

**Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP)
Monitoring Report
Quarter 1 FY2011 (July, August, September 2010)**

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 Director of Housing Resource Development 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 (September, December 2009 and March, June 2010) is provided so ongoing activity can be readily measured against longitudinal trends. Since the last report:

As a result of additional legislative funding in the amount of \$405,000 the waitlist was cleared in July of 2010. However, even with the additional capacity, by the end of this quarter, the waitlist began to grow again due to the continued strong demand for this program outstripping available resources. The number of persons waiting for a BRAP voucher has decreased substantially, down 37% from the previous quarter, to 57 persons. The bullets below highlight some of the details regarding persons who are currently waiting for a BRAP voucher:

- 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 23 persons to zero.

- Priority #2 applicants (Homeless) have increased from 39 to 49 persons, up 20%
- Priority #3 applicants (Substandard Housing) have remained unchanged at 4 persons.
- Priority #4 applicants (Community Residential Facility) have decreased from 12 to 4 persons.
- Persons on the waitlist greater than 90 days have remained unchanged at zero.

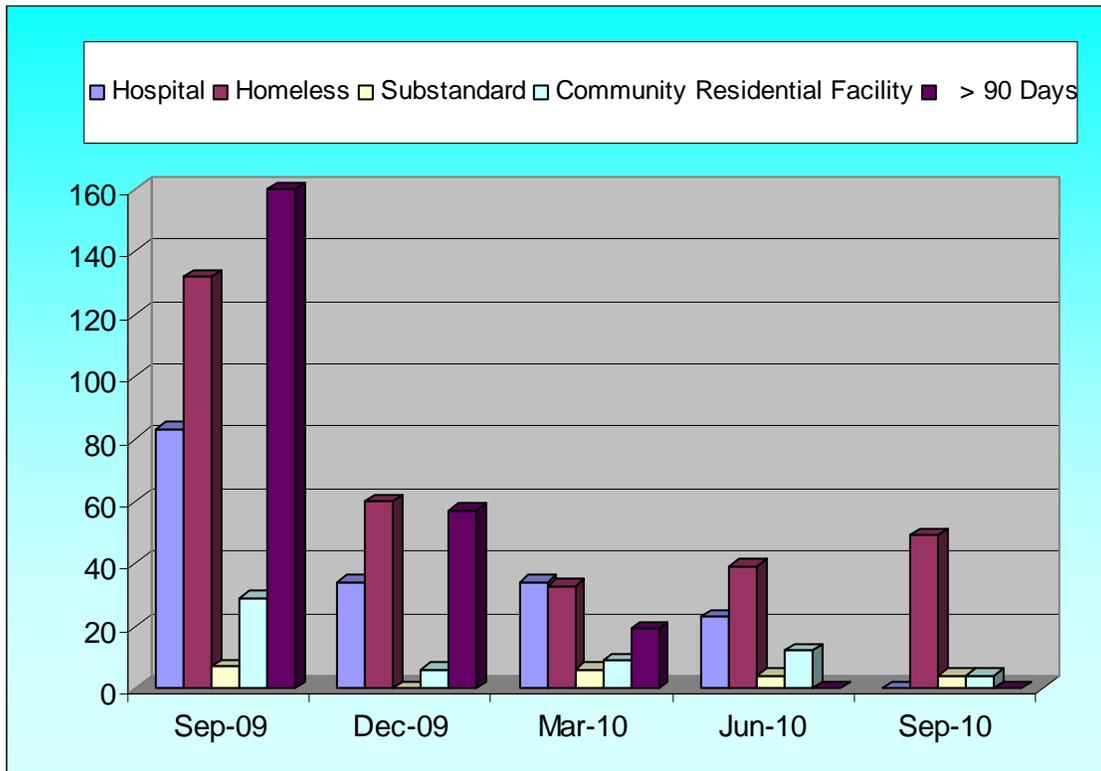
Since inception of the wait list, there has been a total of 1,093 BRAP vouchers awarded broken down as follows: Priority #1, 561; Priority #2, 400; Priority #3, 19; Priority #4, 103. Note that 10 vouchers have been awarded to persons with no priority.

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.

Current census as of September 30, 2010 is 619 vouchers. Eliminating the waitlist throughout FY2011 and meeting historical growth patterns would require an additional \$1 million dollars added to our base for FY2011.

