

Pennsylvania Olmstead Plan

I. Olmstead Planning Process

Cambria County has adopted a creative and responsive approach to addressing the unique and challenging shelter/housing needs in Cambria County. Cambria County is proactive in engaging consumers, family members, providers, the managed care organization, and cross system partners in our ongoing planning, development and implementation of our Olmstead Plan. Cambria County holds regular stakeholder meetings and participates in regular Cambria County Community Support Program (CSP) meetings as well as participating in the CSP process at Torrance State Hospital. Although there is no direct data that is being drawn upon specific to the Torrance Service Area Planning process, Cambria County remains actively engaged in the process and is receptive to partnering with any initiatives that come about because of the planning process that might be beneficial in assisting individuals transition from the State Hospital Level of Care to a less restrictive community based level of support and living. In addition, Cambria County maintains a seat on numerous boards, committees, groups that identify the needs of the behavioral health population as a primary focus of their efforts. One example would be the United Way of the Laurel Highlands which has developed a Shelter Committee over the last five years and Cambria County Behavioral Health/Intellectual Disabilities/Early Intervention (BH/ID/EI) has an active role on this committee ensuring that the sometimes complex needs and challenges that face individuals living with mental illness in identifying, securing, and maintaining safe, affordable, sustainable housing. It is through regular contact and conversations with these organizations and groups that Cambria County identifies Olmstead related issues and needs and utilizes that information as the framework for developing our plan.

II. Services To Be Developed

Presently, Cambria County's current bed cap at Torrance State Hospital is 21, with a current census of this date of 15 individuals currently residing at the State Hospital. Over the past year and a half, Cambria County has worked diligently to reduce the number of individuals inpatient at the State Hospital level of care as well as working proactively on the front end at the Community Hospital Level to divert individuals to less restrictive, more natural settings in the community, to include, LTSR, CRR, residing with family/extended family, and independent living settings whenever possible.

Regarding Residential Treatment Facilities for children and adolescents, the current census is 12, a number that has on average been maintained, demonstrating that Cambria County is not overly reliant on high levels of restrictive care for the children and adolescents in Cambria County, rather relying on community based interventions to support children and adolescents in our community.

By limiting or reducing the utilization of such intensive, restrictive levels of care, the focus is placed more on natural community supports and resources. Thus, the services to be developed focus on community based supports that promote community tenure and engagement.

- a. The following ***Prevention and Early Intervention Services and Supports*** are currently being explored and developed in Cambria County.

Crisis Diversion – Although there had been a previous attempt to create and support a Crisis Diversion Unit in Cambria County in 2010, that endeavor was unfortunately unsuccessful. The issue that arose was that instead of being a diversion from inpatient hospitalization, many of the individuals who utilized the diversion unit ultimately wound up requiring acute inpatient treatment. Additionally, the community inpatient unit began to heavily rely on the diversion unit as a step down from inpatient, which was in contrast to its intended purpose. Also, there was not enough inclusive services part of the diversion unit, such as peer support, case management, etc. because they were already established services in the community and payment for services became confusing and problematic.

Because of a belief that crisis diversion is a needed and lacking resource in the County, Cambria County in partnership with our community acute inpatient unit and Value Behavioral Health, our Managed Care Organization, has reviewed data regarding individuals who have presented to the local emergency room seeking voluntary admission to the inpatient psychiatric unit due to a situational stressor that has exacerbated their psychiatric symptoms. The finding indicated that approximately 45% of individuals self-presenting to the emergency room and then subsequently admitted to the inpatient psychiatric unit are signing a 72 hour notice within hours of reaching the inpatient unit and after further review of details, many of those admissions were the result of a situational stressor, that if provided the opportunity to de-escalate/decompress, an inpatient admission could have potentially been avoided. As a result, it was identified that Cambria County could benefit from some sort of diversionary unit/program that could offer a short term level of increased support and afford the individual the opportunity to utilize community based resources to resolve stressors, eliminating the need for a voluntary inpatient admission.

