



To: OMH Facility, Clinical and Nursing Directors
Directors of OMH Licensed Inpatient Programs

From: Lloyd I. Sederer, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer

Subject: Clinical Advisory

Date: August 8, 2012

Mixed use, larger scale congregate housing is an important and viable form of community living. However, there are times when the numbers of individuals with serious mental illness residing in certain types of housing result in housing experiences that are not clinically appropriate to the needs of such persons and are not conducive to their rehabilitation or recovery, particularly when there is a concentration of significant numbers of people with mental illnesses in settings which:

- are not specifically designed to serve people with serious mental illness;
- are not under the license and clinical quality control of the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH);
- do not foster independent living as a result of institutional practices of congregate meals, ritualized medication administration, and programming that is often not individually tailored; or
- have an absence of specifically designed rehabilitative and recovery oriented programs conducive meeting the clinical needs of persons with serious mental illness.

Adult homes licensed by the Department of Health (DOH) which have been determined by DOH to be “Transitional Adult Homes” or “Impacted Adult Homes” are not clinically appropriate settings for the significant number of persons with serious mental illnesses who reside in such settings, nor are they conducive to the rehabilitation or recovery of such persons. Accordingly, as Chief Medical Officer of the OMH, I am issuing this clinical advisory regarding future discharges of persons with serious mental illnesses to such adult homes.

OMH will be issuing regulations applicable to all OMH-licensed psychiatric hospitals and units, as well as OMH policy applicable to OMH-operated psychiatric centers, consistent with this clinical advisory.

cc: Michael F. Hogan, Ph.D.
OMH Executive Team, Gerald Engel, Gregory Miller, Grace Lee, Jay Carruthers
OMH Field Office Directors

