

Department of Health Testimony

Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee

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Appropriate Housing for Mentally Ill People in DOC Custody

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The Vermont Department of Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (VDH/ADAP) currently contracts for sober, transitional housing services for substance involved individuals and families throughout the state. During fiscal year 2015, the seven contracted organizations served 433 substance involved individuals or families with a total budget expenditure of \$ 747,776. This expenditure accounts for the purchase of roughly 66 transitional housing beds annually by ADAP.

Feedback from the housing providers suggests wide variations in individuals/families accessing transitional housing services, though most providers agreed that the psychiatric co-occurrence is much greater than they have historically been accustomed to, both in terms of acuity and frequency. Additionally, some providers have reported challenges related to the increasing admissions for individuals receiving medication assisted treatment (MAT) while others providers have developed policies and procedures to monitor and support the safe, self-management of any psychotropic or anti-addiction medications.

Individuals or families accessing ADAP transitional housing are typically referred by treatment providers and there are admissions requirements related to the duration of abstinence prior to admission. In many cases, the provider requires the admission to be subsequent to residential treatment or concurrent to intensive outpatient treatment, to ensure the individual is not at risk of detoxification symptoms. It is an expectation of all ADAP housing grantees that they coordinate care with community providers to support both the transition of individuals and families into stable housing as well as to maintain and enhance the recovery supports available to each person served.

The following is a review of the ADAP funded transitional housing beds available in Vermont for FY' 15, including expenditures by housing provider.



Program name	Location	FY 15 expenditure	Rough # of beds
Phoenix House: RISE	Bellows Falls/Brattleboro	\$203,756	19
NEKCA: Aries House	St. Johnsbury	\$21,170	2
Recovery House: Grace House	Rutland	\$87,058	8
Covered Bridge Therapeutic Community	St. Johnsbury	\$63,510	6
Morningside House	Brattleboro	\$117,877	10
Springfield Supported Housing	Springfield	\$151,110	12
Second Wind Foundation: willow Grove	Wilder	\$103,295	9
TOTALS		\$747,776	66