

FY 09/10 Summary of Comprehensive Plan Central Area MPRI

Plan Category: Residential Stability

Services:

RENTAL SUBSIDY and SERVICES SPECIALIST

Rental Subsidy is provided through payments directly to approved housing providers. A time frame of no more than 2 months for housing assistance is the goal but exceptions are made on a case by case basis with the approval of the Field Supervisor or the Area Manager (depending on the number of months for which payment has been requested).

UTILITIES ASSISTANCE

Assistance with home utilities (such as heat, lights, basic telephone) may be provided when no other form of help with utilities is available and when the housing currently used is appropriate and is likely to be the most affordable housing option. There is a cap of \$300.00 per parolee on this type of assistance but exceptions may be considered on a case by case basis.

Plan Category: Employment Readiness

Services:

JOB DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Employment funds will primarily be used to create and maintain relationships with parolee friendly employers and to provide transitional employment experiences to participants who need to build their practical work experience. Funding may be for subsidized employment in the private or public sector for a limited period of time. By providing transitional employment to those with little experience but with a desire to work, employers will be provided opportunities to observe the skills and abilities of participants. Transitional employment experiences may also provide a successful work experience that may be taken into account when participants are assessed for non-MPRI funded employment programs.

TRAINING

For some participants, training that leads to job readiness and placement may be provided. GED preparation and testing may also be paid as appropriate.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Workforce Development funding will also provide supportive services to address needs for items that sustain work, basic living and economic self-sufficiency.

EMPLOYMENT, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOPS

InReach workshops to build life skills, financial management skills, and employment skills are provided to all MPRI participants who complete InReach at West Shoreline Correctional Facility.

Plan Category: Social Support

Services:

TRANSPORTATION

The most cost effective means of removing the transportation barrier will be used. Methods include the use of public transportation, volunteer drivers, the provision of gas cards, and paying allowable fees such as driver's license reinstatement fees.

ENTITLEMENTS/VITAL RECORDS

Applications for birth record and social security cards are completed at InReach by all participants who lack those records. Assistance with applying for state ID or driver's license is provided post release by Goodwill Industries. At InReach, as part of the employment and financial skills workshops, Goodwill also assists with the completion of the lengthy DHS application for food assistance, Medicaid, and child care assistance. Entitlements are presented as a hand up not a hand out which helps to remove the stigma of applying. Parole agents encourage participants to submit the DHS application right away post release.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Couples and family counseling are available on a voucher basis in cases where this type of support is safe and appropriate. An inventory of local, approved providers has been created and continues to expand. Licensed, mental health providers who have some experience with CBT may apply to be added to the approved list of providers. Potential providers submit a signed agreement that states their services and fees and that outlines the parameters for providing services. They also submit a copy of their resume and professional license. When the Transition Team or parole agent determines this service is appropriate for a given participant, the parole agent submits a CFJ-140 to the Services Specialist. The Services Specialist works with the parole agent to select an approved provider and to set up an appointment. A voucher is sent to the provider that also serves as a form for billing the fiduciary.

MENTORING

Central Area MPRI has worked throughout FY 08/09 to promote the development of "Community Coaching" for parolees across the service area. There has been considerable support and interest expressed from various faith-based and other community partners in the development of mentoring. A Train-the-Trainer for mentoring leaders was presented and 15 interested parties attended. An RFP was also released to provide some resources to help cover the cost of time, travel, refreshments and the like for those who want to invest in providing and supporting trained mentors for MPRI participants. A barrier to further development seems to be that community leaders lack the time for this kind of development. The Central Area MPRI will continue to strategize and work toward providing the resources needed to move Community Coaching efforts forward in a way that promotes local ownership of the work and outcomes.

RESOURCE NAVIGATION SERVICES

The Resource Navigator is intended to help span the distance from the In-Reach Facility to the communities of the Central Area, since West Shoreline Correctional Facility is over 2 ½ hours away from the furthest point of the service area. Due to travel considerations, most In-Reach Transition Team meetings take place by phone or video conferencing. Since face-to-face contact with service providers and the agents is limited prior to release, the Resource Navigator travels to the facility twice monthly to provide a general orientation and to participate in-person at the In-Reach Transition Team meetings. Responsibilities around coordinating InReach and exchanging relevant paperwork also fall to the Resource Navigator.

Post release, the Resource Navigator periodically attends the Community Based Transition Team meetings in each county and assists with locating and navigating resources. The primary role of the Resource Navigator within the community is to support the Transition Teams and NOT to act as a case manager working directly with the parolee. The Resource Navigator provides valuable feedback to the Community Coordinator regarding community barriers, gaps, and strengths impacting participant success.

Plan Category: Behavioral Health

Services:

MENTAL HEALTH and COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL PROGRAMS

Vouchers are issued for outpatient, mental health counseling from approved providers. These services are available to participants who have mental health problems that impede their ability to successfully reenter but who do not qualify for or cannot reasonably access mental health services through Community Mental Health. This includes those who struggle with anxiety, depression, adjustment disorders, and other mental health problems that impede functioning. Mental health services may be provided in an individual, family, or group context as determined by the needs of the individual. Compensation is allowed for mental health providers' time investment in the Transition Teams. Includes services related to family support.

By taking a voucher approach to mental health services, Central MPRI is better able to accommodate rural composition by purchasing quality services that are geographically accessible. The voucher approach also promotes the engagement of a greater number of community partners.

Central Area MPRI collaborates with Community Corrections to provide CBT for MPRI participants who are high risk in the area of criminal thinking.

HEALTH CARE NAVIGATION SERVICES

Central MPRI funds will purchase health screenings at In-Reach for those at MTF. Participants with health needs will also have access to the arrangement of a health care appointment at a medical home following release. The pharmaceutical access program will also be used to ensure those who need prescription medications will not go without medications while in transition.

HEALTH CARE and DENTAL, URGENT CARE AND DOCTOR VISITS and PRESCRIPTIONS

Dental resources are provided when dental needs interfere with successful reentry. Dental resources are typically accessed through local, Federally Qualified Health Care Centers (FQHC) and the cost of services is on a sliding scale. Central MPRI sets aside some funding to cover fees when participants are unable to pay.

URGENT CARE AND CO-PAYS to leverage health care services - On rare occasion, urgent care or a doctor visit may be covered by MPRI funds when no other medical coverage is available and when such service may avoid emergency room costs. Whenever possible, health care resources are accessed through local FQHC's and the cost of services is on a sliding scale basis. Central MPRI sets aside some funding to cover those fees when participants are unable to pay. Co-pays may also be covered when no other solutions are available and when access to care is improved through this support.

PRESCRIPTIONS

When no other means of payment is available and prescriptions cannot be gleaned, MPRI funds will be used to pay for prescriptions.