

## **Lawrence County**

### **Olmstead Plan**

Lawrence County is part of the former Mayview State Hospital Region. In December of 2008 the Mayview State Hospital closed and since that date we have no active State Hospital beds available for use. Lawrence County has aggressively supported the State's decision to end unnecessary institutionalization of adults with serious and persistent mental illness and has embraced the philosophy that a person can and will more effectively recover from mental illness in their own homes and community. In order to maintain a successful system without the use of a State Hospital has been and continues to be a challenge. In order to meet these challenges, Lawrence County has developed community based services to divert individuals from needing institutionalized care.

In addition to not having a State Hospital option for our seriously mentally ill population, Lawrence County's local general psychiatric inpatient unit was recently bought by UMPC and closed. This closure has added stress to our system. However, it has also allowed us to be better at coordinating and working at a more regional approach. It has also forced us to be flexible and adapt our roles and responsibility in planning for the "next step" with our SMI population.

#### **I. Olmstead Planning Process:**

In order to develop a comprehensive and complete Olmstead Plan, Lawrence County facilitated numerous meetings with our vital Stakeholder Community. Regular meetings were held with our Community Mental Health Center, Lawrence County Social Services (our local lead housing agency), Lawrence County's Care Center (our consumer run CFST, representative payee program, and our Drop in Center) and our LHOT Team. In addition to these, monthly meetings consisting of our Systems of Care Team (which includes Transition of Age consumers, Adult consumers, as well as family members) were held. We have also recently brought in and instituted meetings with our local Disability Rights Pennsylvania lead. Each of these groups and meetings held significant benefit to developing not only this plan, but also in providing a direction and attainable goals for Lawrence County Mental Health and Developmental Services to focus on moving forward. Also without having a local or state inpatient option, these conversations proved invaluable in looking at new and innovated services as well as adapting

and expanding on current services and practices that have proven beneficial especially from the feedback that we have received from our individuals receiving MH/BH supports.

The meetings with the mental health population did bring to light specific obstacles that the individuals receiving services face in trying to get by on the day to day basis. We found that many individuals want to work and want to live in the least restrictive settings as possible. There are many obstacles that they face daily that prevent this from being achieved to a satisfactory level.

Lawrence County does have a public transportation system which is fully functioning and does make daily runs across most of our county as well as to Pittsburgh and the Grove City Outlets. However, this system does not run beyond 5pm. This was noted as an issue that prevented individuals from evening work or taking jobs that are shift oriented. Resolution for this issue will be listed below under **FWL Transportation Programming**.

It was also stated that employment opportunities were difficult to find due to “past indiscretions” and a lack of opportunity due to their mental health illness. This is also addressed in section II under **Supported Employment for MH**.

A third major issue that was presented dealt with the current locations of our subsidized rental program. Geographically, Lawrence County is primarily a rural county with the hub being New Castle which is urban in nature. Most of our mental health housing locations fall in or right around the New Castle area. This issue is being addressed as well in section II under **Expansion of SRS Programming**.

In order to move forward with program expansion and program development, Lawrence County has worked closely with Southwest Behavioral Health Management staff as well as Value Behavioral Health (our MCO). These relationships have assisted us greatly in program development, regional services, as well as funding opportunities thru reinvestment proposals. Lawrence County meets with these entities on a regular basis thru operations meetings, board meetings and oversight meetings. These groups have been instrumental in assisting Lawrence County with the recent development of services such as *Parent/Child Intervention Training (PCIT)*, *Dual Diagnosis Treatment Team (DDTT)*, *Inpatient Support and options, treatment, meeting specialty populations needs, and placements*.

Monthly meetings have recently been instituted between Lawrence County, SWBHM, and VBH-PA in order to discuss county specific goals, trends, and on- going needs. These meetings have assisted in planning for future needs specific to Lawrence County. They have also been instrumental in identifying necessary funding streams and options to be utilized to best meet the consumer’s needs. This process has allowed our county to really streamline our processes

to allow for efficient and timely referrals without delays and administrative barriers that are often in existence.

