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Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) Monitoring Report Quarter 4 FY2013 (April, May, June 2013)

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 Substance Abuse and 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 his or her 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 the individuals are awarded a Housing Choice Voucher (aka Section 8 Voucher), another federal subsidy, or until the individuals have an 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 Substance Abuse and Adult Mental Health Services (SAMHS) and particularly the Data, Quality Management, and Resource Development team.

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.

- 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 decreased from 22 to 12 persons, down 45%.
- Priority #2 applicants (Homeless) have decreased from 369 to 206 persons down 44%
- Priority #3 applicants (Substandard Housing) have decreased from 3 to 2 persons down 33%.
- Priority #4 applicants (Community Residential Facility) have also decreased from 40 to 15 persons, down 63%.
- Persons on the waitlist greater than 90 days have decreased from 350 to 195 persons, down 44%.

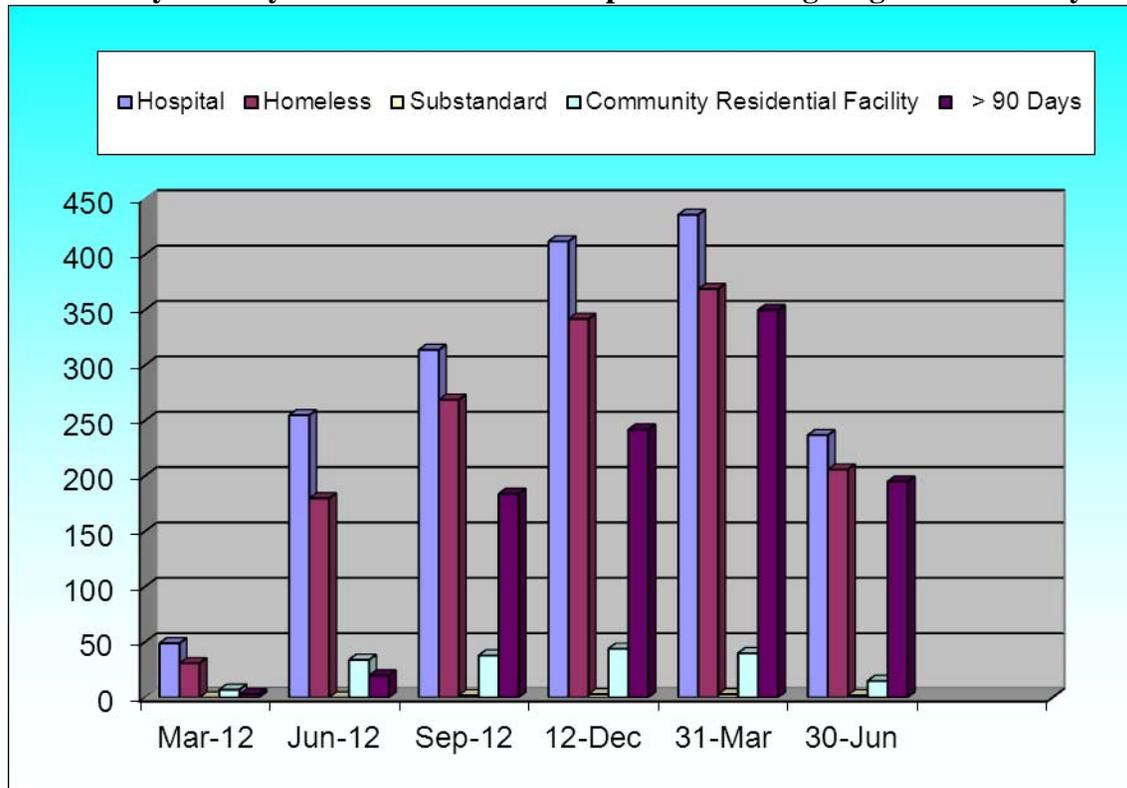
Since inception of the wait list, there has been a total of 2,300 BRAP vouchers awarded broken down as follows: Priority #1, 1,064; Priority #2, 974; Priority #3, 30; Priority #4, 219. Note that 13 vouchers have been awarded to persons with no priority. In the last quarter 229 vouchers were awarded and waitlist has dropped by 46%.

