

Summary of new Initiatives at SAMHS

The Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHS) is currently in the process of hiring a staff member to, among other duties, analyze and manage the Waitlist system. The Waitlist has improved dramatically from January 2015 to January 2016 as represented by a **40%** overall reduction in persons waiting for services; however, the data still shows that a significant number of consumers are remaining on the Waitlist well beyond the assignment times for community integration services specified in the Settlement Agreement. SAMHS will continue to analyze and improve the Waitlist system over the coming months with the goal of achieving substantial compliance. This process includes an analysis of the existing system, as well the relationships and business processes between: APS HealthCare, the Provider Community, SAMHS, and the consumers themselves.

The Behavioral Health Home (BHH) initiative has blossomed as there are currently 4,386 members in the program, 27 Behavioral Health locations with 70 sites. The Office of MaineCare Services started accepting applications on April 1, 2016 to promote additional capacity in the BHH program. The start date for new BHHOs will be July 21, 2016.

New rules governing Section 17 went into effect on April 8, 2016. SAMHS and the Office of the Attorney General will be working on a proposal to reconcile the days to assignment (2 days for class members who are hospitalized, 3 days for class members in the community and 7 days for non-class members) with the changes in Section 17 of the MaineCare Benefits Manual, which now require a 7-day referral to service standard. With these rule changes, we intend to negotiate an amendment to the Settlement Agreement to align the required assignment times to the rule change in Section 17.