## II. Services to be Developed

Due to the uniqueness of not having State Hospital beds available, Lawrence County has continued with many of the planning processes that were developed at the time of Mayview State Hospital's closure, expanded on many more services, and have continued to develop new service options to best meet the needs of our residents. At the present time, Lawrence County does not have any CRR beds or RTF beds within the County. We do have one twelve bed LTSR.

As noted earlier, Lawrence County currently does not have access to any State Hospital beds and also does not have a local inpatient unit at this time. In December of 2016 Jameson Hospital (UPMC) opted to close the inpatient psychiatric unit in New Castle, Pa. Every effort was made by the County's Mental Health Office as well as the Mental Health Provider Network to keep the unit open. None the less, it closed its doors. This closure is proving to be a great challenge to treatment, planning, housing, and servicing our consumers with behavior health needs. To resolve this dilemma, Lawrence County Mental Health and Developmental Services have entered into conversations with the Ellwood Hospital to expand upon the geriatric psychiatric inpatient unit to include up to **twelve general psychiatric beds**. Discussions to add **Detox options** have occurred simultaneously. Lawrence County will utilize Health Choices Reinvestment to assist and support this project. To date these discussions are moving in a positive direction.

**Transitional Living Housing.** As we were going through the closing of the state hospital, we realized that we needed a level of housing that we had not yet developed. In our opinion, housing locations were becoming stagnant with little to no movement of clients from one location to another. When someone was maintaining mentally at a location, then there was a fear to move them to a new location. In response to this, Lawrence County in partnership with the Human Services Center developed a Transitional Living House. This home allows for three consumers to live together, share common living spaces, but have the privacy of their own locked bedroom. This location is staffed nine hours per day to allow for needed support. On average our clients timeframe for living here is typically around 6-8 weeks before moving on to more independent locations. The results and movement of this has shown success. This location has effectively served individuals considered **Adult, Older Adult and Transition Age**.

We are currently planning for a second transitional living home at this time. By adding the second location, this will allow for up to thirty individuals to reside in one of the two locations. At this point, funding a second location will be depending on future base funding. The cost will be approximately \$100k annually.

**Crisis Residential Location.** Lawrence County is currently discussing the possibility of a Crisis Residential Program to be developed. This is in the early stages of discussion and is dependent upon the results of our discussions with Ellwood Hospital expanding to psychiatric inpatient. If Ellwood Hospitals opts not to do inpatient for us, then we would utilize the secured funding from Health Choices to move quickly on the development of this Crisis Residential. This service would not discriminate by Age, Gender, or Orientation.

At the present time Lawrence County presents an array of services designed for early detection of potentially volatile situations and diversions to less restrictive placements. Each of these services are responsive to individuals of any age. Among these are:

**A) 24 hour Mobile/Phone/ and Walk in Crisis.**

This program serves approximately 200 individuals on an annual basis (1500 calls, 350 mobile responses, and 180 walk in). To expand on these services Lawrence County MH/DS is now in the planning stages of locating a crisis staff at our 911 center during critical evening hours. Presently, our 911 Center receives numerous calls of a mental health nature between 6pm and 11pm daily. Our plan is to place a crisis worker to assist with immediate response to these calls and alleviate or lower the need for police use for folks who can be de-escalated or where a mental health responder can be sent instead. We believe that this could assist up to 200 individuals per year. Anticipated start date is in early 2018.

Our Community Mental Health Center has enhanced its services to allow for immediate **walk in psychiatry appointments** on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This method is designed to de-escalate, provide medication appointments, and therapy for individuals who need immediate assistance or may have missed a recent critical appointment. This service has recently begun so critical data is not yet available to note the success rate of the program. We are confident that this service will be beneficial to meeting access for individuals who may have missed a recent scheduled appointment.

Lawrence County MH/DS is currently hiring a specific **care management coordinator** who will be responsible for tracking, arranging meetings and services for, and identifying consumers in need of supports. This position should be filled and in operation by June

of 2017. We anticipate a caseload of approximately 50 individuals annually. This position will allow Lawrence County to have a single point of accountability for our most critical cases.

