

# PATH

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness

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# Overview

In an average week, an estimated 637,000 adults are homeless in America. Of these, about 20 - 25% have serious mental illnesses.

The program, known as Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), is administered by the Center for Mental Health Services, a component of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

# Maine Statistics per Maine State Housing Authority

As of January 31, 2013 (most recent complete data)

- 1175 homeless
  - 878 individuals, 297 families
  - 1104 in shelters, 71 unsheltered
  - 50% with a chronic disability
  - 38% with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness
  - 30% with chronic substance abuse
  - 15% with chronic homelessness
  - 11% were veterans
  - 5% were victims of domestic violence

<u>Year</u>	<u>People Identified as Homeless</u>
2012	1050
2011	957
2010	885
2009	871

# Target Populations

- The primary target population for PATH funded services in Maine will consist of *outreach and engagement services to literally homeless persons*, youths and adults, who are the hardest to reach and most difficult to engage, with an as of yet unknown severity of mental illness or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders.
- The PATH program is designed to support the delivery of eligible services to persons who are homeless **AND** have serious mental illnesses (as defined in Section 17) or co-occurring serious mental health and substance abuse disorder with a particular emphasis on:
  - persons most in need of services based upon their level of jeopardy and probable Section 17 eligibility; and
  - services which are not supported by mainstream mental health programs; and
  - services not covered by an individual's insurance

# Definitions

## Outreach

- Outreach is the process of bringing literally homeless individuals into treatment and services who do not currently access traditional services.
- Effective outreach strategies should be aimed at engaging persons, where they are located, and providing access to the needed array of services. These strategies include:
  - identification of individuals in need,
  - screening,
  - development of rapport,
  - offering support while assisting with immediate and basic needs, and most importantly,
  - referral to appropriate resources.
- Outreach does not occur behind a desk or in an office.

# Definitions (cont.)

## Outreach (cont.)

- Outreach can include meeting with an existing or potential PATH enrolled individual:
  - in a private setting;
  - in a public setting such as:
    - restaurant,
    - streets,
    - hospitals,
    - campgrounds,
    - city park,
    - shelters,
    - correctional settings,
    - etc.
  - non-standard hours and days of operation, and on-call status of the PATH funded outreach and engagement worker(s).
- PATH outreach services prior to PATH Enrollment should continue without the expectation or burden of the identification of PATH eligibility.
- The HMIS record should begin at the time of Outreach.

# Definitions (cont.)

## **PATH Eligibility**

- The following guidelines are recommended for determining if an individual should be identified as 'PATH Eligible.'
  - The individual is experiencing literal homelessness  
*AND*
  - is also experiencing a Serious Mental Illness or Co-occurring Serious Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Disorder.
- An individual is determined to be PATH eligible once an individual has met the criteria,
  - as defined by the MaineCare Benefits Manual under Section 17, or
  - for Severe Emotional Disturbance (youth),.
- There are two categories of homelessness within PATH Eligibility,
  - Literal Homelessness, and
  - At Risk of Homelessness.

# Definitions (cont.)

## Literal Homelessness

- The primary focus of the PATH program in Maine is the *literal homeless population*.
- PATH providers are to provide outreach to *all* individuals who are experiencing literal homelessness with the intent of identifying and engaging those they believe are PATH eligible.
- PATH outreach services prior to PATH Enrollment should continue without the expectation or burden of the identification of PATH eligibility.

# Definitions (cont.)

## **Literal Homelessness (cont.)**

- Literally Homeless persons are those individuals who are:
  - Sleeping in place not meant for human habitation, such as
    - cars,
    - parks,
    - sidewalks,
    - abandoned buildings,
    - woods,
    - camp grounds; or
    - the street;
  - Sleeping in an emergency shelter;
  - Victims of domestic violence; or
  - Veterans experiencing homelessness.

# HMIS (Homeless Management Information Systems)

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is an electronic data collection system that stores person-level information about people who access the homeless service system.

It was developed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and all HUD grantees are required to use HMIS.

# Enrollment (aka Engagement)

- An individual may be enrolled in PATH when the PATH eligibility criteria are met and the HMIS record contains enough universal data elements and other PATH data elements to identify the individual and document some of his/her needs.
- These standards should be met to consider an individual PATH Enrolled:
  - The individual has been determined to be 'PATH Eligible';
  - The individual and the PATH outreach worker have reached a point in the engagement process where there is mutual agreement and consent for other services to begin;
  - The PATH outreach worker has created an individual file and record in HMIS for this individual, which includes at a minimum, documentation of:
    - basic demographic data and Universal Data elements in HMIS,
    - rationale for the determination of PATH eligibility,
    - the individual's consent for services, and
    - documentation of the services provided.