The current BRAP census as of June 30, 2013 is 924 vouchers. We requested and received an additional \$100,000 of AG Funds for Quarter 4, that were part of the Supplemental Budget passed earlier this year. This allowed us to decrease our waitlist by 46% and award 229 new vouchers. The overall budget for FY 14 increased to \$5,018,508.

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, including persons who will not qualify for Section 8 due criminal activity. 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.

SAMHS administers a substantial number of Shelter Plus Care vouchers, more than any other state on a per-capita basis. The census was 875 as of June 30, 2013. 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 SAMHS aggressively applying for and receiving new grants each year. The FY2014 annual budget for Shelter Plus Care is \$7.9 million. The total dollars for all SPC grants (one year renewals to 5 year new contracts) administered by SAMHS is \$14,101,781. Shelter Plus Care (SPC) provides 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%).

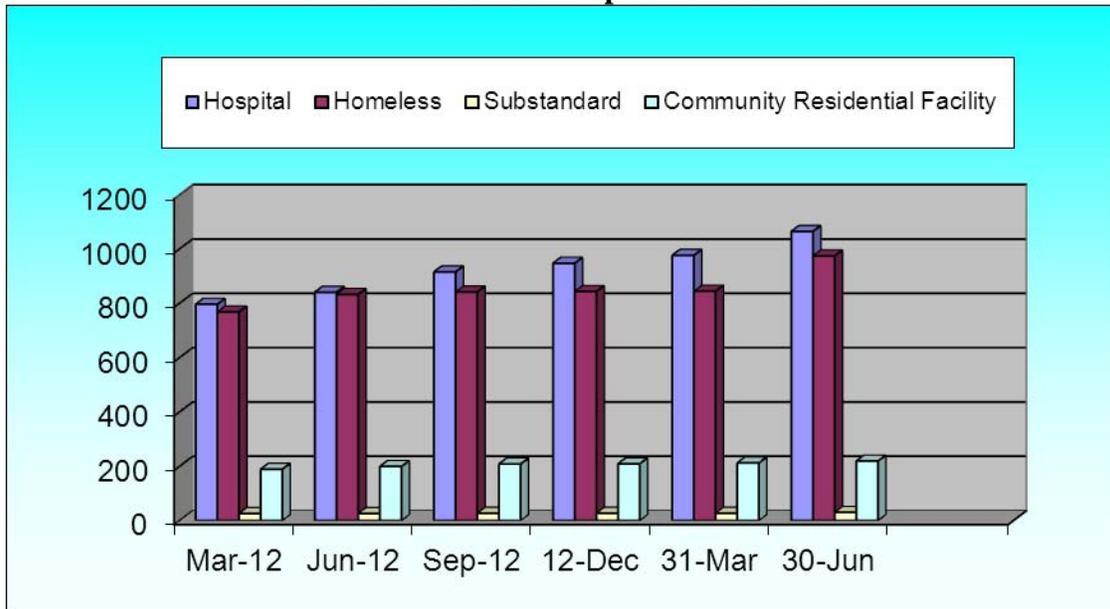
**BRAP Waitlist Status--Graph:
Detail by Priority Status to include those persons waiting longer than 90 Days**



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

Reporting Period	Mar-12	Jun-12	Sep-12	12-Dec	31-Mar	30-Jun	% Change relative to Last Report
Total number of persons waiting for BRAP	49	255	314	412	436	237	-46%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	11	41	5	23	22	12	-45%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	31	180	269	342	369	206	-44%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	0	0	2	3	3	2	-33%
Priority 4—Leaving a Community Residential living facility	7	34	38	44	40	15	-63%
Total number of persons on wait list more than 90 days awaiting voucher	3	20	184	242	350	195	-44%

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



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

Reporting Periods	Mar-12	Jun-12	Sep-12	12-Dec	31-Mar	30-Jun	% Change relative to Last Report
Cumulative number of persons awarded BRAP	1790	1908	2003	2038	2071	2300	11%
Priority 1—Discharge from state or private psychiatric hospital within last 6 months	796	840	915	947	976	1064	9%
Priority 2—Homeless (HUD Transitional Definition)	768	832	841	843	844	974	15%
Priority 3—Sub-standard Housing	26	26	27	27	27	30	11%
Priority 4—Leaving a DHHS funded living facility	189	199	208	209	212	219	3%

Note: 13 persons awarded with no priority