Representation from Cambria County BH/ID/EI, Behavioral Health of Cambria County (BHoCC), Cambria County's HealthChoices oversight entity, Value Behavioral Health, and Universal Behavioral Health (The Meadows, Cambria County's Crisis Intervention Services Provider) visited six different Crisis Diversion Programs in various Counties to explore how each of those programs were developed, operate, and are funded in order to utilize that information to develop a program that would best serve the needs of Cambria County, promoting community supports and diversions as an alternative to more restrictive inpatient admissions.

The plan that is being developed is a walk-in crisis, 23 hour crisis diversion program, where individuals can be referred or self-refer when experiencing a crisis episode that does not necessarily rise to level of need of an inpatient admission but cannot be otherwise resolved without intervention. By creating a 23 hour program without a residential component Cambria County would avoid the issues that arose with the original crisis diversion program of 2010. Individuals will meet with a mental health professional (crisis personnel) to assess for safety or need for alternate level of care of intervention. They will then be linked with a trained peer who will offer them lived experience guidance and support to help them transition back to independence in the community. The facility will be based on a living room model and will include access to referrals, a recovery library, computer stations, etc.

The hope is to have a program up and running by the end of 2017. A reinvestment plan is being developed at this time to utilize HealthChoices reinvestment dollars for start-up and then moving forward after start-up the program will be funded via medical assistance and county base dollars.

Targeted Age Group: Adults, Age 18 and older

Projected Number of Individuals to be Served: 150 per year

Projected Timeline: Start up by the end of 2017

Resources: HealthChoices Reinvestment Dollars, a projected budget has yet to be finalized

- b. The following ***Non-institutional Housing Options*** are currently being explored and developed in Cambria County.

Shelter Plus Care - In partnership with the Cambria County Grant Writer, the Cambria County Redevelopment Authority and the Greater Johnstown Landlord's Association, Cambria County BH/ID/EI had secured a three year grant opportunity to provide funding to support individuals who are identified as an at risk population under the umbrella of behavioral health issues for up to three years with rental assistance to acquire safe, secure, permanent housing. Efforts have already begun to pursue additional funds to continue the current level of funding as there is only one year funding remaining. This program has been beneficial to individuals in the community who are faced with significant barriers to securing housing due to limited income, previous failed attempts at independent subsidized housing, as well as frequently being criminal justice involved, which can be a barrier with some landlords. Active involvement in treatment is not a requirement of acceptance to the program although participants are educated about available services, supports, and resources available to them in maintaining their behavioral health stability and community tenure. The Greater Johnstown Landlord's Association's role in the program is vital to the program's success as they have done an exceptional job in creating inroads with community landlords and helped foster and promote positive relationships between the landlords and the behavioral health community.

Targeted Age Group: Adults, Age 18 and older

Projected Number of Individuals to be served: 20 Households per year

Projected Timeline: Ongoing (Original Grant Expenditure began in 2014)

Resources: *Shelter Plus Care HUD Grant Funding Cambria County is currently re-applying for another three year cycle of funding.*

Supportive Housing Program – Cambria County successfully secured HealthChoices Reinvestment Dollars in FY 10/11 as part of a Reinvestment Plan for Supportive Housing and was again successful in FY 15/16 in securing additional Reinvestment Dollars to continue the Supportive Housing Program. Recipients of the funding must have a behavioral health diagnosis and although active involvement in treatment is not a requirement for program eligibility, participants are made aware of available services, supports and resources and encouraged to give consideration to engaging in those services and supports. Funding available includes up to six months of Rent assistance (up to 12 months for individuals with a section 8 housing voucher), utility assistance, back rent, security deposits, and moving assistance. In addition it will provide housing information to individuals regardless of eligibility for the program. This program is a partnership between BHoCC, Cambria County BH/ID/EI, the Peer Empowerment Network, one of our County peer run, peer directed drop in centers, which holds the contract for the management of the Supportive Housing Program, and the Greater Johnstown Landlord’s Association, which serves as the Clearinghouse and completes pre-rental inspections as well as maintains regular contact with the landlords to address concerns or issues as they arise to avoid possible evictions, etc. For individuals who are homeless or at risk for homelessness and are not eligible for subsidized housing due to past conflicts with the housing authority or criminal histories that preclude eligibility for subsidized housing, this program has been instrumental in assisting behavioral health individuals get a fresh start at securing safe, secure, affordable housing. It should be noted that to date the program has demonstrated a 62% success rate for individuals originally assisted through the program who have maintained that permanent housing once the assistance through Supportive Housing has ended. Also, of note, the program was able to assist an individual who was discharged from Torrance State Hospital in establishing independent housing in the community upon discharge until her government entitlements were reinstated.