# Data

- Data is entered into HMIS ClientPoint by the providers.
- There are 9606 codes in the Alliance of Information & Referral Systems (AIRS) service codes Taxonomy. AIRS maintains this taxonomy of codes for various human and social services that many nationwide providers use in referral databases and financial and workflow coding.
  - We were tracking a total of 32 codes through Maine's PATH project.

# Services Supported by PATH

- The services eligible for funding under Maine's PATH are:
  - Outreach,
  - Engagement,
  - Referral services,
  - Screening, Diagnostic, and Assessment services.

# Service Codes in ClientPoint

Code	Category		Code	Category
BH-3700	Housing Counseling		NL-1000.2400-800	State Administered SSI Supplement Programs
BH-3900.3100	Housing Search Assistance		NL-5000.5000-520	Medicaid Applications
BH-8400	Supportive Housing		NS-1800.8000-820	Social Security Disability Insurance Applications
FT-1000.9000	Veteran Benefits Assistance		NS-1800.9000	Veteran Compensation and Pension Benefits
HL	Educational Support Services		NS-8000.5000-560	Medicare Enrollment
HL-8000.1800-900	Veteran Education Benefits		NS-8000.9000	Veteran/Military Health Insurance
LH-2600	Health Care Referrals		PH-1000	Case/Care Management
LL-3000.9000	Veterans Affairs Medical Centers		PH-6100	Parenting Education
LN-9000	Veteran Outpatient Clinics		PH-6500.1500-200	Family Maintenance/Reunification
LR	Rehabilitation/Habilitation Services		PH-8000	Street Outreach Programs
ND	Employment		PN-8100.4500-850	Veteran Support Groups
ND-2000.3500	Job Training Formats		R	Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
ND-3500.3600	Job Search/Placement		RP-1400.8000-900	Veteran Reintegration Counseling
ND-6500.3050	Homeless Employment Programs		RP-5000	Mental Health Evaluation
ND-6500.9200	Veteran Employment Programs		RR	Mental Health Support Services
NL-1000	Basic Income Maintenance Programs		RX	Substance Abuse Services

# Providers

Counties	Provider Agencies	Contact Information
York	York County Shelter Program Inc.	<b>Diane Sheldon</b> 207-324-1137 DianeS@ycspi.org
Cumberland	Preble Street Resource Center	<b>Ali Lovejoy</b> 207-775-0026 alovejoy@preblestreet.org
Androscoggin/Oxford/Franklin/Sagadahoc	Catholic Charities Maine	<b>Janice Lara-Hewey</b> 207-272-9210 jlarahewey@ccmaine.org
	New Beginnings	<b>Contact for Homeless Youth</b> 207-795-4077
Kennebec/Somerset/Waldo/Knox/Lincoln	Kennebec Behavioral Health	<b>Donna Kelley</b> 207-873-2136 dkelley@kbhmaine.org
Penobscot/Piscataquis/Hancock	Community Health and Counseling Services	<b>Mary Ellen Quinn</b> 207-947-0366 mquinn@chcs-me.org
	Bangor Area Homeless Shelter	<b>Rowena Griffin</b> (Greater Bangor area Adult referrals only) 207-947-0092 rowenag@bangorareashelter.org
Aroostook/Washington	Aroostook Mental Health Services, Inc	<b>Access Center</b> 1-800-244-6431

# Contractual Relationship

- Catholic Charities is the lead and the other agencies are subcontracted with Catholic Charities. Each agency has a varied number of PATH Finders and PEER Navigators that outreach with the homeless individuals and identify their needs through development of rapport, offering support while assisting with immediate and basic needs, at the same time as referring to appropriate resources.
- After the individual's referral into all of the appropriate resources, the PATH program can follow-up with the individual for up to 6 months.
- PATH Finders are trained to be a SOAR Specialist (SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery). This increases access to disability income benefits programs that are administered by the Social Security Administration.
- Peer Navigators have either completed the CIPSS training, or will within a year of being hired. They do outreach and engagement, building trusting relationships that may or may not lead to referrals to Pathfinders.

# Funding

PATH funds are worth more than their face value because they are matched with State and local resources.

- SAMHS's PATH program has been flat-funded for 20 years. Maine and 20 other states are funded at \$300,00 per year. This has a required match of \$100,000 in state or agency funds.
- In FY14, Maine's match was close to \$1,400,000 for a total funding of close to \$1.7 million.

# Collaboration

- PATH Providers and State PATH Contacts are involved in local and regional planning efforts to end homelessness.
- They collaborate with homeless service providers, treatment and detox agencies, and mental health providers in the local Continuums of Care (CoC).
  - CoCs are the homeless assistance planning networks of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- Together, they work on 10-Year Plans to End Homelessness, as well as other planning efforts. This is done to ensure that services are coordinated and available to people experiencing homelessness.

