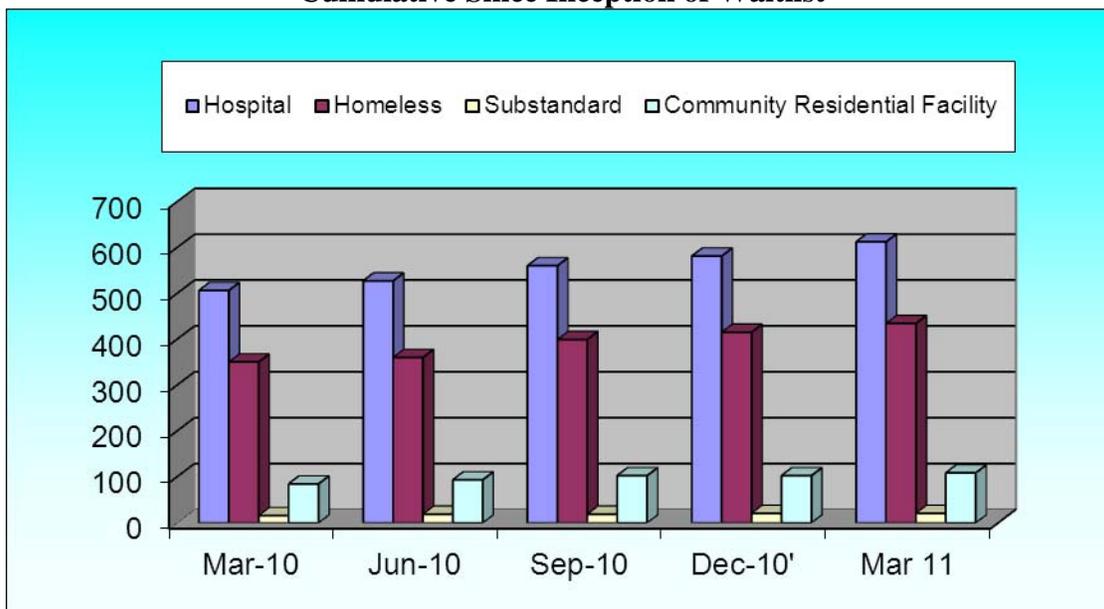
**BRAP Waitlist Status--Graph:
Detail by Priority Status to include those persons waiting longer than 90 Days**



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

Reporting Period	Dec-09	Mar-10	Jun-10	Sep-10	Dec-10'	Mar 11	% Change relative to Last Report
Total number of persons waiting for BRAP	101	82	78	57	209	205	-2%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	34	34	23	0	25	42	40%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	60	33	39	49	158	133	-19%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	0	6	4	4	5	1	-400%
Priority 4—Leaving a Community Residential living facility	6	9	12	4	20	28	29%
Total number of persons on wait list more than 90 days awaiting voucher	57	19	0	0	53	103	49%

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



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

Reporting Periods	Dec-09	Mar-10	Jun-10	Sep-10	Dec-10'	Mar 11	% Change relative to Last Report
Cumulative number of persons awarded BRAP	885	961	1012	1093	1132	1188	5%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	463	507	528	561	582	613	5%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	330	351	361	400	416	435	4%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	16	16	19	19	21	21	0%
Priority 4—Leaving a DHHS funded living facility	76	85	94	103	103	109	6%

