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**LME-MCO Joint Communication Bulletin # J327**

Date: June 5, 2019

To: Local Management Entities/ Managed Care Organizations (LMEs-MCOs)

From: Kathy Nichols, Assistant Director for Services and Supports, DMH/DD/SAS  
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Subject: TCLI In-Reach and Diversion

This bulletin provides links to Transitions to Community Living Initiative (TCLI) In-Reach resources and clarification and additional resources to support LME-MCO Diversion activities and Community Integration Planning.

The TCLI In-Reach and Transition Manual, In-Reach Tool, and guidance documents are available on the [TCLI](#) web page in the [In-Reach and Transition](#) section of the page. The In-Reach Tool is recommended for use by In-Reach staff when meeting with individuals interested in transitioning to supportive housing.

The following provides clarification on Diversion and Community Integration Planning for individuals being considered for admission to Adult Care Homes.

**What is Diversion?**

*Diversion is the successful alternative placement of a person who was being considered for admission into an adult care home (ACH) and identified through pre-screening as having a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) or Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI). Persons diverted from entry into an ACH fall into the Category 5 target population if the living arrangement meets the criteria of the [Department of Justice \(DOJ\) settlement agreement](#).*

**Who is eligible for the Diversion process?**

*Individuals who meet criteria for the Category 5 priority population under the State's settlement agreement with DOJ are eligible for the Diversion process. These are individuals who:*

- 1. Do not meet criteria for priority populations of individuals who reside in an ACH (Categories 1-3) or are being discharged from a State psychiatric hospital (Category 4);*
- 2. Meet the diagnostic and functional limitation criteria;*
- 3. Are Medicaid eligible or meet the income limitation of \$2,000 or less a month; and*
- 4. Are being considered for admission to an ACH and have been recommended for a domiciliary level of care.*

*Please refer to the Pre-Admission Screening and Diversion Worksheet for additional details and documentation regarding criteria for the TCLI Category 5 priority population.*

**What does the Diversion process include?**

*The Diversion process includes screening, informing and educating an individual about alternative community living options. If the individual chooses a community living option, the process also includes assisting the person with finding and successfully transitioning to an integrated supportive housing option. The Diversion process also includes Community Integration Planning.*

**What is Community Integration?**

*Community Integration enables individuals with disabilities to interact with individuals without disabilities to the fullest extent possible. Integrated housing options do not limit individuals' ability to access community activities at times, frequencies and with persons of their choosing. Community integration also provides individuals with choice concerning their daily life activities, such as eating, bathing, sleeping, visiting and other typical daily activities.*

**What is Community Integration Planning?**

*Community Integration Planning involves assisting an individual in developing a plan to achieve outcomes that promote the individual's growth, well-being and independence, based on the individual's strengths, needs, goals and preferences, in the most appropriate integrated setting in all domains of the individual's life. The Community Integration Plan is based on the individualized needs of the person and is an important component of Transition and Discharge planning.*

*Conversation about community integration should begin during the Diversion process. LME-MCO staff who assist individuals with Community Integration Planning must be adequately trained and knowledgeable about resources, supports, services and opportunities available in the community, including community mental health service providers and how to access mental health care. This is to ensure individuals are fully informed when making decisions about entry into an ACH.*

**What is Informed Choice?**

*A key component of Community Integration Planning is providing the individual with options counseling about housing alternatives and behavioral health services and supports to ensure the individual has the necessary information to make an informed decision about entering an ACH. Informed choice means that the individual making a decision understands available alternatives to entry into an ACH, including community-based options and transitioning to supportive housing, and the benefits of transitioning to supported housing, the services and supports available while residing in supported housing, and rental subsidy and other assistance they will receive while in supported housing.*

**What resources are available to assist with Community Integration Planning?**

*Please refer to the Community Integration Planning Guidance document, which has been developed to offer LMEs-MCOs and/or their contracted entities ideas about how to begin conversations with individuals about community integration, alternative housing options, and community-based services and supports.*

NOTE: Required use of the previous "Community Integration Plan" form to document initial planning, options counseling, and informed consent is discontinued effective with this bulletin.

For additional information, please visit the [Transitions to Community Living Initiative web page](#).

**Questions?**

- For questions about this bulletin or general questions about Pre-Admission Screening and Diversion, email [Stacey.Lee@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Stacey.Lee@dhhs.nc.gov) or call 919-715-2056.
- For questions about In-Reach, email [Tamara.Smith@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Tamara.Smith@dhhs.nc.gov) or call 919-715-2228.

Previous bulletins can be accessed at: [www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/joint-communication-bulletins](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/joint-communication-bulletins)

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