## **B) Non -institutional Housing Options**

**Subsidized Rental Support.** Lawrence County currently offers a Subsidized Rental Program through Lawrence County Social Services (LCSS). This program allows for a bridge between section 8 housing and the waiting list. This program calls for a housing case manager from the agency to work with individuals with behavioral health needs in this program. We currently have twelve slots for this program, however we will be **expanding to 36** in the very near future. Funding for this program also has built in contingency funds for individuals in need of critical housing items. Sites for the apartments will and are determined by where the consumer chooses to live.

**Transitional Living House.** See above in section II.

**Fair-Weather Lodge Model.** Lawrence County has been a big proponent of the Fair-Weather Lodge model of housing. Since the closure of the state hospital, Lawrence County has transformed all CRR options to FWL housing. Each person living in a FWL works (they have janitorial as well transportation contracts). They also receive shared expenses and access to direct peer support.

**Scattered Site Apartments:** Lawrence County offers numerous scattered site apartments for people who are or have been active in their recovery. This program is monitored by our CMHC and to be placed in an apartment the individual must be active in his/her recovery.

Although our services are not typically age specific, we do collect data annually and have found the following breakdown during fiscal year 15-16. Older adults utilized 19% of our bed and treatment capacity, Adults 68%, and TAY 13%.

### **C) Non-Residential/Community Supports**

**Mobile Medication Program:** Lawrence County's CMHC currently runs a mobile medication program. This program currently serves 130 individuals on an annual basis. It has proven successful for Adults, Older Adults, as well as TAY.

**Dual Diagnosis Treatment Team:** Lawrence County in partnership with the Southwest Six Counties begun offering DDTT services for individuals recommended for it. It is a relatively new program for us, but at this point appears to be a valuable asset to our services.

**Outpatient Services/Tele-psych options:** We currently have 8 outpatient providers within the County lines. Services offered range from general outpatient, tele-psych, medication management, behavioral health rehabilitation services, school based services, school based outpatient, blended case management, psych rehab, mst, parent-child intervention training, adult partial hospitalization and child partial hospitalization (true school based).

**Suicide Prevention Coalition:** Made up of leaders from multiple sectors of the social service programs in Lawrence County.

**Systems of Care:** Lawrence County is enrolled as a System of Care County. We have utilized this opportunity to expand and bring a multitude of supports to the table to support our most critical individuals.

**Adult CAST:** Coordinated Adult Service Team. This was a creation that stemmed from looking at how our CASSP System as well as the CSP process at the state hospitals functioned and got important individuals for the SMI to the table. We utilize those principles in encompassing all possible options for the person seeking recovery. This process is triggered by multiple inpatient admissions, deterioration at current location (at risk for more restrictive), and often for individuals who are just difficult to place (provider rejection).

**Complex Case Review:** Meetings with the presence of Mental Health, CYS, JPO and SCA for our multisystem youth.

**Mental Health and Treatment Court:** Multisystem treatment team to assist individuals with mental illness with substance abuse who are in dire risk of incarceration. To this point, though relatively a new venture this process is proving beneficial at a success rate of over 80 percent.

**Forensic and Community Liaisons:** These positions were created to assist individuals who are incarcerated or in an acute setting. They are designed to be a mobile intake and to ensure that individuals are scheduled with an outpatient provider immediately upon discharge or release.

#### **D) Peer Support/ Peer Operated**

**Lawrence County Cares Center:** Lawrence County Cares Center operates our Drop in Center, our Consumer Satisfaction Team, and our Representative Payee Program. This center's employees consist of individuals who are/were consumers of mental health services and are at different stages of their recovery. At the present time LCCC employs twelve individuals. The Drop in Center portion has more than 200 regular consumers who use the facilities and support.

**Certified Peer Specialists:** Lawrence County also has a Certified Peer Specialist Program that operates thru our CMHC. The CMHC currently employs five peer specialists with varying caseloads.

