

**VSH Futures Project
Community Residential Recovery Work Group
October 4, 2006**

NEXT MEETING: November 15 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. – Dr. Simpatico’s office, VSH

Present: Judy Rosenstreich, Nick Emlen, Michael Hartman, Paul Landerl, Anne Jerman, Tom Simpatico

Futures Update -- Judy

Judy advised that DMH is in the final stages of answering the 160 BISHCA questions and plans to file the response on 10/16/06. DMH recognizes that some questions require more analysis and, therefore, can not be fully answered until a later stage in the process.

The housing work group will present its report at the next Futures Advisory Committee meeting. The report recommends a significant increase in housing funds as well as greater flexibility in housing supports and funding. The recommendations in the report correspond to the timeline of the Governor’s budget requests for fiscal years ’08, ’09, and ’10. The report also will recommend creation of a capital development fund targeted to communities where new inpatient facilities are located. Capital funding would help communities establish new housing to support the locating of VSH replacement programs in their communities. The concept is similar to the parallel development of community resources where the State has constructed major facilities such as the Springfield prison.

Judy also provided an update on the Crisis Beds Work Group. Members visited three crisis bed programs, gathered data, and evaluated the requirements to achieve statewide accessibility to crisis stabilization beds. The result of their investigation indicates a need for more than the 10 beds recommended in the Futures Plan. The report encourages DA and hospital alliances to create more local resources. Some agencies are already on board.

Community Recovery Residence “Second Spring” in Williamstown -- Michael

Contract/Lease – The contract for the services at Second Spring and the lease for the building are nearly completed.

Opening date – At this time it appears that a viable date for opening Second Spring is February 15, 2007.

Hiring – We are starting interviews for the Director’s position on 10/6/06; other hiring will happen shortly after that. The target for hiring all staff is 1/15/07.

Clinical Steering Comm. – This group has been established to help develop protocols and define best practices for persons who might be admitted to Second Spring. Per the contract with VDH,

this committee is charged with establishing a seamless relationship between Second Spring and VSH so that assessment of VSH admissions for possible need for the CRR will occur and proper treatment planning can be instigated rapidly.

The Citizen/Consumer Community Advisory Committee - Invitations will go out shortly to persons, welcoming them to a December meeting regarding the formation of this committee. The meeting will be aimed at recruiting up to 20 persons for ongoing membership to oversee and advise on matters concerning the program.

Next Steps for CRR Work Group

Beyond these areas, the group discussed the status of their efforts to develop the first CRR program, noting that Second Spring is now a reality. Thus, the group went on to address a standing request by the Futures Advisory Committee that we resume our focus on the development of possible Secure Residential programs. After some discussion, the group agreed to take this role on. It scheduled the next meeting on November 15th, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the office of Dr. Simpatico at VSH.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Hartman