

MCKEAN COUNTY OLMSTEAD PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Original Submission Date: November 2, 2016

Final Publication Date: May 10, 2017

I. OLMSTEAD PLANNING PROCESS:

Describe how stakeholders were involved in the development of the Plan. Counties should engage consumers, family members, advocacy groups, providers, behavioral health managed care representatives, and cross-systems partners in the planning process. Stakeholders should be included in the development of the local/regional implementation plan, monitoring of community services and supports, and in providing ongoing input into the county's system for recovery-focused services. Counties should document and demonstrate in their plan how they outreached to and meaningfully engaged their stakeholders.

McKean County recognizes the need to ensure that a system of supports is in place to prevent institutionalization and promote core principles important to the Community Support Program (CSP), Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP) and Systems of Care frameworks. Close partnerships are maintained with providers, drug and alcohol, housing, aging, criminal justice, consumer groups, community organizations and civic leaders in order to build a housing network that nurtures and protects citizens. Efforts are coordinated through community coalitions that include the McKean County Collaborative Board, McKean County Housing Coalition, and McKean County Criminal Justice Advisory Board. Development of McKean County's Olmstead Plan was based on feedback from stakeholders that was generated through planning meetings and community surveying.

Olmstead Planning Meetings:

- **Inventory of Services and Utilization Realignment Meeting** held May 23, 2016 focused on the increasing number of Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) placements in McKean County. According to data provided by The Behavioral Health Alliance of Rural Pennsylvania (BHARP), as of August 2016, there were 15 youth from McKean County in RTFs. BHARP, Community Care Behavioral Health (MCO), and McKean County Department of Human Services (DHS) personnel discussed causes or "drivers". Identified drivers were: Lack of resources in the continuum between RTF and Family Based Services; increase need for adolescent substance abuse treatment options; need for more independent living options for transition-age youth; and the need for more drug treatment resources for adults with addictions.

- **McKean County Housing Coalition** meetings on June 2, August 4, September 1, and October 6, 2016 focused on developing affordable, integrated and supportive housing resources. The group identified emergency shelter during cold weather months; emergency shelter for men; affordable housing; and more housing options for specialized populations. Participants included McKean County DHS, County Commissioners, area ministers, providers, business leaders, Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Program, Housing Authority and community organizations.
- **McKean County Collaborative Board** meetings on July 6 and September 7, 2016 included discussion on the supports, services and infrastructure in McKean County's Housing continuum. Members of the McKean County Housing Coalition reported progress in leveraging resources and creating public/private partnerships. Membership includes stakeholders in county government, education, business, non-profits, youth serving organizations and youth.
- **Safely Reducing Placements** meetings were held July 25 and August 29 with participants from Pennsylvania Regional Office of Children, Youth and Families, McKean County DHS, Juvenile Probation, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, and the McKean County Court Appointed Special Advocates Program. The group focused on congregate care settings and identified drivers leading to high placement rates. According to data provided by BHARP, as of March 2017, there were 15 youth from McKean County in Residential Treatment Facilities. Lack of enough supervised independent living or transitional living options; lack of resources in the continuum between congregate care and evidence-based programs like Family Based Services and Multi Systemic Therapy; the need for Permanency Roundtables to address barriers specific to the identified child; and necessary data to measure progress—were identified gaps.
- **Beacon Light Behavioral Health Systems** and McKean County DHS met on July 27 to discuss specialized housing needs, specifically, the need for more group home options for women.
- **Northern Tier Community Action Corporation**, McKean County Housing Authority and McKean County DHS met on August 8 to discuss coordination of resources around prevention and housing options. Needs were identified for renter education classes, home improvement programs, and veteran homeless assistance and supports.
- **Bradford Regional Medical Center** and McKean County DHS met on August 23 to discuss discharge planning and critical response protocols when dangerous behaviors occur on the local psychiatric unit. Effective interventions to prevent or mitigate institutionalization and incarceration were discussed.
- **MH/ID Provider Meeting** on September 6 with county providers and McKean County DHS focused on housing support needs. Gaps in Dom Care, Personal Care Boarding Homes, group homes, shared housing, supportive housing, affordable housing, supportive employment, emergency shelter services (especially for men), and housing for transition-age youth were identified.
- **Specialized Housing Development Committee** held their inaugural meetings on September 8 and October 20. This group created and distributed a survey to case managers asking them to identify the number and type of housing needs

across specialized populations—persons with mental illness or developmental disabilities, Transition-Age Youth, and individuals in recovery.

