

REAL TIME

Division of Mental Health

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Your State Mental Health Authority at Work

DATELINE: April 12, 2010



Accreditation actions During February two state operated hospitals underwent their Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAHO) triennial surveys. Alton MHC maintained its “full accreditation” status. The Tinley Park MHC received an unannounced visit and likewise received continuation of their “full accreditation” status. Congratulations to both Alton MHC and Tinley Park MHC for their demonstrated commitment to quality patient care which is reflected yet again by the Joint Commission affirmation. Currently, all DHS/DMH state operated hospitals are fully JCAHO accredited.

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Transition, Transformation and Choice An opportunity for collaboration, consensus and community came about in February when a highly unusual and serious matter came to light. Two Chicago area nursing homes, Somerset Place, LLC. in Chicago and Fox River Pavilion located in Aurora, were identified by federal CMMS reviewers (Center for Medicaid/Medicare Services) as having patient care violations such that Medicare and Medicaid payments to these facilities were scheduled to end. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), by virtue of its licensing authority, took similar administrative actions by acting to remove residents from these facilities.

The clinical and administrative response was an example of an extraordinary combination of collaboration and active clinical support from our partner community agencies and other state governmental units. First, the Illinois Departments of Public Health and Healthcare & Family met at these facilities to formulate procedural guidelines for issuing notices to consumers and, equally important, to investigate alternative and optional delivery of care systems for affected consumers. Community meetings were held to address the varied consumer reactions. Each of the state agencies conveyed assurances to consumers that their best interests would be considered, their decisions for alternative care would be addressed, and that all feasible community and residential options would be explored.

IDHS/DMH initiated resident review processes for all residents at Somerset with four PAS/MH agencies - LSSI, C4, HSI and Thresholds. Heartland Health Outreach conducted second level assessments on the readiness of 113 Somerset residents to transition to community-based services. These assessments resulted in: 37% of persons were linked to a CMHC of their choice; 20% targeted as candidates for PSH; 16% determined as candidates for Supervised/Supportive Residential settings; one person plans to return to their family and another is moving in with a friend. Assessment and action planning continues for the others.

At Fox River Pavilion, 51 persons were identified as needing MH support by PAS/MH agents from Association for Individual Development (AID), Ecker Center and DuPage County Health Department. Will County Health Department conducted the second level screenings. Appropriate individuals will be linked to community services. DHS/DMH personnel provided guidance and leadership at both of these facilities.

DMH truly appreciates the swift, professional action and sensitivity shown by our community agency partners in addressing what could have been an overwhelming dilemma. Recovery and transformation is in action when consumers are empowered with practical choices.

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The Expectation is Recovery