The Office of Adult Mental Health Services also administers a substantial number of Shelter Plus Care vouchers, 891 as of September 30, 2010. 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 current annual budget for Shelter Plus Care is \$6.1 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 additional detail and breakdown by CSN and disability type, please see attached *FY 2009 Shelter + Care Disability Categories*.

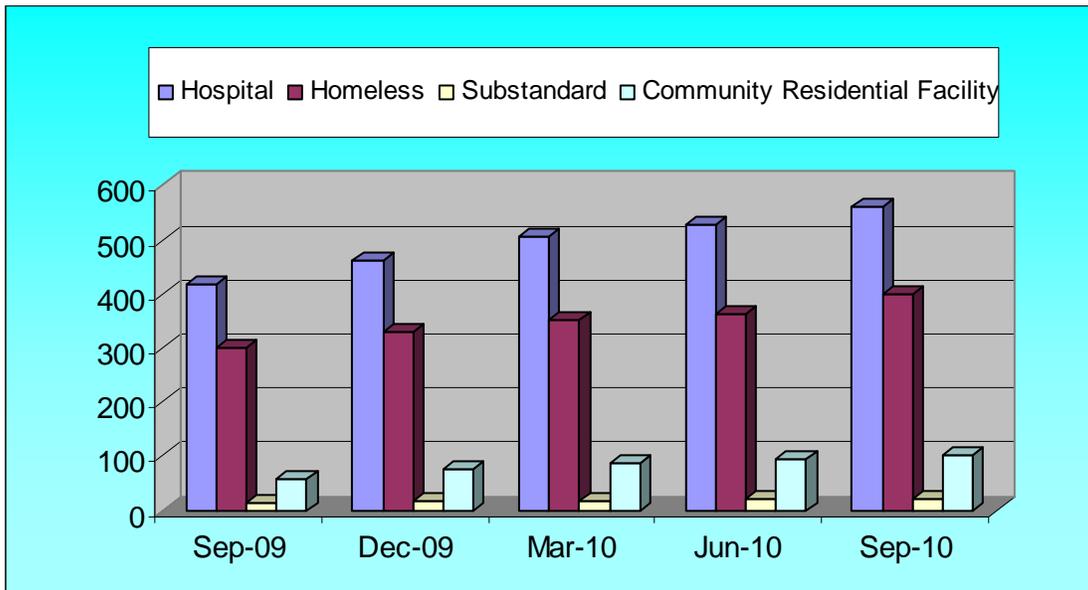
**BRAP Waitlist Status--Graph:
Detail by Priority Status to include those persons waiting longer than 90 Days**



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

Reporting Period	Sep-09	Dec-09	Mar-10	Jun-10	Sep-10	% Change relative to Last Report
Total number of persons waiting for BRAP	248	101	82	78	57	-37%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	83	34	34	23	0	
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	132	60	33	39	49	20%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	7	0	6	4	4	0%
Priority 4—Leaving a Community Residential living facility	29	6	9	12	4	-200%
Total number of persons on wait list more than 90 days awaiting voucher	160	57	19	0	0	

