

House Committee on Corrections and Institutions

Follow-hearing on H.690 (Definition of Serious Functional Impairment)
Tuesday, March 11, 2013, 3:30pm-4:30pm

Patricia Singer, DMH

Management of Complex Community Cases

The designation of 'Complex Community Case' allowed access to SFI funds to support community service plans for individuals not coming out of prison, but residing in the community. These individuals demonstrated significant functional impairment, often with a high risk for incarceration.

Guidelines for Considering Complex Community Cases Revised July 16, 2012

Designation as a 'Complex Community Case' is determined through an individual assessment process. This designation applies only after exhausting natural supports (family, peers), other formal supports (AAAs, DAs, SSAs) and other current programs with established funding streams (Choices for Care, Developmental Disability Services, etc.)

Designation is at the sole discretion of the Secretary of AHS and limited by available funding.

To meet the criteria for consideration as a 'Complex Community Case', all three of the following conditions must be met:

1. The individual has a developmental, brain injury or mental health condition that results in ongoing significant functional impairment in multiple areas of his/her life.
 - chronic or episodic homelessness
 - poor work history / chronic unemployment
 - inadequate income (inadequate material resources or threat of loss of resources due to underemployment, separation or other factor.)
 - poor life skills that result in difficulty performing activities of daily living (consistent failure to achieve activities of daily living)
 - inability to attend to physical health problems (Clear compromise of ability to care adequately for oneself or to be adequately aware of environment)
 - poor family and social support system (existing supports (family/social) are unable to provide sufficient resources to meet material or emotional needs)
 - poor parenting skills (serious limitation in parent(s) ability to provide for child's developmental, material and emotional needs.)
 - significant legal issues
2. The individual has a history of high utilization of high-cost public services. This includes hospitalization, emergency department services, and local community services such as the police, fire, and ambulance services.
3. Significant clinical eligibility barriers exist preventing the individual from accessing needed funding for community support services.

Since the cessation of SFI funding, the designation of 'Complex Community Case' has no utility in the mental health system of care. Individuals that meet the above criteria are assessed and served by existing community service providers and funding mechanisms, often with the assistance of AHS field directors.

There are 3 current service plans for individuals designated CCC that have SFI funding that will end June 30, 2014. These individuals will continue to be served by Pathways Vermont, CSAC, and NCSS in the coming fiscal year through existing programmatic and community resources.