

# *Transitions to Community Living & Olmstead Update*

- NC Department of Health and Human Services
- NC Housing Finance Agency



# *Legal Protections for People with Disabilities*

- In 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed by President George Bush in 1990 and is a federal civil rights law for people with disabilities
- In 1999, the Supreme Court of the US held in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, that under Title II of the ADA, states were required to eliminate unnecessary segregation of persons with disabilities and to ensure that persons with disabilities receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs
- In 2009, the Civil Rights Division launched an aggressive effort to enforce the Supreme Courts decision



# *What Does Olmstead Look Like In North Carolina?*

On August 23, 2012, the United States entered a comprehensive, eight-year settlement agreement with the State of North Carolina resolving the Civil Rights Division's ADA Olmstead investigation of the State's mental health service system

- The Agreement will expand access to community-based supported housing – integrated housing that promotes inclusion and independence and enables individuals with mental illness to participate fully in community life.

On January 9, 2017, the United States moved to enforce the supported housing and supported employment provisions of the Agreement.



# *What is the Transitions to Community Living Initiative?*

- Provides integrated housing opportunities for people with severe and persistent mental illness and serious mental illness
- Focuses on serving those who are transitioning from Adult Care Homes, State Hospitals or who are at risk for institutionalization
- Commits outreach and services to those who are identified as the priority population
- As of the end of March 1,297 individuals have been transitioned to supportive housing
- In the past year, approximately 1,000 additional units have been added via the Targeting and Key program, with 243 TCLI individuals accessing those units



# *Transition to Community Living Primary Components*

- In-Reach and Transition — Providing or arranging for frequent education efforts and discharge planning targeted to individuals in adult care homes and state psychiatric hospitals
- Diversion — Providing informed choice regarding housing options to individuals with SMI/SPMI considering admission to an Adult Care Home
- Housing — Providing community-based supportive housing with tenancy supports.
- Supported Employment — An evidence-based service to assist individuals in preparing for, identifying, and maintaining integrated, paid, competitive employment
- Assertive Community Treatment — An evidence-based treatment and support model of services offering intensive customized, community-based services for people with mental illness
- Quality Management — using data to evaluate progress and outcomes



# Transitions to Community Living Voucher



## *What is the Transitions to Community Living Voucher?*

- The state's Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCOs) operate the TCLV program as rental assistance for TCLI participants
- **TCLV** is a tenant-based voucher program: the tenant can use the voucher with any landlord who accepts the voucher



## ***Transitions to Community Living Voucher*** (TBRA Option)

- TCLV works throughout private market.
- Referral network will send over potential applicants.
- Referral network will support applicant throughout the leasing and move-in process.
- Rent is negotiated, and outlined with a housing assistance payment contract.
- A Housing Quality Standard inspection is required.





## *TCLV Features*

- Rent Subsidy Voucher capped at \$600
- Tenants have access to move-in funds for security, utility, and other move-in expenses
- Hold Fees
- Are supported by team of people
- Security Deposit paid directly by program



## *Risk Mitigation Tools – Reducing Risk to Landlords*

- One way the Transitions to Community Living Voucher program supports tenants is by reducing (or mitigating) the risk taken on by landlords
- Satisfied landlords are likely to remain engaged with the TCLV Program, helping assure housing options for future tenants



## *Risk Mitigation Tools -*

- Reimbursement of Unpaid Damages after Tenant Move-Out
- Reimbursement of Unpaid Tenant Portion of Rent and Late Fees
- Reimbursement for Vacancy Due to Tenant Abandonment of Unit
- Reimbursement for Successful Eviction Costs



## *Draft 2017 Interim PSH Plan*

- In 2016, the state contracted with The Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) to provide a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) assessment and recommendations that would support successful compliance with NC's Olmstead Settlement Agreement.
- In response to TAC's report, NC DHHS, NCHFA, Housing Advocates and LME/MCO's collaborated to develop a Draft 2017 Interim Permanent Supportive Housing Plan.
- View the Draft 2017 Interim PSH Plan on NCHFA's Community Living Website at: [www.nchfa.com/http://www.nchfa.com/rental-housing-partners/community-living-partners](http://www.nchfa.com/rental-housing-partners/community-living-partners)
- Public Comment Period is open until May 19, 2017. Send comments to [ResearchHelp@nchfa.com](mailto:ResearchHelp@nchfa.com)



## *Draft 2017 Interim PSH Plan*

- **Six Main Goals:**

1. Maximize existing PSH opportunities with a focus on improving access.
2. Develop, strengthen, and monitor provider capacity to deliver quality person-centered services.
3. Increase pipeline of PSH units.
4. Enhance collaborative approach to PSH policy across the state, regional, and local levels.
5. Invest in robust automated systems to simplify processes, evaluate programs, and report outcomes.
6. Further develop Medicaid services for the provision of tenancy supports.



## *2017 Interim PSH Plan Strategies - Highlights*

- Transition TCLV Subsidy Administration to LME/MCO's
- Expand Targeted Units across the state
- Improve Vacancy & Referral reporting in Targeting Program
- Support NCHousingSearch.com as the primary statewide housing locator service.
- Increase Fair Housing Knowledge across the state.



## *2017 Interim PSH Plan Strategies – Highlights*

- Establish a standard of service delivery for service providers.
- Re-define Medicaid tenancy service supports definition
- Medicaid funding for tenancy service supports
- Create state level PSH planning process
- Identify and disseminate LME/MCO housing best practices



## *Best Practices*

- Housing Navigation Services
  - LME/MCO partner with local homeless provider to locate housing.
  - Cardinal – The Men’s Shelter of Charlotte
  - Alliance – Passage Home
- LME/MCO partner with local Legal Aid to assist with fair housing issues.
- LME/MCO partner with local Housing Developers to assist with housing goals, long range planning.
- LME/MCO partner with local CoC to assist with PSH planning.





## *Questions*

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