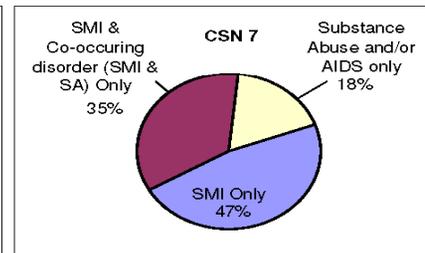
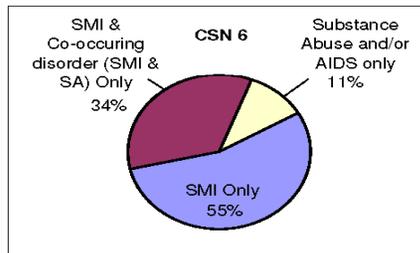
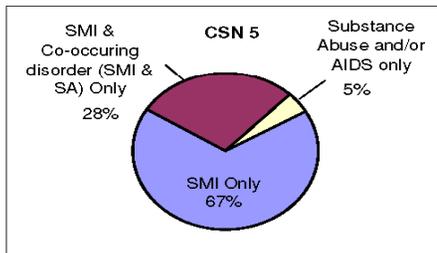
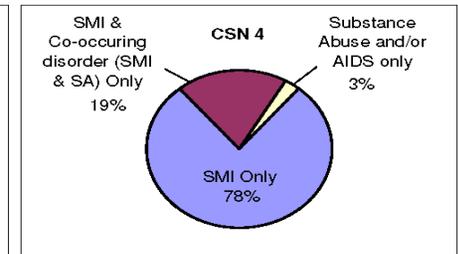
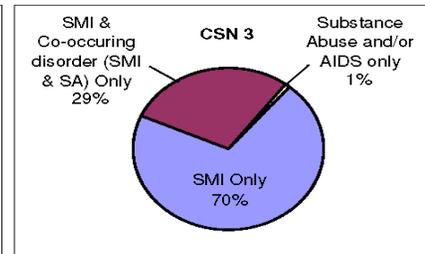
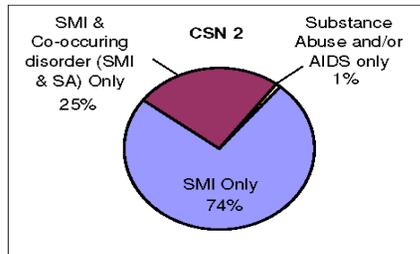
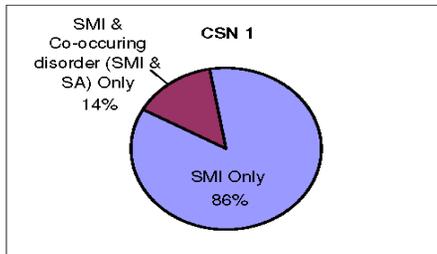
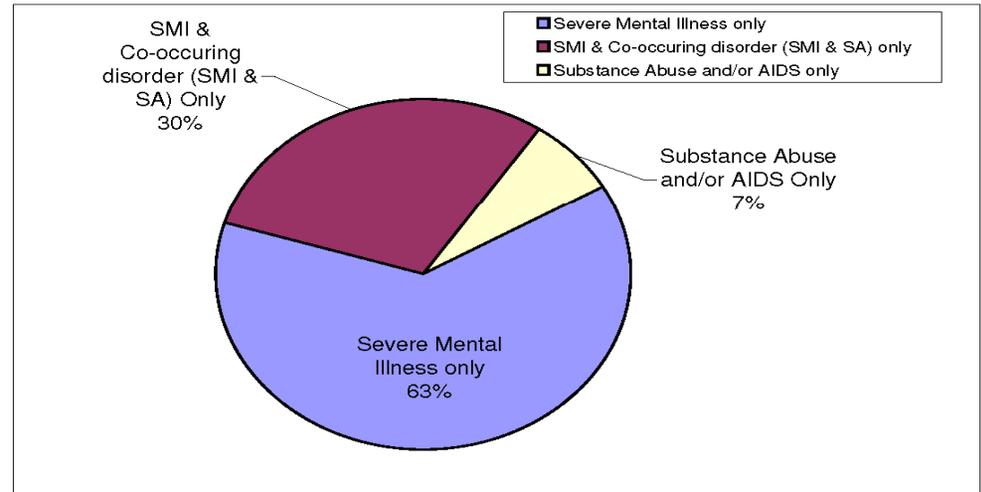
Note: 10 persons awarded with no priority

FY 2010 Shelter + Care Disability Categories

Disability Type	Count	Percentage
Severe Mental Illness only	641	63%
SMI & Co-occurring disorder (SMI & SA) only	301	30%
Substance Abuse and/or AIDS only	73	7%

Documented Diagnosis	Count	Percentage
Severe Mental Illness	942	93%
Chronic Alcohol Abuse	237	23%
Chronic Drug Abuse	186	18%
AIDS	13	1%
Physical Disability	27	3%

1015 Shelter Plus Care tenants
315 tenants had two or more documented diagnoses



	Region
CSN 1	Aroostook County
CSN 2	Hancock, Washington, Penobscot & Piscataquis
CSN 3	Kennebec & Somerset
CSN 4	Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc & Waldo
CSN 5	Androscoggin, Franklin & Oxford
CSN 6	Cumberland
CSN 7	York