- The Community Support Program (**CSP**) of McKean County is a coalition of mental health consumers, family members and professionals working together collaboratively. A **CSP Meeting** was held on August 5, 2016 with 7 individuals in attendance. The group discussed the need for more specialized nursing homes, supported living homes, emergency shelter, and a Community Residential Rehabilitation (CRR) for women. Inadequate supports for life skills education, GED preparation, supportive employment, and community youth recreational activities were also identified.
- **Re-Entry/Diversion Planning Meetings** support the goals of the McKean County Criminal Justice Advisory Board. Meetings were held on June 22, August 31 and October 21 to coordinate the re-entry needs of those incarcerated and returning to the community. McKean County DHS, Adult Probation, County Jail staff, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, and the McKean County Housing Authority assisted with re-entry plans for individuals needing housing, treatment and community supports. Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) grant funds for mental health justice housing provided funds for bridge housing, rapid rehousing, and case management. Planning needs identified by this group include more peer support; medication assisted therapies; diversionary initiatives that could include CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) training for police officers; funds for a Re-entry Coordinator; and the need for a more formalized coordination team (with funding) addressing the needs of persons with serious mental illness and co-occurring disorders.
- **Boarding/Rooming Home** meetings were held October 24 and 31, 2016. They were organized as an emergency response measure. The Bradford Area Alliance (business leaders), McKean County Housing Authority and McKean County DHS met due to concerns about the closure of a 52-unit boarding/hotel that is a low income or transitional housing option for many persons that are vulnerable. Needs were identified for data collection, rapid rehousing, emergency shelter, housing navigation and mental health supports due to this looming housing crisis.

Olmstead Planning Surveying:

The McKean County Housing Coalition developed a survey and distributed it to case managers and care/treatment coordinators in order to survey gaps in the McKean County housing continuum.

Organizations that Responded

- **Individuals with mental illness or developmental disabilities:** McKean County Department of Human Services, The Guidance Center, Futures, Evergreen Elm, YWCA, and McKean County Housing Authority.

- **Transition Age Youth:** Beacon Light Behavioral Health Systems, McKean County Independent Living Program, and Children’s Community Service at Department of Human Services

Results

Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities

Organizations were asked: Within the last year (approximately) what consumers needed specialized housing or more appropriate housing to meet their mental health/intellectual disabilities and level of care needs?

Diagnosis	Number of Individuals	Type of Housing Needed				
		Bridge Housing	Supportive Living	Group Home	Residential Treatment Facility	Personal Care Boarding Home
Dual	7			6	1	
MH	18	8	3	2		5
ID	10		5	2		3
TOTALS	35	8	8	10	1	8

Transition Age Youth

Organizations were asked: Within the last year (approximately) what clients needed a level of care appropriate for a supervised independent living setting?

Transition Age Youth age 17 to 21				
Total	Female	Male	Mental Health Diagnosis	Dual Diagnosis (MH/ID)
32	12	20	17	5

II. SERVICES TO BE DEVELOPED:

Using information gathered from various sources, such as done in the CSP process, identify the services, supports, and infrastructure needed to support individuals transitioning back into the community and individuals in the diversion population who may at times need intervention. Please address each of the following services, including the number of individuals expected to be served, projected timeline for service development, and resources needed:

After meeting with stakeholders as mentioned in Section 1, feedback indicated that the current array of services mentioned in Section 3 are adequate. The following measures will enhance McKean County’s array of supports.

a) Prevention and early intervention services and supports (examples: crisis intervention and mobile treatment services).

Current array of services for prevention and early intervention services are: crisis intervention and mobile crisis.

