



## Memorandum

To: All Adult Care Facility (ACF) & Adult Foster Home Operators; Ohio Adult Care Facility Association; Ohio Association of Adult Caregivers; Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA); Ohio Department of Aging; Ohio Department of Job & Family Services

From: Ellie Jazi, LISW-S  
Residential State Supplement (RSS) Administrator

Date: 10/16/2012

Re: Summary of Discussion regarding Adult Care Facilities & Resident Linkage

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On September 21, 2012, the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) hosted a discussion for stakeholders to provide feedback regarding possible strategies to address ACF operators' concerns about the need for increased allowable fees for the Residential State Supplement (RSS) Program. The decision was made to work with known ACF associations, rather than inviting all Ohio ACF and Adult Foster Home operators, as feedback would still be provided by representatives statewide. Stakeholders were asked to consider plans within the scarcity of state resources available for the biennium FY 2014/15 budget that would increase funding for ACF's while also fostering positive consumer outcomes with community resources and supports.

While developing a proposed strategy, it was determined that residents who receive RSS are approximately 20% of the overall ACF resident population. In order to help sustain community housing and more effectively address the issue of reported disparities among RSS and non-RSS residents, the department suggested looking at the ACF resident population as a whole. The department's proposed three-pronged approach included the following:

- 1) Supplementing non-RSS residents' allowable fees for ACF operators who have demonstrated linkage with community-based services;
- 2) Further supplementing RSS residents' allowable fees for those operators who have demonstrated linkage with community-based services; and
- 3) Implementing standardized ancillary charges for those services provided beyond the required accommodations, supervision, and personal care services.

The projected benefits of the department's proposed strategy depend on the demonstrated linkage of ACF residents (both RSS & non-RSS) with community-based resources according to their service needs, such as behavioral and/or physical health and issues related to older adults. If residents are actively engaged with services, it is expected there would be an increase in positive behavioral and physical health outcomes and decreased crisis service utilization. ACF operators could anticipate reduced disparities among residents, increased revenue for facility operations & maintenance, and support from community providers.

During the meeting, stakeholders discussed the following issues and/or suggestions regarding the current RSS Program & ODMH's proposed strategy:

- Concerns about which services are included in residents' monthly allowable fees;

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- Reports that RSS residents inappropriately use the cash benefits for unintended purposes;
- Potential inconsistencies in supplemental funding;
- RSS residents' reported loss of other benefits due to having surplus funds;
- License a portion of ACF & Adult Foster Home beds specifically as "RSS beds";
- Increase the proposed supplements for non-RSS & RSS residents with demonstrated linkage; and
- Possible gaps in communication between ACF operators & local mental health boards and/or Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's).

Stakeholders also suggested increasing RSS allowable fees above their current rates and designating ACF's as eligible residences for the Assisted Living Waiver Program. The meeting concluded with some home operators remaining to further discuss the currently permitted allowable fees for RSS residents and ODMH's Division of Legal & Regulatory Services is continuing to pursue clarification.

The department's representatives appreciated the opportunity to gain feedback from stakeholders and all suggestions from the meeting were discussed within ODMH for further consideration. I will keep you informed as new information becomes available. Please contact me if you have any questions via email at [ellie.jazi@mh.ohio.gov](mailto:ellie.jazi@mh.ohio.gov) or call toll-free at 1-855-RSS-ODMH. Thank you.

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