

**Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Personal Care Home Policy**

This policy reflects 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 or referred to Personal Care Homes (PCH):

1. 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 or county contractors to live in any PCH with more than 16 beds. The county shall develop a process to consider any exceptions to this policy. The process will be reviewed and approved by OMHSAS. The process should include the opportunity for individuals to visit at least two alternative housing options that offer greater community integration than a PCH.
2. 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 and must be reported to the OMHSAS Regional Field Office before the CSP becomes final. See attached state hospital discharge guidance.
3. 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.
4. OMHSAS will not fund the development of any new Enhanced PCH with more than 16 beds. For this purpose, all funds allocated to the county, HealthChoices capitation, and reinvestment dollars are considered OMHSAS funds.
5. 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.
6. If an individual served by the County MH/MR Program is being considered for referral to a PCH, the County must review the licensure status of the home prior to referral to determine if the home has a provisional license. The OMHSAS Regional Field Office and the Regional PCH Field Office should be consulted prior to considering placement in a home with a provisional license.

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.