Prevention and Early Intervention Service Needed	Number of Individuals expected to be served	Timeline	Resources Needed
1. Continue to formalize and expand the county coordination team focused on criminal justice re-entry and diversion planning. This team focuses on juveniles and adults.	Re-entry planning benefits a census of 90-100 individuals per month.	ongoing	Funding for a Re-Entry Coordinator
2. Explore the viability of implementing a Crisis Intervention Team to help mitigate incarceration of the seriously mentally ill. A Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program is a model for community policing that brings together law enforcement, mental health providers, hospital emergency departments and individuals with mental illness and their families to improve responses to people in crisis. CIT programs enhance communication, identify mental health resources for assisting people in crisis and ensure that officers get the training and support that they need. This strategy focuses on the adult population.	It is estimated that 10 individuals could be diverted from incarceration per year.	By February 2017	Funding to compensate police officers for 40 hours of CIT training. Funding for CIT trainer fees to provide local training.

b) Non-institutional housing options, with a focus on independent and shared living arrangements. Identify existing “Housing First” approaches and discuss plans to develop future approaches.

The current array of services providing non-institutional housing options are: Supportive Living Program, public housing, and independent housing options.

Specific Service Needed	Number of Individuals expected to be served	Timeline	Resources Needed
1. Continued collaboration among government, public and private partners on the McKean County Housing Coalition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote “Housing First” 	8,399 McKean County households estimated	Ongoing	McKean County Housing Coalition, public/private partnerships,

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> principles. Strengthen data collection to measure progress. Increase awareness of the need. Sustain and expand emergency shelter options. Develop more housing options to support specialized populations. 	to be paying more than 30% of household income toward housing		funding for emergency shelter and specialized housing options
2. Continue to strengthen and sustain the coordinate housing entry point in McKean County so that housing resources can be easily accessed by citizens.	275	July 2017 to June 2018	Sustained funding for housing supports through grant funding through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, Housing Assistance Program or Continuum of Care (CoC) Initiatives
3. Conduct a recruitment fair for Dom Care providers in conjunction with an event (Mental Health Awareness Month).	3 adult dom care providers	By May 2017	Providers, <i>Rays of Hope</i> Committee and the DHS Advisory Board.
4. Explore startup funding for specialized supportive housing or additional group home options for adults .	3-5	By January 2017	Approximately \$50,000 in startup funding needed. Possible sources: Retained Earnings, MCO Reinvestment funds, or grant funding
5. Develop more transitional living or supervised independent living options for transition-age youth. Currently a work group is conducting a feasibility study and seeking technical assistance from the PA Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF).	5-6	By April 2017	Technical assistance from PA OCYF, state approval to utilize Independent Living funds,
6. Organize an emergency response plan to address the potential need to relocate/house up to 52	52-100	By December 2016	McKean County Housing Coalition and a

individuals/families from the City of Bradford due to the loss of a boarding room/hotel. Mobilize case managers that have specialized populations residing in the hotel. Explore the availability of more rapid rehousing and supportive housing funds. Implement a response plan.			Steering Team, rapid rehousing funds, supported housing funds
7. Create new public/private partnerships to expand affordable housing options. Consider <i>A Partnership in Housing, Inc.</i> , a non-profit arm of the McKean County Housing Authority, as the fiscal agent. Create a team to spearhead efforts. Utilize the McKean County Housing Coalition for support and community buy-in. Include the Bradford Area Alliance on the task force. This strategy focuses on all populations.	10	By March 2017	Private or public funding, grants, or foundation support

c) Non-residential treatment services and community supports including mobile treatment options (examples: outpatient and mobile outpatient services, the full range of crisis intervention services, including mobile outreach, Assertive Community Treatment Teams (ACT), medication management, case management, psychiatric rehabilitation services, community services for youth and young adults including Multi Systemic Therapy and Functional Family Therapy, and services to develop and provide competitive employment opportunities).

The current array of non-residential treatment services and community supports includes: Outpatient, Case Management and mobile treatment services such as Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Medication Monitoring, Family Based Mental Health Services, Multi-systemic Therapy, and Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services.

