Update on Changes to NH’s Mental Health System

The state has moved forward with improvements to our mental health system.

- Peer support agencies have been provided funds to expand their hours of operation.
- David LaCrouix was hired as the Peer Specialist at the New Hampshire Hospital (NHH)
- Two (2) crisis respite beds are now available at H.E.A.R.T.S., the Peer Support Agency in Nashua. Respite beds are also available at the Peer Support Agency in Claremont. These beds are available to provide a stable and supportive environment to those who are having difficulty managing their psychiatric symptoms and often can help to stabilize individuals and reduce hospitalization. For a full list of Peer Support Agencies go to http://www.naminh.org/we-support/consumers-clients
- The housing bridge subsidy program expanded by an additional 100 slots. This program provides a subsidy to those in need of low income housing that is not available; allowing them to get into an apartment of their own.
- 300 additional older adults are being served through the Referral Education and Assistance Program (REAP), which is an outreach program that focuses on older adults over 60 who have been reluctant to pursue mental health treatment.
- NFI North opened an eight bed transitional housing program in Bethlehem, NH.

In addition the Community Mental Health Settlement Agreement (the outcome of the lawsuit with the state of NH) implementation continues with several milestones quickly upcoming:

- ACT* teams must operate in accordance with the standards of the agreement and ACT clients will have access to supported employment services by October 1, 2014
- 50 additional supported housing units must be created by December 31, 2014
- By June 30, 2015, supported employment services will be expanded to reach 14.1 percent of individuals with Serious Mental Illness.
- By June 30, 2015, mobile crisis capacity and crisis apartments will be available in Region 4 (Concord).
- By June 30, 2015, the State will have the capacity to serve, in the community, four individuals currently residing at the Glencliff Home.

* ACT teams or Assertive Community Treatment Teams provide intensive support to individuals with serious mental illness in their community to prevent hospitalization. See a full description in Feb. 2014 Advocacy Update.