

Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Personal Care Home Policy
Revised Draft February 18, 2009

This policy is advising the position of the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) on meeting the housing, treatment and service needs of persons with a mental illness in Personal Care Homes (PCH):

1. If an individual served by the County MH/MR Program is being considered for referral to a PCH, verification that a home possesses a current approved license is required prior to the referral being made (referrals can not be made to homes with provisional license status).
2. It is a goal of OMHSAS that individuals be engaged and supported in identifying and moving into the most integrated housing in their community of choice. OMHSAS strongly discourages individuals being referred by counties to live in any PCH with more than 16 beds. The county should develop a process to consider any exceptions to this policy.
3. No individual discharged from a state hospital may be referred to a PCH with more than 16 beds. The Community Support Plan must identify the rationale for any exception requested to this policy. See attached state hospital discharge guidance.
4. OMHSAS will not approve the use of any mental health funds to develop mental health community based programs such as a Partial Hospitalization Program, Drop-in Centers, Clubhouses, etc., in PCHs (excluding mental health programs in an Enhanced PCH) effective [upon release of this policy -date]. This does not include direct service provision to individuals living in PCHs by a mental health service provider, such as a Case Manager, Peer Specialist or other mobile service provided specifically to an individual.
5. OMHSAS will not fund the development of any new Enhanced PCH with more than 16 beds.
6. OMHSAS will not approve the use of any mental health funds to be used to develop services or supports that are required by regulation to be provided by the PCH.
7. Persons who reside in a facility that also offers on-site behavioral health programs funded by the county must be given the option to participate in programs offered at an alternative site.
8. County MH/MR Programs should provide information at least twice a year to PCHs operating within their jurisdiction, to aid in increasing awareness of individual residents to the opportunities to access and benefit from the community based, recovery oriented treatment and supportive services available to and utilized by individuals with mental illness living in other kinds of housing in the community.