Specific Service Needed	Number of Individuals expected to be served	Timeline	Resources Needed
1. Expand Mobile Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services so that more consumers can access community supports in the areas of wellness, vocation, employment and socialization. A new provider is now licensed and currently seeking MCO enrollment.	20	By January 2017	HealthChoices approval
2. Explore the startup of an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team composed of mental health specialists who coordinate treatment, housing and employment support for adults—a component critical for diversion and re-	15	By June 2017	HealthChoices approval, provider willingness, Collaborative Board and

entry purposes.			Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) support
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d) Peer support and peer-run services (examples: certified peer specialists, wellness and recovery programs, drop-in centers, warm-lines, etc.).

The current array of peer support and peer-run services includes the STEPS Drop-In Center and peer specialists.

Specific Service Needed	Number of Individuals expected to be served	Timeline	Resources Needed
1. Explore funding options for youth peer support, and forensic peer supports. Community peer support is funded with HealthChoices dollars; however non MCO and incarcerated individuals cannot access this service because of lack of funding.	12	By June 2017	Grant funding sources

e) Supported Employment Services.

Currently CareerLink provides supported employment services to the general public and according to their eligibility guidelines.

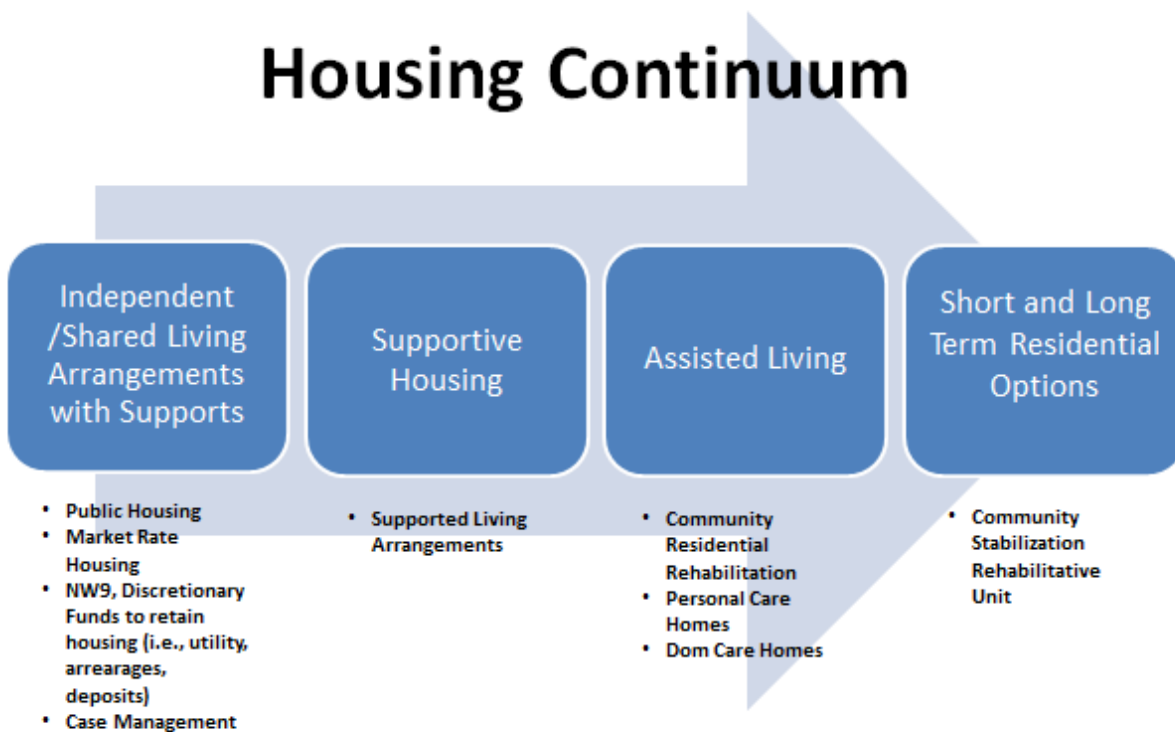
Specific Service Needed	Number of Individuals expected to be served	Timeline	Resources Needed
See section (c) above for strategies related to supported employment—Mobile Psychiatric Rehabilitation and CIT Training.	----	---	---

The above steps will address McKean County’s overall goal to reduce the county use of Residential Treatment Facilities for Children/Youth and the State Hospital System and to support the above measures taken to reduce their use and to support people with services in the community.