Targeted Age Group: *Adults, Age 18 and older*

Projected Number of Individuals to be served: *approximately 340 individuals*

Projected Timeline: *Beginning FY15/16 and Ongoing until funding is exhausted*

Resources: *Funding as a result of HealthChoices Reinvestment Funds (\$880,860)*

Shared Living Arrangement- This project is in its early stages, to date, Cambria County has only had initial conversations with a current residential provider (Mental Health Resources of Central Pennsylvania) which is operates the County’s LTSR as well as a CRR in Cambria County regarding the development of an apartment style living setting that is sensitive to the needs and barriers for individuals living with serious mental illness in their endeavor to live independently. The residence could house up to three individuals and community services would come to them, for example, peer support, blended case management, etc. and the landlord, who has familiarity with behavioral health

issues would work with the individual as opposed to simply moving towards eviction if issues and behaviors that sometimes arise as a result of decompensation. This housing could also be long term, permanent housing if the individual desired. This facility could be a resource to individuals currently living at the CRR level.

Targeted Age Group: Adults, Age 18 and older

Projected Number of Individuals to be Served: 3

Projected Timeline: In the development Stages

Resources: Ancillary Community Supports

- c. The following **Non-residential Treatment Services and Community Supports** are currently being explored and developed in Cambria County.

As noted previously, Cambria County is in the process of developing a HealthChoices Reinvestment Plan to develop a **Crisis Diversion Program**. Over the past several years in partnership with Value Behavioral Health and community providers, Cambria County has brought **Multi-Systemic Therapy** and **Functional Family Therapy** into the HealthChoices Network for Cambria County.

Community Based Intensive Treatment (CBIT)- This was a program that was created in partnership between Cambria County BH/ID/EI and Nulton Diagnostic and Treatment Center, a Cambria County Outpatient treatment provider, in response to an identified need in the Cambria County community. The program was initially developed to support individuals being discharged from the State Hospital as a means of additional community support in the initial days and months post-discharge from the highly structured support of the State hospital setting. Participants are offered choice to participate and the whole premise of the model is to have all providers of services involved with the individual to commit to a weekly treatment team meeting to discuss what is going on with the individual, to identify issues/barriers and then collaborate as a group to problem solve solutions in order to promote the individual's success and community tenure. Many program participants are involved with an array of outpatient services including but not limited to Blended Case Management, Peer Support, Outpatient psychiatric services, partial hospitalization program, psychiatric rehabilitation, etc. The program has demonstrated measurable success in regards to reducing re-admission rates and community tenure that the service has been extended to individuals who demonstrate a utilization of high cost levels of care such as acute inpatient treatment in an attempt to afford these individuals increased community support and reducing the need for inpatient admissions.

Targeted Age Group: Adults, Age 18 and older

Projected Number of Individuals to be served: 30 individuals

Projected Timeline: FY17/18

Resources: In discussions with Value Behavioral Health to explore option to create a bundled rate for the service as a result of its success

Presently, Cambria County offers an array of traditional and non-traditional outpatient treatment options to include Mobile Mental Health Treatment and is also looking to implement tele-psychiatry in schools as part of a reinvestment plan to help address the geographical barriers faced by families living in a rural Pennsylvania County. Cambria County received final approval of the reinvestment plan in mid- March 2017 will plan to work with the Alternative Community Resource Program, a Cambria County Provider to have the service available during the Fall 2017 School term.