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



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

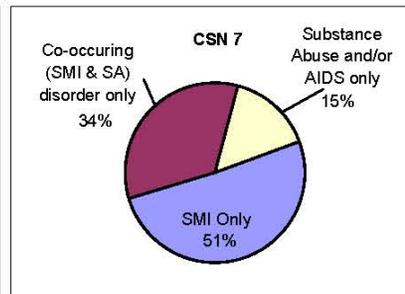
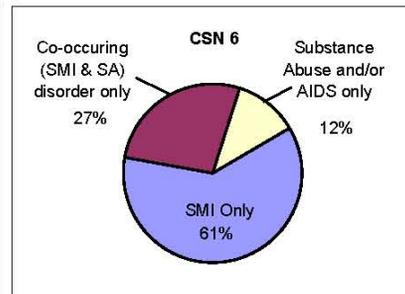
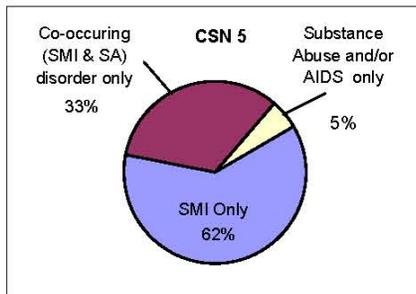
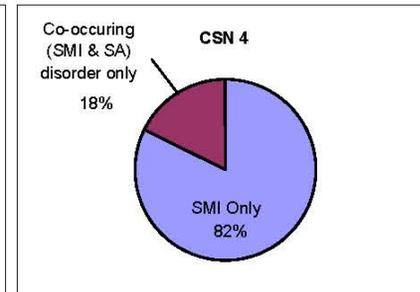
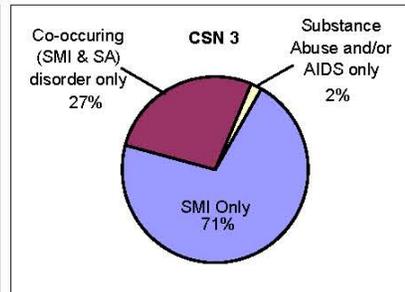
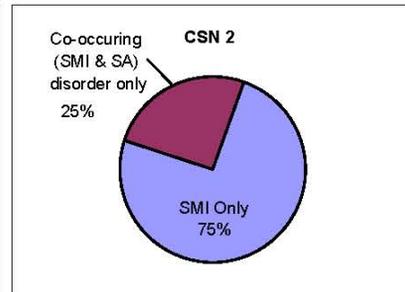
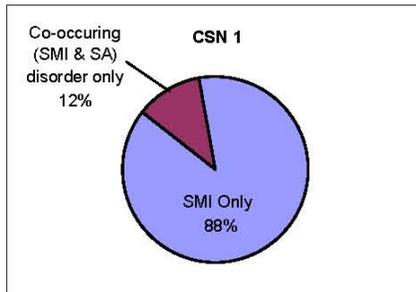
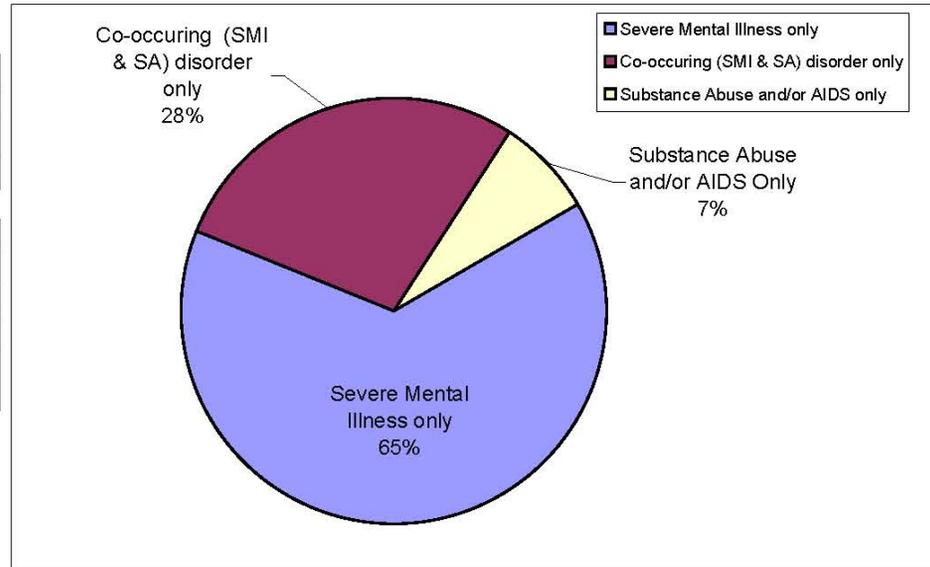
Reporting Periods	Sep-09	Dec-09	Mar-10	Jun-10	Sep-10	% Change relative to Last Report
Cumulative number of persons awarded BRAP	788	885	961	1012	1093	7%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	416	463	507	528	561	6%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	301	330	351	361	400	10%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	12	16	16	19	19	0%
Priority 4—Leaving a DHHS funded living facility	59	76	85	94	103	9%

FY 2009 Shelter +Care Disability Categories

Disability Type	Count	Percentage
Severe Mental Illness only	640	65%
Co-occurring (SMI & SA) disorder only	278	28%
Substance Abuse and/or AIDS only	73	7%

Documented Diagnosis	Count	Percentage
Severe Mental Illness	918	93%
Chronic Alcohol Abuse	231	23%
Chronic Drug Abuse	171	17%
AIDS	14	1%
Physical Disability	11	1%

991 Shelter Plus Care tenants
295 tenants had two or more documented diagnoses



CSN	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