



PAUL R. LEPAGE GOVERNOR, MARY MAYHEW COMMISSIONER

Department of Health and Human Services
Adult Mental Health Services
32 Blossom Lane
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel: (207) 287-4243
Fax: (207) 287-1022; TTY: 1-800-606-0215

Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) Monitoring Report Quarter 4 FY2012 (April, May, June 2012)

The Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) has been established in recognition that recovery can only begin in a safe, healthy, and decent environment, a place one can call home. The Office of Adult Mental Health Services recognizes the necessity for rental assistance for persons with mental illness, particularly those being discharged from hospitals, group homes, and homeless shelters. There is not a single housing market in the country where a person receiving Social Security as their sole income source can afford to rent even a modest one-bedroom apartment. According to a report issued by the Technical Assistance Collaborative, *Priced out in 2010*, in Maine, 98% of a person's SSI standard monthly payment is needed to pay for the average one-bedroom apartment statewide. In Cumberland County the amount is 104% and Sagadahoc 106%. In the City of Portland 126% of a person's SSI is necessary to pay for the average one-bedroom apartment and in the KEYS area (Kittery, Elliot, York and South Berwick) 125%.

BRAP is designed to assist individuals who have a psychiatric disability with housing costs for up to 24 months or until they are awarded a Housing Choice Voucher (aka Section 8 Voucher), another federal subsidy, or alternative housing placement. All units subsidized by BRAP funding must meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Housing Quality Standards and Fair Market Rents. Following a *Housing First* model, initial BRAP recipients are encouraged, but not required to accept the provision of services to go hand in hand with the voucher.

The monitoring of the Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) is the responsibility of the Office of Adult Mental Health Services (OAMHS) and particularly the Policy Development Unit within the OAMHS.

On July 13, 2007, because the number of persons with BRAP vouchers was 41 over the maximum, the BRAP Wait List Protocol was fully activated. The following report details the census activity over the most recent four quarters. Trending information from the previous reports is provided so ongoing activity can be readily measured against longitudinal trends.

The bullets below highlight some of the details regarding persons who are currently waiting for a BRAP voucher: The percentage terms reflect the percentage of relative change compared to the last report, the formula is ((Current Report Number – Previous Report Number) / Current Report Number).

- Priority #1 applicants (Discharge from a psychiatric hospital within the last 6 months). Riverview and Dorothea Dix consumers are typically not waiting more than 5 days from the date of a completed application. Priority 1 applicants waiting for a BRAP voucher have increased from 11 to 41 persons, up 73%.
- Priority #2 applicants (Homeless) have increased from 31 to 180, up 83%
- Priority #3 applicants (Substandard Housing) no change remaining at 0.
- Priority #4 applicants (Community Residential Facility) have increased from 7 to 34 persons, up 79%.
- Persons on the waitlist greater than 90 days have increased from 3 to 20 persons, up 85%.

Since inception of the wait list, there has been a total of 1,908 BRAP vouchers awarded broken down as follows: Priority #1, 840; Priority #2, 832; Priority #3, 26; Priority #4, 199. Note that 11 vouchers have been awarded to persons with no priority.

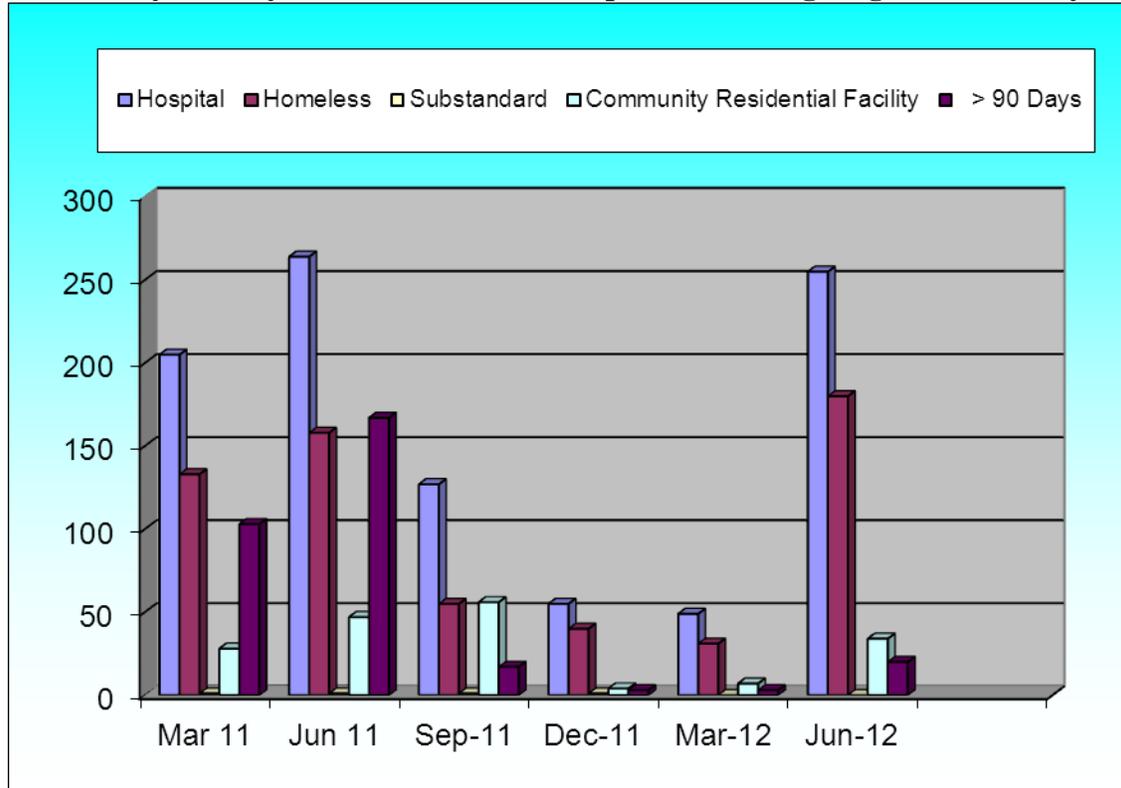
The current BRAP census as of June 30, 2012 is 808 vouchers. At the beginning of this reporting period we had re-instated the Waitlist Protocol because there were more than 100 vouchers issued yet not rented up beyond our target census of 815 representing an annual liability to the program of more than \$500,000. The no-lapse in funds carry over clause now in statute is estimated to allow us to utilize \$350,000 of funds that would otherwise have been turned back to the General Fund. These vital funds have allowed us to issue vouchers to all Priority 1 persons on the waitlist in early July.

