

# The Mental Health Safety Net Coalition

*The Mental Health Bottom Line*



Alternative Community Resources Program  
Beacon Light Behavioral Health Services  
Behavioral Health Alliance of Rural PA  
Bell Socialization Services, Inc.  
Blair County Department of Social Services  
Bucks County Behavioral Health  
Carelton Health of PA  
CCRN Behavioral Supports  
Cenclear  
Chester County Respite Network  
Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services  
Children's Service Center  
Chimes Holcomb  
Community Guidance Center  
Community Services Group, Inc.  
Conference of Allegheny Providers  
County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania  
Deveraux  
Goodwill Keystone Area  
Human Resources Center  
Human Services Center  
KidsPeace  
MAX Association  
Mental Health America of Southwest PA  
Mental Health Partnerships  
Montgomery County Human Services  
Partners for Quality  
PHMCC-FTAC  
Step by Step, Inc.  
RCPA  
Saint Luke's Penn Foundation  
Strawberry Fields, Inc.  
Staunton Farms Foundation  
The Advocacy Alliance  
The Alliance of Philadelphia Providers  
The Bradley Center  
TrueNorth Wellness Services  
Wellspan  
Westmoreland Case Management

## Support County-Funded Community Residential Programs

While the need for community-based housing for individuals with serious mental illness continues to expand, the historic underfunding is forcing Counties to decrease access to these services, with many programs closing. Despite a \$40 million investment by Governor Shapiro and the General Assembly over the first two years of this Administration, County mental health services continue to erode, resulting in more individuals in the community being at risk of losing services and supports. These programs cannot be funded through public or private insurances, leaving County mental health funds as the only funding stream permitted to provide mental health residential programs in the community. Additional funding is needed now to preserve mental health residential options. County-funded mental health residential programs include:

- Community Residential Rehabilitation (CRR) Programs;
- Long-Term Structured Residences (LTSR);
- Enhanced and Specialty Populations Community Residential Rehabilitation Programs;
- Enhanced Personal Care Homes; and
- Domiciliary Care Homes.

Mental Health Residential programs provide highly-trained staffing 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year, without exception. The staff are highly trained to provide trauma-informed, recovery-oriented services as well as de-escalate and manage crisis situations to ensure individuals and the communities they live in are safe. The staff also assist individuals with serious mental illness in learning skills in areas such as medication management, attendance at appointments, employment, and the critical life skills that create a gateway to a fulfilling and more independent life. In other words, these programs and staff are essential to the success of these individuals and to the success of our mental health system.

The mental health professionals that staff these programs are on the lower end of the wage scale for direct care type services in an extremely competitive job market offering more desirable and better paying employment. We urge our legislators and Governor to support the funding necessary for these vulnerable individuals receiving residential services.

It is urgent that the General Assembly increase mental health funding to counties significantly and annually for community mental health services. In addition to new investments, as rebuilding this system will require a sustained effort, we urge consideration of a multi-year commitment to rebuild mental health services that are not available to individuals through public or private insurance.

Sincerely,

The Mental Health Safety Net Coalition