As of February 17, 2017 the State Hospital Census for McKean County is 10. According to the Behavioral Health Alliance of Rural PA (BHARP), as of March 2017, there were 15 McKean County youth in Residential Treatment Facilities.

III. HOUSING IN INTEGRATED SETTINGS:

a) Complete a “housing inventory” of existing housing options available to individuals (please note that available services may be located in other counties).



Housing Inventory	Provider	Capacity
Public Housing and Market Rate Rentals	McKean County Housing Authority and private landlords	Affordable Apartment Properties: 15 Low Income Apartments: 978 Rent Assisted Apartments: 577 <small>Source: affordablehousingonline.com</small>
Northwest 9 Master Leasing	BHARP (Behavioral Health Alliance of Rural Pennsylvania)	0
Northwest 9 Bridge Subsidy	BHARP	3
Children and Youth Housing Discretionary Funds	McKean County Housing Authority	Families served in 2016-17: 25

Housing Case Management	McKean County Housing Authority	223
Supported Living Arrangements	Evergreen Elm	13
Community Residential Rehabilitation	Beacon Light Behavioral Health Systems	8
Dom Care Homes	Area Agency on Aging	4 homes with 12 person capacity total
Community Residential Stabilization Unit	Beacon Light Behavioral Health Systems	16

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

McKean County’s Olmstead Plan is designed to support individuals with disabilities to interact with nondisabled persons in the community. Individuals have access to community and daily life activities of their choosing, and have housing options that are considered “scattered site”, often with supportive services individualized to the person’s needs. Housing options supply units to residents that are accessible and barrier free. Additionally, McKean County has a strong partnership with the local public housing authority and attention is given to Housing First” principles. The McKean County Housing Authority has a Housing/Homelessness Unit with three housing case managers. This unit works together with mental health providers in designing and supporting individualized treatment and support. Case/Care Managers are well equipped in understanding and addressing behaviors that have been identified as barriers to living in their own home.

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

Currently McKean County has two Community Residential Rehabilitation (CRR) options funded through CHIPP dollars, which are both essential to the recovery of the individuals that they serve. The male homes was part of reducing beds at Warren State Hospital and with this funding we were able to bring five males back into the community that have been residing there for two years or longer. Without this type of setting these individuals would not successfully integrate back into our county. At this time there are no conversion plans.

d) Describe strategies used to maximize resources to meet the housing needs of individuals including:

- 1. Identifying the Local Lead Agency (LLA) and any agreement with the LLA for referrals and supportive services arrangements.**
- 2. Describing 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 Understandings or other agreements.

The Behavioral Health Alliance of Rural PA is the LLA (Local Lead Agency) for housing resources. Additionally, local resources are coordinated through the McKean County Housing Authority, who works in close collaboration and via contract with the McKean County Department of Human Services. The Housing and Homeless Coordinator at the McKean County Housing Authority oversees three part time case managers that serve as a Centralized Intake Unit. As such, housing and homeless resources are more readily accessed by citizens. All of the case managers have been trained in SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery) and are well equipped to work with specialized populations. With a two year grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, justice involved individuals with mental health and/or substance abuse disorders are receive housing supports such as Master Leasing, Bridge Subsidy and Emergency Housing. The McKean County Housing Authority is operating this grant via subcontract with McKean County Department of Human Services. Access to justice housing is coordinated through monthly re-entry/diversion coordination team meetings.

