



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

May 5, 2008

TO: Executive Directors of Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs)
and Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs)

FROM: Michael J. Head, Deputy Director
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Administration

SUBJECT: Utilization of Mount Pleasant Center
Quality of Care and Community Transition

It is the policy of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) to assure that individuals' rights under the Mental Health Code and the Olmstead decision are realized. On November 1, 2007, MDCH issued a directive to all CMHSP and PIHP directors regarding the utilization of the Mt. Pleasant Center (MPC). This directive outlined your responsibilities for developing appropriate, quality placements for current residents at MPC and required the submission of community placement plans by December 15, 2007. I want to take this opportunity to recognize and thank those CMHSPs that are fulfilling their obligation by implementing placement planning and completing community transition activities. This memo provides an update on improvements in care at MPC, outlines MDCH leadership for community transition efforts and identifies future steps MDCH will take to improve supports for individuals with developmental disabilities who present with problem behaviors.

To improve the care of individuals currently residing in MPC, MDCH is making the following appointments:

Effective May 4, 2008, Mr. Price Pullins, MA, LLP, began his duties as the Acting Director of MPC. Mr. Pullins is a psychologist with a 28-year history of service with MDCH. He has worked in various capacities within the department with individuals with mental illness and individuals with developmental disabilities. Most recently, he served as the chief psychologist/consultant for the MDCH Office of Psychiatric/Medical Services. Mr. Pullins has consulted on many MPC residents and is very knowledgeable about the treatment and support needs of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Effective May 18, 2008, Ms. Joyce Lazo-Kettley, M.S., R.N., will begin her duties as the Acting Director of Nursing at MPC. Ms. Lazo-Kettley has 30 years of experience including administrative and clinical roles in both the United States and Canada. She has extensive experience in working with persons with developmental disabilities. Ms. Lazo-Kettley has served as a Nurse Manager/Program Director and Acting Director of Nursing at the MDCH Southgate Regional Center and most recently served as a member of the MDCH site review team.

To assure that plans for community transition into excellent community support arrangements are implemented without delay, MDCH is making the following appointment:

Effective May 5, 2008, Mr. Bill Allen, consultant, begins his duties as the Community Transition Leader at MPC. Mr. Allen is a past Executive Director for both the C-E-I and Oakland County CMHSPs, and is a former MDCH Deputy Director for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Mr. Allen will provide leadership and executive direction for the placement planning and all activities related to transition of the ICF/MR-eligible residents at MPC. He will serve as the point of contact for all stakeholders, including CMHSPs, for transition planning and community living development activities, assuring identification, communication and resolution of problems or issues.

So that administrative admissions into MPC are reduced and eventually prevented, the MDCH will convene an intensive study and planning process to focus on defining how the state will meet its obligation to assure quality services for individuals with the most severe needs. This process is aimed at (1) identifying and supporting the development and dissemination of specialty assistance options that can provide a better response to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities who present problem behaviors; and (2) developing supports that must be put into place so that individuals with difficult situations are properly assisted.

MDCH staff members are reviewing the status of your MPC community transition plans. You will receive information and requests for follow-up, updates and actions required by your CMHSP plan under separate cover, later this week. Mr. Allen will follow-up with those CMHSPs whose plans and transition activities require improvement.

To make sure we are all on the same page regarding this important endeavor, a meeting with Mr. Allen, key MDCH leaders and CMHSPs who currently have residents at MPC is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 3, at MPC. It is essential to the wellbeing of current MPC residents that the directors from all CMHSPs with at least one resident at the MPC participate in this meeting. I expect all affected CMHSP directors to participate. An agenda and logistical details will be provided within the next few weeks.

Thank you for your efforts to assure that all Michigan residents with developmental disabilities have full opportunities for community membership.

cc: Janet Olszewski
Irene Kazieczko
Cynthia Kelly
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Management Team
William J. Allen
Price Pullins
Joyce Lazo-Kettley