**Fair-weather Lodges:** Currently forty six individuals reside in County FWL's. Each of these individuals is also employed thru the FWL contract.

- **Note: Lawrence County did offer a Warm-line as well. However, it was discontinued after only receiving one call over a two year period.**

#### **E) Supported Employment Services**

**Fair-Weather Lodge:** Lawrence County currently has five FWL's which are operated by the individuals who live in the homes. They vote in new members after interviewing them for residence there. They also have two businesses that they run and operate. It is a mandate to live there. One is a commercial cleaning/janitorial company which they contract with many local businesses to clean after hours. The second business that they run was offered by the County after meeting with consumers and it was stated that they wanted to work but couldn't get transportation. So the FWL folks started a transport business to ensure that our mental health consumers could get to and from work at any time. Typically they charge a low fee and have proven to be a great support system.

**Lark Enterprises:** Lark currently offers both a workshop and also supported employment with job shadowing and coach services. This is offered to both ID individuals and MH consumers. They current employ and work with more than 100 individuals per day.

**Lawrence County Care Center:** Employs twelve individuals at varying levels of recovery.

**Caratis and Westfield:** Both are enhanced PCH's that offer employment in growing crops and then selling them. They also offer composting, wood working and sales of all items made. Proceeds go to the individuals who work there.

**Certified Peer Specialist:** Lawrence County's CMHC currently runs and facilitates our CPS programming. This has proven to benefit both the CPS and the users of the program. Almost immediately after starting this program, we saw approximately a 5% decrease in hospital readmissions.

At the present time Lawrence County does not have a waiting list for any supported employment opportunity. Access is being met, however we are always looking for opportunities to expand.

### III. HOUSING IN INTEGRATED SETTINGS

#### a. Housing inventory for Lawrence County

Lawrence County currently offers:

1. Fair-weather Lodges	46 individuals
2. LTSR	12 individuals
3. EPCH(2)	20 individuals
4. TL Housing	03 individuals
5. SRS	14 individuals
6. Scattered sites	75 individuals

**A. Enhanced Personal Care Homes (2)** Lawrence County has developed two enhanced personal care homes. Typically these are long term placements and each have a farming/gardening vocational components for the SMI populations.

**B. Long Term Structured Residence:** Lawrence County does possess one LTSR that is operated by our CMHC. It has a current capacity of twelve beds. At this time, it is our most restrictive setting within the County. It is not a locked facility.

#### **C. About the Housing Authority of the County of Lawrence Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program**

- D. As of March 31st, 2016 the Housing Authority of the County of Lawrence manages 281 active Housing Choice Vouchers.
- E. The following is a summary of the types of vouchers managed and the monthly costs of each:

Vouchers	Standard
Monthly Cost Per Voucher	257
Monthly Cost	\$332
	\$85,209

- F. PSH database, persons who were issued a voucher in the preceding 12 months waited an average of 12 months on the waiting list.
- G. **Income Characteristics**
- H. According to 2016 Q4 Picture of Subsidized Households data, the average voucher household contains 1.8 persons and has a household income of \$12,185 per year. 95% of households were very low income (VLI) and 69% were extremely low income (ELI). 20% of households had wages as a major source of income, 4% of households had welfare (TANF, General Assistance or Public Assistance) as their primary source of income, and 76% of households had other income (Social Security, Disability or Pension) as their major source of income.
- I. **Heads of Household Characteristics**
- J. 2% of households were headed by a person 24 years old or less, 38% were headed by a person 25 to 49 years old, 28% were headed by a person 51 to 60 years old, and 32% were headed by a person 62 years old or older. In addition, 4% of households were headed by a person 85 years old or older.
- K. 34% of households included children, 1% of which had two adults in the household. 32% of households with children have a female head of household. 78% of all households were headed by a female.
- L. 21% of all voucher households were headed by minorities with 18% of all heads of households being Black and 0% being Hispanic.
- M. Of all households participating in the Housing Authority of the County of Lawrence Housing Choice Voucher program, 30% include at least one person with a disability. 53% of households with a head of household 61 years or less were headed by a person with a disability. 48% of households headed by someone 62 or older were headed by a person with a disability.
- N. **Bedroom Size and Over-housing**
- O. 52% of voucher holders reside in a home with zero or 1 bedroom, 28% with 2 bedrooms and 20% with 3 or more bedrooms. 6% of voucher recipients are considered over-housed, meaning they occupy a rental unit larger than their family size requires.
- P. **Rent, Assistance, and Utility Allowances**