The number of persons on the program for greater than 24 months remains steady at 25% of the entire program. This is principally a result of decades of federal and state cuts to low-income and supportive housing programs. The lack of availability of these resources, particularly Section 8 at the federal level, has translated to increased pressures on state programs such as BRAP.

HUD has recently issued a second definition of homelessness which has a direct impact on the Shelter Plus Care program. We are awaiting further clarification from HUD on the new definitions before implementing them into the BRAP program—HUD is currently training their Regional Representatives in Washington on the new HEARTH Act. HUD's new homeless definition is comparatively broad to the existing one and includes 'at-risk' categories. It is likely we will have to narrow BRAP to the 'literally homeless' category in order to remotely stay within limits of funding and manage waitlists.

OAMHS also administers a substantial number of Shelter Plus Care vouchers, 976 as of June 30, 2012. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and has seen significant growth over the last decade, the result of OAMHS aggressively applying for and receiving new grants each year. The FY2013 annual budget for Shelter Plus Care is \$7.1 million. The total dollars for all SPC grants (one year renewals to 5 year new contracts) currently administered by OAMHS is \$13,434,250. Shelter Plus Care (SPC) is designed to provide permanent rental subsidies (housing vouchers) and supportive services (provided by MaineCare) to literally homeless individuals with: severe and persistent mental illness (63%), chronic substance abuse and mental illness (30%), and chronic substance abuse and HIV/AIDS (7%).

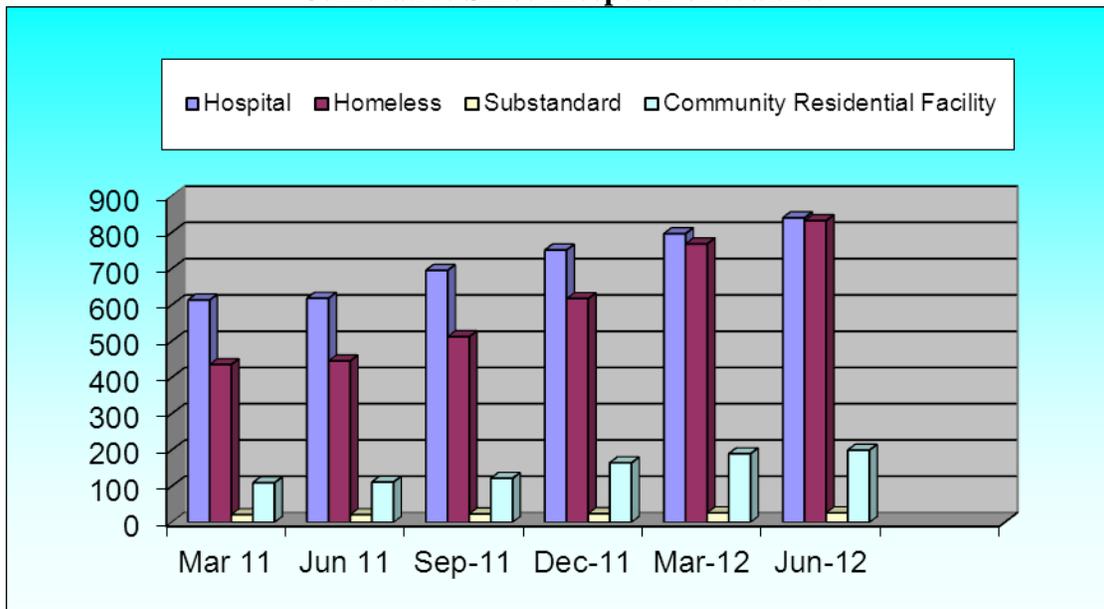
**BRAP Waitlist Status--Graph:
Detail by Priority Status to include those persons waiting longer than 90 Days**



