

**Residential State Supplement (RSS)**  
**Legislative Review Community Forum Minutes**

**Date/Time**

October 22, 2013, 11:00 – 1:00

**Location**

Summit Behavioral Healthcare

**Welcome & Introductions**

Jody Lynch (Deputy Director, Office of Treatment & Recovery) welcomed the forum attendees and introduced others present from OhioMHAS, including Roma Barickman, Jonathan Baker, and Ellie Jazi. Terry Russell (NAMI Ohio) spoke regarding the opportunity to communicate issues with the department. Attendees included State Representatives John Becker and Denise Driehaus, home operators, local board representatives, and residents of multiple adult care facilities and foster homes.

**RSS Legislative Review Presentation**

Ellie presented information regarding the purpose and scope of the Legislative Review, RSS Program, multiple venues for stakeholder input, issues of disparity among Adult Care Facility (ACF) and Adult Foster Home (AFoH) residents, and the department's new ACF/AFoH Incentive Program (please review the RSS Legislative Review Community Forum presentation slides for detailed information).

**Feedback/Comment Period**

Ellie requested recommendations for action steps in the areas of RSS Program Eligibility Criteria, Allowable Fees, Quality Improvement, Disparities Among RSS & Non-RSS Residents, and other issues. The following points were recommended by the forum attendees:

**Eligibility Criteria**

- Expand criteria to include current ACF/AFoH residents
- Expand criteria to include clients receiving services from their local mental health system regardless of their residence at time of application
- Change program focus to only consumers of mental health services
- Expand criteria to include court referrals for individuals involved in the criminal justice system

**Allowable Fees**

- Cost of living adjustment (COLA) should be changed to be equitable across all types of income for residents
- Create mechanism to charge for supportive services comparable to those provided by case managers, accompanying residents to medical appointments, transportation, etc.

- Increase boards' financial support for ACF's
- Allow home operators to charge fees based on resident's income, i.e., sliding scale

#### Quality Improvement

- Provide residents increased access to community resources, e.g., case management
- Provide resources to support operators' ability to meet licensure requirements
- Increased quality of life for residents results in cost savings to system by helping consumers stay out of hospitals and nursing homes
- Develop a comparison tool of services provided for residents by those provided in ACF/AFoH's, inpatient psychiatric treatment, and nursing homes

#### Disparities Among RSS & Non-RSS Residents

- Determine/clarify the COLA disregard for SSI recipients (whether it should be the entire COLA to date of \$417/month or the annual COLA for 2013 of \$12/month)

#### Other Recommendations

- State should urge boards to utilize local funding to support ACF/AFoH's and preserve existing housing
- Transfer money from other state programs to help fund community placement
- Anti-stigma campaign and education regarding ACF's and their ability to provide needed housing to individuals with mental illness
- Introduce specific housing line item for all boards
- Develop plan to address changing resident population, e.g., young offenders with histories of violence