- Q. The average monthly tenant contribution to rent by Housing Authority of the County of Lawrence voucher holders in 2016 was \$284 and the average monthly HUD expenditure per voucher holder was \$370. The average utility allowance across all voucher recipients is \$133.

**b. Discuss the progress made towards integration of housing services as described in Title II of the ADA**

In 1990 the Congress passed this act which prohibits the discrimination against individuals with disabilities by any state or local government. This act went as far as to outline that the state is required to “provide community-based services rather than institutional placements for people with disabilities”. That being said, Lawrence County has been working diligently with local providers to embrace, enforce and enhance the living situations in order to more effectively meet the needs of individuals with disabilities who live in our community. Our local housing providers have sought grants and secured funding to improve the local housing options. To date, our office holds meetings with the local providers of housing on a routine basis. This allows our community to identify the unmet needs as well as seek resolutions to any deficits in the housing programs. Locally, we have created a progressive range of supports, services and housing arrangements for those with disabilities.

Lawrence County is committed to operating under a “Housing First” philosophy which focuses on providing safe, affordable housing quickly and then providing services as needed. Lawrence County assists its residents in obtaining housing regardless of their barriers and history and does not discriminate against anyone based on race, color, sex, national origin, religion, or disability.

Further, Lawrence County is connected to several programs that provide modifications to homes for persons with disabilities to ensure their home functions safely for them. These programs provide modifications that include, but are not limited to: grab bars, railings, chair lifts, ramps, and widening of doors.

**c. Describe the plans for Community Residential Rehabilitation (CRR) conversion**

- **Lawrence County has converted all CRR’s to a Fair-weather Lodge Model. It has been more than six year since we’ve had an active CRR.**

**d. Describe the strategies used to maximize resources to meet the housing needs of individuals including**

**a. Identifying the LLA and any agreement with the LLA for referrals and supportive services arrangements**

- i.
- ii. Lawrence County Social Services is the lead organization for the Western Continuum of Care (20 Counties) Coordinated Entry system. This system is designed to universally screen, refer and enroll households in local housing programs. The system is designed to ensure those with the highest barriers (including disability, income, mental health, substance abuse, etc) are prioritized for all available housing options. The system is being tested now and will be fully functioning by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

As Lawrence County Community Action Partnership is the designated Local Lead Agency for Lawrence County. LCAP falls directly under the umbrella of Lawrence County Social Services (LCSS). If a housing developer commits to building housing in the area, LCSS will screen applicants and maintain a waiting list and refer eligible applicants for housing. LCSS will also work to ensure that applicants/residents are connected to available supportive services in their home and in the community. Currently there are no proposed projects in this area.

The County and LCSS have worked closely on housing projects for 9 years and currently operate a 12 unit, scattered site supportive housing program.

**b. Describing the existing partnerships with local Public Housing Authorities, Regional Housing Coordinators, Community, Housing, and Redevelopment Authorities and Local Housing Options Teams including any specific referral and or management Memorandums of Understanding or other agreements.**

- i. The County is currently a member of the Lawrence County Housing Coalition which functions as the areas' Local Housing Options team. Members of this Coalition include the Lawrence County Housing Authority and Section 8 office. In total 25 organizations meet monthly to ensure collaboration, communication, and coordination of services. Members accept and receive referrals openly.

