

From: [Olga Golik](#)
To: [Zach Summerlin](#)
Subject: Comments for Supportive Housing Plan Workgroup
Date: Thursday, September 21, 2023 5:43:50 PM
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Dear Mr. Summerlin and Workgroup members,

It is exciting to see the progress that the Workgroup is making on creating a Florida Supportive Housing State Plan. I have reviewed the draft provided in your last meeting and wanted to provide the following comments or supplemental information:

First of all, thank you for the level of work that has been invested and the ideas that have been included, such as scattered-site and project-based models. Florida is on its way to creating a model plan for its most vulnerable populations. I am providing some possible details for you to consider in your future drafts.

Under Enhancements for Existing Efforts:

To address Data Sharing. Legislative options:

- a) Amend the following statutes : 39.0132, 39.00145, 39.202, 39.809, 39.908, 63.162, 63.165, 383.412, 394.4615, 397.501, 409.821, 409.175, 410.037, 410.605, 414.295, 415.107, 415.295, 741.3165 and 916.107, F.S. to allow the sharing of otherwise confidential information for the limited purpose of care coordination and data driven decision making by authorized entities, within requirements of federal laws and require certain agencies to enter into a data sharing agreement.
- b) Similar to the recent HB 1349 utilized for early learning data, allow the University of South Florida (USF) Policy & Services Research Data Center (PSRDC) to analyze the data through its Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Technical Assistance Center, established under s. 394.659, Florida Statutes (F.S.), has extensive experience in managing and analyzing sensitive and protected data sets and producing evaluation reports.

To address allowing health care assistance on site:

- a) Amend 287.057 procurement requirements to allow bundling of a funding procurement based on one agency for the purpose of providing added value to the State to allow one agency to procure for a bundled award of funds coming from different departments or divisions of the State if those entities approve or is otherwise allowed by Statute.
- b) Consider presumptive eligibility and capitated rate for health care services for supportive housing tenants that are likely to meet eligibility or are waiting for Medicaid to be re-instated.

Add to Current Models and Efficiencies:

Maximize available funding streams to enhance supportive housing resources:

- a. Maximize possible funding from Live Local Act to ensure supportive housing is included for persons at or below disability income levels.
- b. Amend 409.212 to allow OSS payment to be used in supportive housing programs certified by the Department of Children and Families as serving an eligible population and not limited to licensed facilities.

- c. Create inventory of state-owned lands (in addition to County owned lands) available and allow for needed long term leases and other changes needed to utilize Low Income Housing Tax Credits and other tax credits and public funding programs.
- d. Ensure persons with severe behavioral health disability also have access to Long Term waivers that includes housing, in addition to persons who are elderly or have developmental disabilities.
- e. Utilize best practice models within the State and other States for permanent supportive housing scattered-site and project- based programs.
- f. Allow for mixed population projects and amend Section 419 to remove the need for 1,000 foot spacing requirements to increase choice of housing options.
- g. Utilize HUD funds and State appropriations to provide housing support to persons coming out of inpatient hospitalization in the civil or forensic psychiatric hospitals or persons at risk of entering such programs; that can be combined with intensive FACT like services. Likewise maximize federal funds that can be combined with state funds for youth existing foster care.

Develop measurable goals to ensure accountability and focus:

- a) Appropriate funding to provide housing vouchers and service coordination funding to house 2500 high risk/utilizers over the next three to five years.
- b) Development of special needs housing units affordable to persons at federal Supplemental Social Security Income Levels, to fund a staggered goal of 200 units in year 2,, Year 3 – 300 units, Year 4– 500, Year 5 – 850, Year 6 - 1,000, Year 7 – 1,000, Year 8 – 1,000, Year 9 – 2,500, Year 10 – 4,500. These targets can be adjusted as the program evaluation data becomes available and as annual appropriations permit.

Include training for development of stakeholder capacity:

- a) training to increase development capacity of supportive housing developers and knowledge of ADA and fair housing requirements.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and encourage the Workgroup to continue to show commitment to this important initiative!


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