- d. The following **Peer support and peer-run services** are currently being explored and developed in Cambria County.

Cambria County is home to an exceptional peer run, peer driven drop in center, The Peer Empowerment Network, which is located in the city of Johnstown. The County contracts with them for CSP, as well as for the completion of our bi-annual CHIPPS satisfaction surveys. BHoCC contracts with them for C/FST surveys as well. The Peer Empowerment Network serves as the first point of contact for many individuals living in the community who are experiencing behavioral health issues and it offers a safe place to reach out and make their first connections or reconnection to behavioral health services and supports.

Cambria County is also proud of our Northern Cambria Drop in Center, Vines of Hope, which is operated by Skills of Central Pennsylvania. Due to its rural location, participants are afforded transportation in order to take advantage of the services and supports the center offers.

Cambria County currently has three providers of Peer Support Services, which affords individuals choice when selecting the service. The current compliment of providers meets the peer support needs of Cambria County.

BHoCC recently funded a WRAP as well as a train the trainer session facilitated by the Copeland Foundation in order to have facilitators trained in our area to provide WRAP here in Cambria County as well as to provide training to other Counties.

Targeted Age Group: Adults, Age 18 and older

At this time, Cambria County is not proposing the development of additional services or supports related to Peer Support Services.

- e. The following **Supported Employment Services** are currently being explored and developed in Cambria County.

The Cambria County Association for the Blind and Handicapped serves 18 individuals through sheltered employment at the choice of the individual, with a goal to continue to work with and promote to the individuals to have inclusive supported employment opportunities. Cambria County case management services maintain regular contact and participation in individual specific planning meetings to promote and support participants in their interest in efforts to integrate into a traditional work setting. Individual choice is always paramount when planning action steps towards possible competitive, gainful employment and efforts are made to have a comprehensive approach that includes participation from all arenas to include but not limited to: the individual, Social Security Ticket to Work representation, appropriate County Staff, family and/or natural supports.

In addition, Goodwill of the Conemaugh Valley provides supported employment services through as job coaching for individuals over the age of 18, their Goodwill Branded GOOD GUIDES Program for emerging youth which is a mentoring program that matched individuals with adults with similar interests, career pursuits to afford youth the opportunity to learn about and make informed decisions about career paths etc.. All with the intended outcome to assist individuals achieving their ultimate goal of integrated gainful employment.

Certified Peer Specialists and Certified Recovery Specialists are also will represented gainful employment opportunities for individuals who find a strong calling to share their lived experiences as an example to lift up others in their recovery journey.

Also, it is hoped with the development of a new Crisis Diversion Program, peers will be an integral part of the program, thus creating additional supported employment opportunities as well.

At this time, Cambria County believes that the current array of Services is meeting the needs of the community as reflected in feedback received during stakeholder meetings etc. and does not have any proposed plans in process for the development of additional Supported Employment Services at this time but remains open to exploration if need presents itself.

III. Housing In Integrated Settings

a. Housing Inventory

Independent Living	Fair Weather Lodge	CRR	LTSR	Specialized Community Residence	Enhanced Personal Care Home	Personal Care home
X		X	X			X

There are over 20 subsidized, community housing developments/public housing buildings scattered throughout Cambria County. In addition, through the County's ongoing working relationship with the Greater Johnstown Landlord's Association, inroads and relationships have been made with over 30 private landlords in throughout the County, helping reduce the unrealistic beliefs and stigma that is often times associated with Mental Illness, thus opening up opportunities for individuals to secure private rental arrangements, thus reducing the need for reliance on general subsidized public housing options. Rent costs are within reasonable levels to be affordable to individuals reliant upon Social Security as their means of financial support.