#### IV. Special Populations

- A) Individuals with **dual diagnosis** are placed on what service best meet their needs overall. DD individuals are not excluded from any of the options listed in this document. However, if they are on an Intellectually Disabled Waiver, then options such as supported living /housing may be a possibility. In addition, Lawrence County has recently joined with other Southwest Six Counties in forming a Dual Diagnosis Treatment Team. This regional approach was made possible by utilizing Health Choices Reinvestment funding to support the service. Recent feedback has suggested that this service has decreased the length of inpatient stays for individuals.
  
- B) Individuals with **co- occurring disorders** are likewise not excluded from any of our housing locations. However, we would likely follow our CAST protocol to ensure that we are not setting an individual in recovery up for failure. CAST would be looking for the best possible locations for treatment and need. Our CMHC (who offers many of the housing options) is also a licensed drug and alcohol provider. It has been a long term goal of Lawrence County to create a facility that could treat both MH/DA issues at one location. However, funding to do this has not been secured. This is a rapidly growing population in Lawrence County and all options are being explored.

Lawrence County also has a fully operational Treatment Court designed to work with individuals with Co-occurring issues. Representatives from Mental Health, Probation, Single County Authority, the Courts and Judge sit on the executive team of this process. In the near future we will be funding two graduates of treatment court to be peer-advocates/assistants to help lessen the anxiety and help walk an individual through the processes of this program. Treatment Court regularly serves Adults and Older Adults and diverts them to programming rather than incarceration.

**C. Individuals with Physical and Behavioral health Needs:** Lawrence County works with our County's housing coalition and LHOT to ensure that all necessary adaptations are made. Also Lawrence County has dedicated base funding when appropriate to ensure that all practical standards are met to the consumer's satisfaction. This funding stream is utilized for individuals of all ages.

Lawrence County also offers two Enhanced Personal Care Homes to assist in serving this population in meeting treatment needs of both a physical and behavioral health nature.

Additionally, Lawrence County Mental Health and Developmental Services continues to work closely with the Disability Options Network in Lawrence County to ensure that proper funding and resources will be made available to adapt and assist individuals housing situations as needed. Recently discussions have progressed towards developing a couple of residential units specifically for individuals with this need.

Also we are instituting peer navigation and support to all of our Primary Care Physician locations (as long as they are amendable to it). This will assist individuals in accessing the supports needed to be successful and will serve as a link between the physical health and behavioral health systems.

**D) Individuals with a traumatic brain injury:** Lawrence County continues to support individuals with TBI on a regular basis. Depending upon personal circumstance and severity of injury, folks with TBI can access supports, therapy, and assistance through programs at our CMHC. In addition Lawrence County has worked closely with Brain STEPS (Brenda Eagan Brown) for assistance especially with school aged individuals.

- E) **Children and Juveniles:** Lawrence County offers an array of services geared towards housing for individuals involved in the justice system. We offer shelter, foster care services, respite (overnight), as well as Residential Treatment Options. Lawrence County MH has partnered with Juvenile Probation and Children and Youth Services to offer many Evidence Based Practices and Services. This unified approach has benefitted they youth as well as the professionals. Regular cross-system trainings have been instituted, as well as EBP.

#### **Criminal Justice Advisory Board**

This Board is made up of nearly all Criminal Justice, Courts, Judges, Commissioners and Human Services representatives in Lawrence County. During the current fiscal year the establishment of Mental Health Court has been the main objective which kicked off in March 2015. Other agenda items recently discussed include Pre-trial services, Drug Court (expansion), MISA population, and Forensic Housing continues to be a major issue.

- F) **Hearing Impaired:** Lawrence County has funded and had personnel trained in sign language available at our CMHC. Also for many years we have hosted “the Deaf Café” at our Drop in Center. This is a group of individuals with hearing impairments that meet regularly to discuss needs, obstacles, and supports for their needs. This group is not age restrictive.
- G) **Family Stability/ Homelessness:** As long as one family member has a mental health diagnosis then we offer our SRS programming. In cases such as this contingency funds are typically drawn down and the consumer’s portion of the subsidy is waived. The parent/s would then be assisted in finding the needed supports. Truly the biggest issue we face with battling homelessness is typically a person does not take us up on what we offer.

