

### *Summary of new Initiatives at SAMHS*

The Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHS) has hired Phyllis Powell to manage the Waitlist and assist in contract compliance efforts. The Waitlist has improved dramatically from July 2015 to July 2016 as represented by a **74%** overall reduction in persons waiting for services; however, the data continues to indicate need for improvement in this key metric. SAMHS will continue to analyze and improve the Waitlist system over the coming months. This process includes an analysis of the existing system, as well the relationships and business processes by and between: KeyPro (formerly APS HealthCare), the Provider Community, SAMHS, and the consumers themselves.

The Behavioral Health Home (BHH) initiative has blossomed as of March 31<sup>st</sup> there were 4,536 members in the program, consisting of 27 Behavioral Health locations with 70 sites. We anticipate additional growth of the BHH program as the Office of MaineCare Services opened up new applications on April 1, 2016 to promote additional capacity. The approval date for new BHHOs was July 21, 2016 and it is expected that the programs will be able to admit consumers in early fall.

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. The Department has developed Emergency Rules to allow for additional time for consumers to transition to more appropriate levels of care.

We expect to have our first look at the data regarding the 7-day referral to service standard in August. This data will be influenced through October of 2016 by the additional time allowed for consumers to transition to more appropriate levels of care—under the Emergency Rules.

Several members of SAMHS, in conjunction with Providers, Consumers, and Disability Rights Maine have been working on the development of a Discharge Planning Protocol from the state psychiatric hospitals to the community. This project has also included protocol discussions in moving from the Residential Treatment portfolio to more independent living in the community.