Currently, Cambria County has some resources available to financially assist individuals with behavioral health issues with securing safe, affordable, permanent housing. There currently a Shelter Plus Care Grant to assist up to 20 individuals/household with an application in process to continue that Grant for another three years. Also, Cambria County was successful in securing continuation of a reinvestment plan for Supportive Housing, a program that was in place several years ago, that assists with back rents, security deposits, utilities, moving assistance, and rental assistance for up to 6 and as much as 12 months. These monies continue to be a vital resource in assisting persons who are homeless or at risk for homelessness.

b. Progress towards Integrated Housing Services

Cambria County has been very fortunate to find responsive landlords in our community who are willing to rent to individuals living with behavioral health issues without making treatment compliance a condition of a potential rental agreement. The Greater Johnstown Landlord Association has been a great partner in facilitating relationships between the behavioral health community and community landlords. As the Supportive Housing and Shelter Plus Care dollars are both government related, landlords are educated on the non-discrimination policy that exists in order to receive those dollars. These housing options are located in mainstream community settings and afford individuals freedom of choice in their daily living activities as well as their ability to interact freely with others who do not have disabilities. Efforts are made to ensure rental units are accessible and barrier free whenever possible.

c. Community Residential Rehabilitation Conversion

At this time, Cambria County does not have any proposed plans in process for the conversion of Community Residential Rehabilitation residences. The County Administration meets with CRR as well as other County adult residential providers on a monthly basis to discuss the current residential status and needs of the community and to promote and spearhead discussions around the development of more recovery focused independent living opportunities. We currently have one provider exploring the development of a small three person site that affords individuals the experience of more independent living with a "landlord" who is knowledgeable and informed as it relates to individuals living with severe, persistent mental illness. The current provider is funded through County Base dollars for their current service and so has now begun the process to enroll in PROMISE to be billable and reimbursable through PROMISE for ancillary

support services. The projected timeline for the development and implementation of this resource is late 2018.

d. Maximizing Resources

1. Local Lead Agency

Cambria County BH/ID/EI previously employed a Local Housing Options Coordinator but as a result of budget reduction the Cambria County Commissioners suspended filling the position when it became vacant. As a result of Cambria County's involvement in the Human Services Block Grant Program and Medicaid Expansion, Cambria County has been able to maximize utilization of dollars and has created and filled a Housing Liaison Position, effective December 2016. Cambria County BH/ID/EI remains the lead agency that handles housing and supportive services referrals through the administrative case management unit. The Housing Liaison position is under the umbrella of the Base Service Unit.

2. Existing Partnerships

Cambria County BH/ID/EI maintains strong partnerships and working relationships with Johnstown Housing Authority, Northern Cambria County Development Authority, Garden Terrace Apartments, Nanty-Glo House, Cambria County Redevelopment Authority, the City of Johnstown Redevelopment Authority, the Greater Johnstown Landlord's Association, the Cambria County Shelter Committee, etc. For several of these agencies, Cambria County BH/ID/EI provides services in kind as match for HUD grants. At this time there are no formal referral and/or management Memorandums of Understandings or other formal agreements in place.

IV. Special Populations

a. Individuals with dual diagnosis

Dually diagnosed individuals are afforded the opportunity for independent living. Subsidized housing is always explored as an option. In some cases, individuals remain in the community living in the family home. Another possibility is waiver group home if the individual does not demonstrate adequate skills to sustain themselves independently in the community. Appropriate community supports such as supports coordination, outpatient behavioral health services, to include but not limited to partial hospitalization program, psychiatric rehabilitation services, peer support and blended case management are offered to individuals regardless of living situation and are intended to promote community tenure and support on the individual's recovery journey. Supportive housing dollars are an option to aid individuals in getting established in the community in independent housing. The targeted age group for this special population is age 18 and older. For individuals and child and adolescents under the age of 18, every effort is made to support them as individuals and/or their families in housing options that

are safe, affordable, and sustainable. For children and adolescents who do not have the natural supports of family and/or extended family, living arrangements that are least restrictive and promotes freedom to interact in the community is explored and pursued.