# Linkages w/ Forensic ICM Program

- In August 2013, SAMHS held a series of meetings to begin developing the relationship between the PATH teams and the ICM program.
- A training on both programs was delivered, and an open dialogue between the programs was begun. Since the first meeting,
  - the collaborative efforts of both programs has increased,
  - both programs have problem solved on different cases, and
  - they have developed a closer working relationship.
- The priority of the PATH program is outreach and engagement to the literally homeless.

# Data Outcomes

- Data is extracted from the HMIS ServicePoint system for:
  - A monthly report provided to each agency that shows the completeness of the data they have entered.
  - Path Data for Export - Used to create performance measure reports for the SAMHS quarterly reports, and ad hoc reports.
- Organizations that receive PATH funds submit a PATH Federal Annual Report. This report includes information about:
  - Funding
  - Staffing
  - Enrollment
  - Services
  - Demographics

# Outcomes (cont.)

## Sample Quarterly Report, section 1

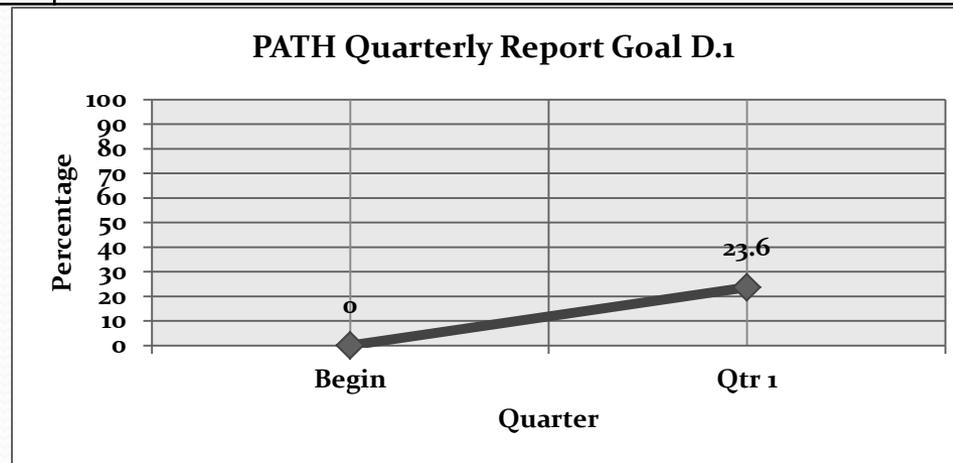
Maine DHHS Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
**Report of Compliance to PATH Project Rider A Specifications**  
First Quarter State Fiscal Year 2014  
RIDER A - SPECIFICATIONS OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED  
III. SERVICE SPECIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

<b>D. Performance Based Contracting Measure Goals and Indicators</b>			
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Specification</b>	<b>Performance Indication</b>	<b>Data Source</b>
<b>1</b>	The agency will ensure comprehensive data collection on enrolled PATH consumers.	Data Completeness: 90% of Enrolled PATH clients will have at least 100% of PATH universal data elements completed in HMIS.	HMIS Reporting
<b>2a</b>	Enrolled PATH clients will have increased access to, and utilization of, Main-Stream Resources specifically including:	Housing Resources: 80% of all PATH enrolled participants will apply for a housing resource;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BH-3900.3100 (Housing Search Assistance)</li><li>• BH-8400 (Supportive Housing)</li><li>• BH-3700 (Housing Counseling)</li></ul>

# Outcomes (cont.)

## Sample Quarterly Report, section 2

D. Performance Based Contracting Measure Goals and Indicators	
<b>Goal</b>	1
<b>Specification</b>	The agency will ensure comprehensive data collection on enrolled PATH consumers.
<b>Performance indication</b>	Data Completeness: 90% of Enrolled PATH clients will have at least 100% of PATH universal data elements (UDE) completed in HMIS.
<b>Data Source</b>	HMIS Reporting
<b>Outcome</b>	23.61 % of the Enrolled PATH Clients have 100% of the PATH UDE's completed in HMIS



# Additional Resources

- **Maine SAMHS PATH Web page:**  
<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/samhs/mentalhealth/housing/path/index.shtml>
- **Public Health Service Act, Part C - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness**  
<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/samhs/mentalhealth/housing/path/PublicHealthServiceActPATH.pdf>
- **SAMHSA PATH webpage:**  
<http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov/Default.aspx>
- **SAMHSA Center for Mental Health Services**  
<http://beta.samhsa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/offices-centers/cmhs>
- **MSHA People Homeless in Maine on January 30, 2013 Annual Point in Time Survey**  
<http://www.mainehousing.org/docs/default-source/housing-reports/2013-point-in-time-report-state-of-maine-final.pdf?sfvrsn=7>

# Contact Information

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