



# Numbered Advisory Memorandum

Ted Strickland, Governor  
Sandra Stephenson, Director

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Subject:  Allocations  
 Certification  
 Licensure  
 Medicaid  
 Policy and/or Procedure  
 Other Critical Information

To: Boards, Providers, NAMI, OEC, Ohio  
Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities,  
Ohio Council of Behavioral Healthcare Providers

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Required Action:  No  Yes, by this date:

All ODMH policy memoranda are posted on the ODMH Web site at [mentalhealth.ohio.gov/partner-resources](http://mentalhealth.ohio.gov/partner-resources)

Title: Discharge of Persons from ODMH's Regional Psychiatric Hospitals

The purpose of this correspondence is to inform you that ODMH has rescinded internal policy MD-13: "Discharge of Persons from ODMH BHOs to Homeless Shelters "

Additionally, this advisory reviews our guidance regarding discharge planning in accordance with one of ODMH's principle core values: all consumers deserve and have a right to live their lives in the least restrictive environments possible; this includes housing that best meets their individual needs and honors their choices. Consumers (patients) should not remain in the hospital when they no longer meet criteria for hospitalization.

Please be advised that Paragraph (F) of ODMH internal management rule "Regional Psychiatric Hospital Inpatient Assessment, Treatment Planning, and Discharge Planning" (Ohio Administrative Code 5122-2-12). states that 'upon admission the CPST worker, if applicable, and the community provider organization shall be notified and invited to participate in, [discharge planning] and kept fully apprised of plans, including the discharge date.'

### Establishing mental health as a cornerstone of overall health

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Discharge planning, starting on the day of admission and continuing throughout the entire hospital stay, must include housing, and service and support options that are based on an individual's needs and choices. All treatment and discharge planning must be collaborative, to the extent possible, among the patient, his/her family (as defined and authorized by the patient), and the rest of the treatment team and provider organization(s).

On April 1, 2010, ODMH released our adult housing policy stating that safe, decent, permanent and affordable housing that is not dependent upon the acceptance of treatment is a critical component of engagement, resiliency and recovery. In alignment with Olmstead implementation, housing remains essential to reduce institutional recidivism from settings such as jails, prisons, nursing homes and psychiatric hospitals. ODMH recognizes that safe, decent, permanent and affordable housing options vary throughout Ohio. Therefore, the Department is committed to allocating new Capital Dollars for the purpose of increasing available housing. On behalf of all consumers and stakeholders, ODMH continues to collaborate in efforts that strengthen the array of community housing options, ranging from adult care facilities (ACF) to supportive housing to home ownership. ODMH values a system of shared accountability that assists people with mental illnesses in obtaining and sustaining permanent housing.

ODMH anticipates that Regional Psychiatric Hospitals, local Boards and provider organizations will continue to work collaboratively through established and operational Continuity of Care Agreements to facilitate appropriate and comprehensive discharge planning. All plans are required to honor consumer choice and facilitate a smooth transition from the hospital level of care into the community. This process includes, but is not limited to, ensuring continuity of care, appropriate referral and/or access to housing, and application for SSI/SSDI when applicable.

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