



City of Milwaukee
Tom Barrett, Mayor



Milwaukee County
Scott Walker, County Executive

City/County Supportive Housing Commission Agenda

10:00 am Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Cherry Court Housing Development
1525 N. 24th St.

- 1) ACTION ITEM: Review and approve minutes of meeting January 13, 2009
 - 2) UPDATE ITEM: Supportive housing development projects
Background: Staff will report the status of supportive housing developments that are underway or proposed.
 - 3) UPDATE ITEM: 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness
 - 4) ACTION ITEM: Commission project endorsement (See reverse side)
Background: Milwaukee County is seeking formal Commission endorsement of the County SAMHSA/HPRP initiative.
 - 5) COMMUNICATION: Letter from Mental Health Task Force
 - 6) COMMUNICATION: Report on impact of supportive housing in Illinois
 - 7) ACTION ITEM: Set next meeting date
 - 8) Adjourn
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April 13, 2009

H. Westley Clark, MD, JD, MPH
Director, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
1 Choke Cherry Road
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Clark:

I am writing on behalf of the **Milwaukee City-County Commission on Supportive Housing (CSH)** to express its strong support for the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division's (BHD) request for funding to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), **Treatment for Homeless (TI-09-006)** grant program.

The CSH is a joint initiative established by Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker and Mayor Tom Barrett. The purpose of the CSH is to establish goals and benchmarks for the efforts of city and county entities to address housing needs for persons with mental illness and other special needs in the community. As a joint effort of the City and County, it is envisioned that the Commission will take a broad, community-wide view of these needs, monitor progress and hold the community governments accountable for meeting those goals. The Commission's membership includes elected and appointed government officials, and representatives of private organizations, foundations, and other stakeholders.

The project proposed to SAMHSA by BHD is clearly aligned with the mandate of the CSH. In targeting homeless individuals who are brought by the police to the County's Psychiatric Crisis Service center under emergency detention, the project focuses on the community's most vulnerable residents who disproportionately utilize crisis resources. The project's goal to stabilize these individuals by linking them quickly with housing and supportive services will effectively address this challenge.

We particularly draw your attention to the project's collaboration with the Milwaukee County Housing Division. This collaboration will target federal Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing funds currently available under the federal stimulus bill recently to support the housing needs of this population.

The CSH commits its support to making this initiative successful. We have accepted BHD's invitation to appoint a representative to serve on the project Advisory Committee. We also pledge to work with the County Executive, Mayor, the County Board of Supervisors, the Milwaukee Common Council, our state and federal representatives and our private philanthropic community to identify funding to sustain the project beyond the duration of the grant from SAMHSA.

We strongly encourage SAMHSA to approve funding for this request. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kenyatta Yamel, Chair
City-County Commission on Supportive Housing

chicagotribune.com

Study: Supportive housing saves Ill. tax dollars

By CARLA K. JOHNSON

AP Medical Writer 12:02 AM CDT, April 1,

A new study shows supportive housing for the homeless and mentally ill saves Illinois taxpayers money -- nearly \$2,500 a year for each resident served.

Researchers looked at money spent on 177 Illinois adults, comparing the cost of their tax-funded services for two years before and two years after they entered supportive housing.

They found a 39 percent cost reduction in public services such as emergency rooms, nursing homes and jails and a shift toward cheaper preventive services like medical checkups and visits to the dentist.

It was the first statewide study of the cost savings of supportive housing.

"Supportive housing is an effective intervention for what people might call the hardest to help," said Amy Rynell, who led the research for the Chicago-based Heartland Alliance Mid-America Institute on Poverty.

Illinois ranks highest among the states in the number of mentally ill adults under age 65 living in nursing homes: More than 12,000 last year, according to a recent Associated Press analysis. Many of them could live in supportive housing, advocates say.

In the study, there were 10 people who had lived in nursing homes before they entered supportive housing. Their costs averaged \$23,658 per person over two years. After supportive housing, only three people spent any time in nursing homes and stayed for shorter periods, at an average cost per person of \$2,171.

Residents told researchers they learned how to pay bills, were more confident and felt pride in their achievements.

"I was at death's door. Now I have a chance to move myself forward," AIDS patient Karl Miller told The Associated Press. Formerly homeless, Miller now lives at Alexian Brothers Bonaventure House in Chicago and attends college.

Supportive housing combines trained caseworkers with affordable rents. Residents can get help with money management, medication monitoring, finding jobs, transportation and a variety of other services.

Illinois needs 7,700 more supportive housing units, said Janet Hasz, executive director of the Supportive Housing Providers Association, which commissioned the study but didn't influence its findings.

The group is asking lawmakers for \$3 million for 494 units poised to open during the next fiscal year. The funds would leverage more than \$27 million in federal help, advocates say.

Illinois now has 6,000 units of permanent supportive housing, serving more than 8,000 people in 28 counties.

"Individuals living in their own homes can be a cost savings to the state," said Brenda Hampton of the state's division of mental health. Illinois is undergoing a "philosophical shift" toward more permanent supportive housing, she said.

The Chicago Community Trust, the Illinois Department of Human Services and private foundations funded the study.

Researchers said the study likely underestimated the costs savings because they couldn't count many services provided to the homeless. Unlike some other states, Illinois doesn't have a unified data system to track services to the homeless.

On the Net:

Supportive Housing Providers Association: <http://www.supportivehousingproviders.org/>

Heartland Alliance Mid-America Institute on Poverty:
<http://www.heartlandalliance.org/research/>

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