

MAC 2.0 Housing Team
Status Report – February 25, 2014

UPDATES

1. Mississippi's 2013 Olmstead Policy Academy
 - Throughout Fall 2013, Olmstead Policy Academy team members participated in a series of webinars provided by national subject matter experts in the areas of housing, employment, and recovery/peer support.
 - In September, 2013, the entire Olmstead Policy Academy team participated in a 2-day, face-to-face technical assistance session that resulted in the completion of an Olmstead Strategic Action Plan for Mississippi with goals and strategies for all three of the targeted areas. See the attached page for a brief overview of the Housing component this Strategic Action Plan and a list of agencies, programs, and individuals who are participating.
2. Expanded community living options
 - MS Department of Mental Health continues to expand community living options across the state for individuals transitioning to the community through B2i and other service avenues. These options continue to be primarily for individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities with a few additional living units for individuals with Serious Mental Illness and for individuals with co-occurring issues. Some of the communities that have new or expanded community living settings since early 2012 include but are not limited to: Tupelo, Natchez, Magee, Biloxi, Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Ridgeland, Meridian, Laurel, and Greenwood
 - Since early 2012, MDMH has certified additional individual living settings capable of servicing over 200 individuals.

NEW INFORMATION

1. HUD has recently released a new RFP for states to apply for Section 811 PRA funding for project-based housing vouchers for eligible individuals. MS Home Corp is currently reviewing the new RFP to see whether or not it looks like a viable option for Mississippi at this time.

MAC 2.0 Housing Team Recommendations (as provided at the May 2013 meeting):

1. The MAC 2.0 Housing Team recommends the development of a long-term Community Housing Committee to continuously monitor policies and agencies to ensure access to housing in local communities and accommodations for individuals with disabilities. There is a need for oversight of policies that housing and other agencies are implementing that may present unwarranted barriers to community housing access. This committee can also help research, describe and define current and future housing needs in order to ensure (1) full, appropriate use of existing housing funding mechanisms and (2) identification and access to additional/expanded housing funding options based on those identified needs. Accountability for current and future housing funding needs to be included.

2. The Housing Team also acknowledges the need for some kind of statewide clearinghouse that may not necessarily be a referral entity but would be a central, consolidated directory of housing and community living options for individuals with a disability that exist in Mississippi. This directory could also include an education and training component on existing or desired community living models for entities and/or individuals who might be interested in developing additional housing resources. The Team suggests that previous or existing efforts may just need to be updated, consolidated and made available electronically. The Housing Team is continuing to research this.

3. The Housing Team will continue to monitor the possibility for Mississippi to reapply for Section 811 project-based voucher funding. A workgroup made up of representatives from Mississippi Home Corps, MS Division of Medicaid, and MS Department of Mental Health continues to meet to ensure readiness for a 2013 application opportunity by accessing any technical assistance that is available to help strengthen Mississippi's application. The Section 811 project-based vouchers would be another component of Mississippi's community living service array and would expand existing housing options.

Trisha Hinson, MAC 2.0 Housing Team Leader