

Bryce Hospital Project Status Report

Month of September, 2010

Installment Payments and Funding

The ADMH reported little activity again for the month of September in the Bryce Fund Account. Interest in the amount of \$1,068.00 was received in September with no disbursements reported. Ending balance as of September 30, 2010 was \$5,425,416.

As reported in previous months, the balance of the \$6.5M for development of community services will be transferred into MI Division in October, 2010. Additional installment payments for land purchase and new hospital construction, between UA and ADMH, will be made in accordance with agreed upon payment schedules.

Construction and Operations

UA and ADMH finalized selection of the architectural firm, selecting Sherlock, Smith and Adams of Montgomery. The firm will partner with Francis Pitts, a noted architect in evidence based design. UA will negotiate contract with the selectee.

The design concept, which includes all new construction for the hospital, renovation of the Partlow Administration Building for administrative offices and renovation of the Wallace Training Center for other support offices and storage, is estimated to cost \$75M; approximately \$3M more than currently budgeted. Additional costs associated with purchasing new FFE for both patient and staff areas are also being reviewed. . Once these final budget estimations have been completed, ADMH officials will consult with the Governor to finalize decisions and identify additional funding sources, if needed.

Groundbreaking for the new hospital is still scheduled for October 26, 2010. The ADMH Office of Public Information finalized arrangements with UA for set ups and refreshments and worked with the Governor's Office in developing program and invitations. Invitations will be mailed in early October.

Consumer Transitioning

There were a total of 14 consumers transitioned into community residential settings for the month of September, with two consumers returning to the hospital. This yields a year to date total of 58 net placements in accordance with the Region II Plan; however, according to ADMH reports, an additional

nine consumers have been placed in out of area resources during this same period. ADMH also reported for September a new residential program coming on line operated by Chilton Shelby Mental Health Authority. This evidence based apartment has capacity to serve 12 consumers and is projected to serve five consumers in the Bryce Project.

Admissions were reported to be below baseline in September and discharges being higher than projections. The end of month census was reported to be 280 compared to 297 in the previous month. This monthly decrease in census was noted to be significant; however, the decrease in the average daily census was not as significant, since most of the placements occurred at the end of the month.

During the month, ADMH continued their analysis and discussions relative to recent spikes in admissions, primarily in the Birmingham and Tuscaloosa areas. ADMH Officials attribute these increases in admissions to more local hospitals in the Birmingham area; thus, increasing the number of referrals.

Other activity reported by the Region 2 Planning Council included the successful hiring of the Behavioral Analyst to assist in developing behavioral programs for consumers experiencing difficulty adapting to community living. Additionally, Peer Bridgers were reported to have begun work this month, completing all required consumer satisfaction surveys. Survey results will be reported in October.

The ADMH Internal Advocacy Office and ADAP staffs made six visits each in September to former Bryce consumers in their new community settings. While there were no major problems reported, concerns with follow up monitoring of Boarding Home placements were discussed in September. The Region II Board of Supervisors will be presented a plan in October to enhance monitoring of this group of discharges.

In summary, significant progress has been reported the past four months in all areas of the Bryce Project. The new replacement hospital's design concept has been completed; architect selected and groundbreaking scheduled. Approximately 58 consumers have been discharged from Bryce Hospital and successfully placed in community settings. Likewise, Region II resources have been dramatically increased with Peer Specialists, a Behavior Analyst, and Designated Psychiatrist. Over 60 community beds have been developed in Region II, of which 40 have been used for the Bryce Project. It is important that these trends continue to ensure timely and effective implementation of the Bryce Project Plan. Future plans must continue to address the NGRI population, admission and discharge trends and subsequent bed closures in order to realize the projected new hospital census of 268 beds

Prepared By: Kathy E. Sawyer, PARCA Consultant

Date: October 15, 2010