The McKean County Housing Coalition was formed in January of 2015. Members represent housing partners, behavioral health organizations, civic leaders, faith-based partners, and local organizations involved in helping residents secure food, shelter and basic services. The coalition mobilized around the county's housing crisis. In order to connect work, many members are also on the county's Collaborative Board and Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

Goals the Housing Coalition include:

- **Emergency Shelter Services:** Through fundraising and community clean-up days, 10 shelter rooms were refurbished, adding an additional two rooms to the YWCA Bradford Homeless Shelter in order to increase capacity. Additionally, new policy and protocols were developed to include an onsite Resident Assistant in addition to a Shelter Manger. The shelter now has the capacity to serve families (that include males in the family unit). Future goals focus on exploring shelter services for single men. To address overflow cold weather sheltering needs, the American Red Cross trained area volunteers on January 9, 2016 in emergency shelter operations and one church opened up a cold weather shelter. The current goal is to sustain faith-based support for cold weather sheltering.
- **Sustaining a Centralized Intake Unit:** Linda Thompson works as a Housing and Homeless Coordinator at the McKean County Redevelopment and Housing Authority. Three part time case managers were added in 2015-16 and serves as a Centralized Intake Unit so that resources can be more readily accessed. Goals focus on sustaining the unit as the LLA and sustaining all housing support service funding coordinated by this unit.
- **Data Collection:** Homelessness Surveying from the Winter of 2014-15 found that the YWCA sheltered 72 women and children, and area churches and organizations provided an additional 79 vouchers to a local boarding room hotel. Going forward,

Project SHARE database, a simple excel spreadsheet, will be implemented to assist in coordination of vouchers and discretionary funds that churches and organizations contribute. McKean County will also focus on conducting quality Point in Time (PIT) Surveys, and surveying the needs of specialized populations.

- **Awareness:** Many of our leaders do not know that homelessness and housing instability exists and in January the coalition plans an annual awareness activity to coincide with the PIT Surveying called the Clothesline Project (mittens, hats and housing information hung on a clothesline and given away for free.)
- **SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery):** Staff of the McKean County Housing Authority and several local case managers have been trained in SOAR and are assisting individuals with SSI applications.
- **Veterans:** Organizations have been informed about how important it is to link veterans to resources. A veteran's forum and continual outreach has helped in this effort. Linkage to homeless veteran programs is promoted across local housing partners.
- **Housing for Specialized Populations:** Housing for mental health, recovery, transition age youth and veterans will be explored in 2016-17 through an assigned committee.

IV. SPECIAL POPULATIONS:

Discuss how the following groups of individuals with serious mental illness and their specialized service needs are met:

a) Individuals with a Dual Diagnosis

Adults and youth with a dual diagnosis are supported through services of their choice that could include: Community Employment & Employment Related Services, Community Residential Services, Community-Based Services, Emergency Services, Pre Vocational Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, Psychiatric Services, Medication Monitoring, Family Based Mental Health Services, Family Support Services, Housing Support Services, Outpatient Services, Partial Hospitalization, Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services, Case Management or Service Coordination, Wellness Coaching, Peer Support Services, Drop-In Center, Medication Management, WRAP Services (Wellness Recovery Action Planning), Behavioral Health Rehabilitative Services, Dual Diagnostic Treatment Team (DDTT), Inpatient Treatment, and Adult Community Stabilization and Reintegration Unit (CSRU) services.

b) Individuals with co-occurring disorders (mental health/substance use disorders)

All individuals with co-occurring disorders can access mental health services mentioned in section (a). Pending their needs and level of care, additional resources for recovery can include case management, recovery support services, outpatient services, detoxification services, inpatient treatment, buprenorphine programming, partial hospitalization programming, halfway house services, and methadone services.

c) Individuals with both behavioral health and physical health needs

As an outgrowth of Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), The Guidance Center, the largest adult mental health provider, continues to provide wellness coaching to adults with behavioral health and physical health needs. Psychiatrist and Case Managers routinely coordinate care with physical health providers. As well, health markers are tracked during through mental health treatment service provisions—height, weight, BMI, and blood pressure. Residential care is carefully planned in order to meet individualized needs. If specialized services are needed that cannot be met in McKean County, supports within the region are secured with help from OMHSAS and MCO partners. Many individualized needs can be met through local services mentioned in sections (a) and (b).