**BRAP Waitlist Status—Table:
Detail by Priority Status to include those persons waiting longer than 90 Days**

Reporting Period	Mar 11	Jun 11	Sep-11	Dec-11	Mar-12	Jun-12	% Change relative to Last Report
Total number of persons waiting for BRAP	205	264	127	55	49	255	81%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	42	57	15	9	11	41	73%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	133	158	55	40	31	180	83%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	1	1	1	1	0	0	null
Priority 4—Leaving a Community Residential living facility	28	47	56	4	7	34	79%
Total number of persons on wait list more than 90 days awaiting voucher	103	167	17	3	3	20	85%

**BRAP Awards—Graph
Cumulative Since Inception of Waitlist**



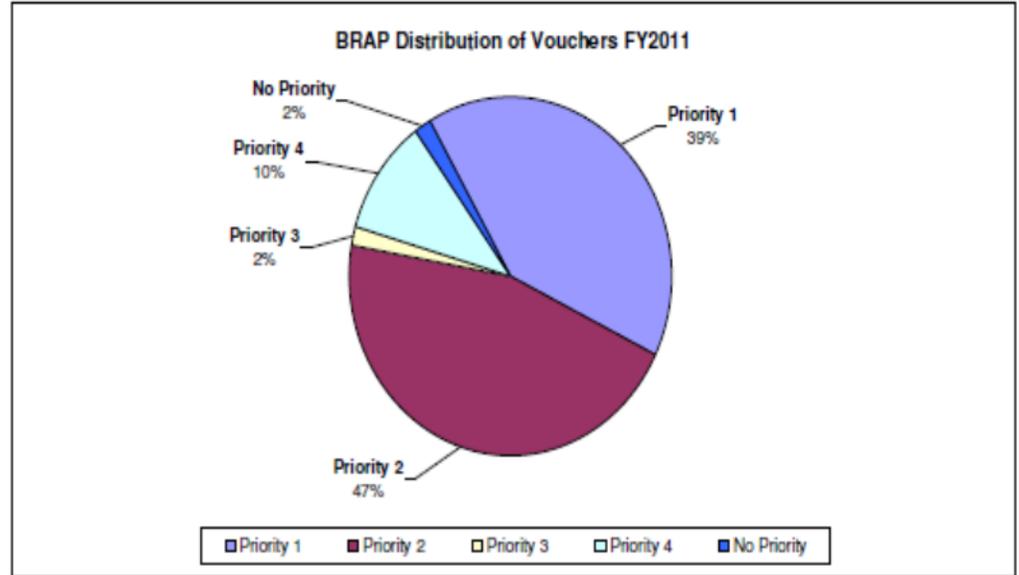
**BRAP Awards—Table
Cumulative Since Inception of Waitlist**

Reporting Periods	Mar 11	Jun 11	Sep-11	Dec-11	Mar-12	Jun-12	% Change relative to Last Report
Cumulative number of persons awarded BRAP	1188	1205	1361	1566	1790	1908	6%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	613	618	695	751	796	840	5%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	435	445	512	617	768	832	8%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	21	21	23	24	26	26	0%
Priority 4—Leaving a DHHS funded living facility	109	111	121	164	189	199	5%

Note: 11 persons awarded with no priority

7/1/2010 - 6/30/2011 BRAP PRIORITY CODES

	Priority 1 Hospital	Priority 2 Homeless	Priority 3 Sub-Standard	Priority 4 Group Home	No Priority	Total All
ANDROSCOGGIN	7	56	1	0	2	66
AROOSTOCK	3	4	0	0	0	7
CUMBERLAND	150	133	1	27	6	317
FRANKLIN	1	2	0	0	1	4
HANCOCK	3	0	0	0	0	3
KENNEBEC	49	51	7	17	3	127
KNOX	8	14	1	0	1	24
LINCOLN	2	5	1	0	0	8
OXFORD	0	6	1	0	0	7
PENOBSCOT	66	30	1	30	1	128
PISCATAQUIS	0	0	0	1	0	1
SAGadahoc	11	21	1	0	0	33
SOMERSET	3	20	0	0	0	23
WALDO	7	4	0	0	0	11
WASHINGTON	0	0	0	0	0	0
YORK	41	50	1	17	0	109
Total All	351 40.4%	396 45.6%	15 1.7%	92 10.6%	14 1.6%	868



Priority Codes	
Hospital	Eligible adults who are leaving a State Institution (Riverview or Dorothea Dix); or a private psychiatric hospital bed; or has been discharged in the last 6 months from any of these institutions.
Homeless	Eligible adults who are homeless as defined by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development
Substandard	Eligible adults who are living in substandard housing in the community.
Group Home	Eligible adults who are moving from community residential programs and other behavioral health facilities, to more independent living arrangements.
No Priority	DHHS Waiver