

From: [Gayle Giese](#)
To: [Zach Summerlin](#)
Cc: [amyjmcclellan](#); [Shannon Nazworth](#)
Subject: State PSH Workgroup Comment
Date: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 8:00:58 PM

Hi Zach,

I represent the Florida Mental Health Advocacy Coalition and NAMI Florida with this comment. I also serve on the FL Supportive Housing Coalition Board.

There is a population that has not been discussed, which is my fault for not bringing it forward. There are many people with SMI (may include SUD) who live with their family members for a long time. Their families, often due to great support from NAMI Florida affiliates, do a good job caring for them, and they are usually not high utilizers. The families' concern is, "What will happen to my loved one with serious mental illness after I die?" When the family caregiver dies or becomes too elderly or disabled to care for their adult child, these children often decompensate and can't take care of themselves. They are at-risk of homelessness or incarceration. If there were a way for these adult kids to move into PSH before their parents (or other family members) can no longer care for them, it would be wonderful. Perhaps the families could support their adult child with the disability to **sign up in a database for PSH** and there could be some outreach to help with the transition. There are many of these middle-aged people with SMI/SUD that have likely not been counted in the needs assessment. I understand this is also the case with adult children with developmental disabilities.

Thank you so much for your great work on the State Plan for Permanent Supportive Housing! I am hopeful that we will be able to provide housing that supports moving many people to recovery, building healthier communities.

-- Gayle Giese

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