d) Individuals with a traumatic brain injury

With some exceptions, the demand for care for this population is not sufficient enough to develop services locally. If specialized services are needed that cannot be met in McKean County, supports within the region are secured with help from OMHSAS and MCO partners. Many individualized needs can be met through local services mentioned in sections (a), (b), and (c).

e) Individuals with criminal justice/juvenile justice history

Collaborative practices have been put into place through efforts of the McKean County Criminal Justice Advisory Board and the Re-Entry/Diversion Coordination Team that is an outgrowth of the CJAB. Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency funds were received through McKean County DHS for housing needs. This initiative has greatly enhanced the capacity to serve and care for youth and adults that are justice-involved. With this resource, many are able to obtain housing resources in spite of their criminal background. McKean County has a strong Community Service Program supported through the McKean County Adult Probation Department, and many evidence based practice options through Juvenile Probation. The local jail has a full-time staffed mental health therapist. Pro bono psychiatric services are provided by The Guidance Center, and Deputies transport inmates to this service. Recovery case management, resiliency focused counseling for youth, and group services are provided in the jail setting. Expedited medical assistance is facilitated for those in recovery so that individuals released do not have a wait time for addictions treatment services. Individual and group anger management is provided through mental health outpatient services in the community through The Guidance Center.

f) Individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired

Individuals with hearing impairments receive supportive services through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Service, LIFT (Life and Independence for Today), and CARE for Children. If specialized services are needed that cannot be met in McKean County, supports within the region are secured with assistance from OMHSAS and our MCO partners. Individuals are also served through local mental health and physical health resources mentioned in sections (a), (b), and (c). Additionally, an interpreter is on contract with McKean County Department of Human Services in case this service was ever a need for adults and youth.

g) Individuals who are experiencing homelessness

The McKean County Housing Authority is the LLA and Centralized Intake Unit for housing and homeless resources. Mental Health Case Managers and Housing Authority personnel dedicated to addressing homelessness have been trained and are well equipped in motivational interviewing, housing navigation, crisis response, and relapse prevention. Ten units of shelter services for women, children and families are available through the YWCA. A local organization, Destinations Bradford, provides hotel vouchers for homeless individuals that cannot be housed through the YWCA. One area church hosts an overflow cold weather shelter. Homeless youth are supported through the county operated Independent Living Program. Furthermore, family stability is supported through several practices—intact families are accepted into shelter space, child welfare reimburses some expenses for vulnerable families facing homelessness, and the local housing authority prioritizes homeless families for subsidized housing assistance.

h) Older Adults (ages 60 and above)

The Office of Human Services, Area Agency on Aging, offers a full continuum of services and supports for older adults that include Aging Waiver Services, Options for In-Home Services, six Senior Centers, Protective Services, Public Guardianship, Dom Care, Family Caregiver Support, Information and Referral, Senior Volunteer Program and Nutrition Services. In comparison to other Pennsylvania Counties, in McKean County there are more generational supports for older adults and a higher percentage of the aging population belonging to informal supports such as religious organizations and senior centers.

i) Individuals who are medically fragile

Through partnerships with physical health providers, individuals who are medically fragile receive supportive services to help them live independently. If specialized services are needed that cannot be met in McKean County, supports within the region are secured with help from OMHSAS and our MCO partners. Individuals are also served through local mental health and physical health resources mentioned in sections (a), (b), and (c).

j) Individuals with limited English proficiency

Individuals with limited English proficiency are provided appropriate linguistic supports and accommodations. Providers of mental health services have policy in place to support these needs. Translation services are available via contracted services when the need arises.

k) Transition-age youth including young adults

There is strong collaboration among youth serving organizations, with the Youth Consortium/Transition Council serving as a valuable resource for this collaboration. The McKean County Independent Living Program assists many youth with employment, vocational, educational, social and housing goals. Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP) and the Student Assistance Program (SAP) are available to

help families, schools and organizations find and navigate appropriate services for youth. The McKean County CareerLink, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Intermediate Unit #9, LINK to Aging and Disabilities, Children and Youth Services, McKean County Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA), Juvenile Probation and local educational/vocational partners work collaboratively to help youth transition to independent living.