b. Individuals with co-occurring disorders

Individuals with co-occurring disorders are assisted in exploring independent living options in the community, including subsidized housing. Ancillary support services such as outpatient behavioral health services and to include but not limited to partial hospitalization program, psychiatric rehabilitation services, peer support and blended case management are offered to support the individual in the community and promote stability and community tenure. In addition substance abuse support and services are also explored and offered to the individual as well. These services include Supportive housing dollars are an option to support these individuals if needed. The targeted age group for this special population is age 18 and older.

c. Individuals with both behavioral health and physical health needs

Cambria County possesses numerous subsidized housing options for individuals with physical health needs that will not preclude them from eligibility based upon a behavioral health diagnosis. Depending on the nature of the physical health issues, if mobility is an issue housing with elevators or street level access are readily available. Personal Care is an option of last resort if the individual's needs create a significant barrier to independent living. Additional supports such as outpatient behavioral health services, to include but not limited to partial hospitalization program, psychiatric rehabilitation services, peer support and blended case management. In addition, linkage to meals on wheels, homemaker services, MATP etc. that support the individual in maintaining independence and choice in where they choose to live. The targeted age group for this special population is age 18 and older.

d. Individuals with traumatic brain injury

Cambria County previously had a facility that specialized in the treatment and support of traumatic brain injury. Unfortunately the program has subsequently disbanded. Services to support these individuals are available through United Cerebral Palsy such as home maker services that assist individuals with traumatic brain injuries live independently in the community with supports. Ancillary support services such as outpatient behavioral health services and to include but not limited to partial hospitalization program, psychiatric rehabilitation services, peer support and blended case management are offered to support the individual in the community and promote stability and community tenure. The targeted age group for this special population is age 18 and older.

e. Individuals with criminal justice/juvenile justice history

Depending on the nature of their previous crimes, subsidized housing may not always be a viable option for these individuals. There is always an appeal process they can follow but the restrictions are fairly stringent. Given the wide array of private community landlords that are available in the community, most of these individuals are successful in finding, securing, and maintaining housing. Supportive housing dollars are an option to aid in establishing these individuals in independent housing if they have a behavioral health diagnosis. Ancillary support services such as outpatient behavioral health services and to include but not limited to partial hospitalization program, psychiatric rehabilitation services, peer support and blended case management are offered to support the individual in the community and promote stability and community tenure. Linkage to any identified services to include health coverage, establishment and/or reinstatement of Social Security benefits, substance abuse services, linkage to community resources to be in compliance with expectations of the criminal justice system. The targeted age group for this special population is age 18 and older. For individuals and child and adolescents under the age of 18, every effort is made to support them as individuals and/or their families in housing options that are safe, affordable, and sustainable. For children and adolescents who do not have the natural supports of family and/or extended family, living arrangements that are least restrictive and promotes freedom to interact in the community is explored and pursued.

f. Individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired

Independent living in subsidized housing is generally an option for these individuals where modifications are completed such as flashing lights etc. to notify of fire, evacuation, etc. Similar modifications can also be acquired in the community with private landlords through local charity organizations who will fund the modifications. Ancillary support services such as outpatient behavioral health services and to include but not limited to partial hospitalization program, psychiatric rehabilitation services, peer support and blended case management are offered to support the individual in the community and promote stability and community tenure. Cambria County, through base funds coordinates and incorporates qualified interpreters who are fluent in American Sign Language etc. to ensure accurate communication and conveyance of information. The targeted age group for this special population is age 18 and older. For individuals and child and adolescents under the age of 18, every effort is made to support them as individuals and/or their families in housing options that are safe, affordable, and sustainable. For children and adolescents who do not have the natural supports of family and/or extended family, living arrangements that are least restrictive and promotes freedom to interact in the community is explored and pursued.