In addition, we have also reached out to all of our county schools to ensure that we can locate and assist any family with unmet housing needs.

Children’s Advocacy Center of Lawrence County, a nationally recognized provider of services geared to at risk families’ utilized HSDF funds to provide Life skills to pregnant or new parents up the child’s age of 2. The purpose of this program is to help young parents adjust to adult life with children by helping with everything from preparing healthy meals to obtaining good health care for your child. These services are provided in home by qualified nurses.

**Lawrence County Housing Coalition:** Because of the alarming rise in households requiring some type of emergency housing services, the creation of a coalition of over 20 local agencies and private citizens was assembled in 2001 to look at the causes and service needs of this population. This group currently operates a six unit transitional housing project since 2002 for homeless families with children. In addition, the group continues to work together to identify local community needs and gaps in services, coordinate services for mutual clients, streamline processes to more efficiently serve clientele, and develop systems and programs to address local needs.

Lawrence County Social Services has facilitated these meetings since 2001. The group continues to meet the following goals:

- Creation of an on-going needs assessment, with the specific goals of finding the top ten current causes of homeless issues and the populations demographics.
- Creations of an asset assessment of Lawrence County's current available services, including the faith-based services.
- Create a 10-year plan to eradicate homelessness, using the needs assessments and asset assessments mentioned above.
- Plan for continued private and public development of affordable housing stock in Lawrence County.
- Ensure coordination among the Western Pennsylvania Continuum of Care
- Assist in the creation of a coordinated entry system for the Western Pennsylvania Continuum of Care.

### **Infant Mental Health Task Force**

Team consists of members from: Mental Health and Developmental Services, Children and Youth, CASSP, Children's Advocacy Center, Early Intervention, and the Community Mental Health Center. It is designed to assist in the development of vital programming to address the increasing issues that affect our young children and families. Professional Development trainings have been offered over the past fiscal to families.

- H) **Older Adults:** In most cases, we understand that individuals want to stay in their homes as long as possible. Lawrence County MH/DS supports this notion and uses resources such as mobile medication, case management, and tele-psych options to extend this time. Also we have several home aid agencies with nurses who regularly provide care for these individuals. There are also an abundance on nursing homes available should the need arise.

Lawrence County maintains open communication and a strong relationship with the local Area Office on Aging. We have a current and operational MOU with this agency. Our

housing options have continued to meet most needs of this population. As an additional strength, our local inpatient unit has a specialty floor for geriatric patients. Lastly, in order to identify any gaps or necessary improvements this county office is an active member of the County Risk Management Team. This team meets with a state representative, administrators of the local AAA and an employee from the MH/DS Program Office on a quarterly basis.

Also our only local inpatient behavior health unit is at Ellwood Memorial Hospital. It is a geriatric unit only.

I) **Medically Fragile:** Lawrence County has an array of services available to individuals who are medically fragile. Services such as our Mobile Medication Program allow a registered nurse to check in daily and administer both psychotropic and physical health prescriptions. Lawrence County also has several home health care specialized agencies to use when needed. Our Area Office on Aging also accesses individuals for nursing level of care when requested.

J) **Limited English proficiency:** Much like the hearing impaired, Lawrence County contracts and employs staff via our CMHC who are trained and available for interpretation. This service has been used in all sectors of our behavioral health system.

K.) **Transition Age Youth:** Our array of support services is progressive. We offer case management, mobile medication, complex-case review, CAST, and diversion meetings when necessary. All of the county systems are willing to work closely together and communicate as often and openly as possible. This allows for a more successful transition into the adult service systems. During the past 18 months a Transition of Age Advisory Group (TAAG) has been created. This group represents consumers' voices and advocates for services and supports of this age group. This group supports education, socialization and exploring gaps in services for this population.

*Original Submission Date:* 11/04/2016

*Final Publication Date:* 5/19/2017