g. Individuals who are experiencing homelessness

Cambria County has a local 14 bed homeless shelter that housing individuals for up to 30 days to afford them the opportunity to develop a permanent housing plan. The Martha and Mary Shelter also has accommodations to assist families challenged with homelessness with dedicated family rooms in the shelter that allows the family unit to remain intact. Through the support of case management services and collaboration with the local housing authority and/or the landlords association, families with minor children are given priority in locating and securing safe, affordable, sustainable housing in an effort to keep children in school and linked to their social networks of peers and natural supports. Frequently, Supportive Housing dollars are utilized to assist individuals for up to six months to find a means for long term financial stability to sustain their housing. Ancillary support services such as outpatient behavioral health services and to include but not limited to partial hospitalization program, psychiatric rehabilitation services, peer support and blended case management are offered to support the individual in the community and promote stability and community tenure. Linkage to any identified services to include health coverage, establishment and/or reinstatement of Social Security benefits, substance abuse services, linkage to community resources. The targeted age group for this special population is age 18 and older although as noted, children impacted by homelessness are served as part of the family unit.

h. Older Adults

Older Adults in Cambria County are supported in independent living as long as possible through supports and services offered through the Area Agency on Aging such as home maker services, home nursing services, meals on wheels, etc. As a last resort, Personal Care or Nursing Homes are utilized if the individual cannot be safely supported in an independent setting. Ancillary support services such as outpatient behavioral health services and to include but not limited to partial hospitalization program, psychiatric rehabilitation services, peer support and blended case management are offered to support the individual in the community and promote stability and community tenure. Linkage to any identified services to include health coverage, establishment and/or reinstatement of Social Security benefits, substance abuse services, linkage to community resources. The targeted age group for this special population is age 60 and older.

i. Individuals who are medically frail

These individuals are supported in independent living situations through ancillary support services such as in home nursing services, home maker services, meals on wheels, medical transports, etc. As a last resort, Personal Care or Nursing Homes are utilized if the individual cannot be safely supported in an independent setting. Ancillary support services such as outpatient behavioral health services and to include but not limited to partial hospitalization program, psychiatric rehabilitation services, peer support and blended case management are offered to support the individual in the community and promote stability and community tenure. Linkage to any identified services to include health coverage, establishment and/or

re-instatement of Social Security benefits, substance abuse services, linkage to community resources. The targeted age group for this special population is age 18 and older.

j. Individuals with limited English proficiency

Limited English proficiency is not a barrier to independent, safe, secure, affordable housing in Cambria County. Subsidized Housing providers do not discriminate based upon language barriers and likewise for private landlords in the community. At this time, this author is unaware of any instances of discrimination based upon language barriers occurring in Cambria County. Ancillary support services such as outpatient behavioral health services and to include but not limited to partial hospitalization program, psychiatric rehabilitation services, peer support and blended case management are offered to support the individual in the community and promote stability and community tenure. Linkage to any identified services to include health coverage, establishment and/or reinstatement of Social Security benefits, substance abuse services, linkage to community resources. Linkage with translator services are made to ensure that clear and effective communication is occurring. The targeted age group for this special population is age 18 and older. For individuals and child and adolescents under the age of 18, every effort is made to support them as individuals and/or their families in housing options that are safe, affordable, and sustainable. For children and adolescents who do not have the natural supports of family and/or extended family, living arrangements that are least restrictive and promotes freedom to interact in the community is explored and pursued.

k. Transition age youth including young adults

This population is eligible for subsidized housing or can secure housing through private community landlords. Due to the high rate of unemployment in Cambria County, monetary resources can at times be a barrier to housing but often time young people will join their resources and live in multi-unrelated households. Ancillary support services such as outpatient behavioral health services and to include but not limited to partial hospitalization program, psychiatric rehabilitation services, peer support and blended case management are offered to support the individual in the community and promote stability and community tenure. Linkage to any identified services to include health coverage, establishment and/or reinstatement of Social Security benefits, substance abuse services, linkage to community resources. The targeted age group for this special population is individuals age 18 to 26.

Cambria County remains committed to serving individuals in the settings that promote recovery and resilience. We will maintain participation in Service Area Planning and continue to promote the CSP process as a tool to assess individual wants and needs. In addition we will continue to utilize Stakeholder meetings, as well as participation in any other community boards and committees to be responsive to the identified and observed needs of the residents of Cambria County. We will focus on services and supports that draw on individual strengths in order to assure positive reintegration into community settings.