

April 3, 2012

## EMBARGOED MATERIAL

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been in the mental health system for many years as a client and a staff member at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center; Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic for 13 years. I am writing in the interest of the 150-200 individuals at our Comprehensive Care Services, Psychiatric Rehabilitation Clinic who attend this program.

We would like to see bus transportation monies provided for clients who attend Psych Rehab Programs such as ours so they can get back and forth to our program.

Our clients benefit psychologically and vocationally from the program. Including Psychiatric Rehabilitation as a line item in the budget becomes the wise thing to do financially when you look at it. It is estimated that the funding for each individual we are seeking would be in the order of \$75.00-\$90.00 a month. On the other hand, if an individual is left to their own devices without attending a program such as ours without such support, it might cost \$5,000 a day or \$150,000 a month for an inpatient hospitalization!

The other point we want to make is that it is morally wrong to not consider parity of therapy charges. Physical Rehabilitation has long been accepted as a billable item. We are saying that Psychiatric Rehabilitation should receive the same consideration of funding.

So, it is not only a financial win-win situation but a moral triumph as well for us to realize transportation funding for Psychiatric Rehabilitation across the state.

Thank –you for your serious consideration of this matter.

Kathy Krause

2013 APR -4 AM 8: 23

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IRRC

APR-03-2013 WED 02:26 PM

FAX NO.

P. 02

**COUNTY OF**



**ALLEGHENY**

**RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

**Medical Assistance Transportation Program  
One Smithfield Street / First Floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2225  
Phone: 1-888-547-6287  
Fax: 412-350-2728**

March 3, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

MATP was averaging approximately 2000 one-way trips per month (11-12 program year) for MA clients attending psych rehabilitation services throughout Allegheny County. These figures include riders using public transportation as well as the door to door ACCESS shared ride system.

James Farwel  
MATP Administrator

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**MARC CHERNA, DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING • ONE SMITHFIELD STREET • SUITE 200 • PITTSBURGH, PA 15222  
PHONE (412) 350-6611 • FAX (412) 350-2786**

APR-03-2013 WED 02:07 PM

FAX NO.

P. 03

**Medical Assistance Transportation Program  
Memorandum  
MATP OPS # 06-2011-023**

**Date:** June 8, 2011  
**Subject:** Clarification of Transportation Policy for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services  
**To:** All Statewide County MATP Offices  
**From:** Tyrone E. Williams, Director, Division of Medical Assistance Transportation

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**Purpose:**

The Medical Assistance Transportation Program is clarifying existing policy regarding transportation to Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services.

**Background:**

The MATP Instructions and Requirements, section 5.N, clearly states, "Psychiatric Rehabilitation Service is not an MA covered service." While there may have been some confusion regarding the provision of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (PRS), we are confirming that PRS is not a MATP covered service.

**Discussion:**

Several counties are presently transporting Medical Assistance recipients to clubhouses and other social and vocational rehabilitation programs. These programs offer therapeutic services that are MA compensable, but are not MATP eligible. We have confirmed that PRS is not to be added to the State Plan as a covered MATP service, and MATP county offices shall no longer transport to any psychiatric rehabilitation services.

**Next Steps:**

If you are currently transporting recipients to clubhouses and other social and vocational rehabilitation programs, recipients should be given 30 days notice that transportation to PRSs will no longer be provided. The notice should reiterate the continued eligibility of covered services under behavioral health.

Should you have any additional questions or need further assistance in implementing any aspect of this Operations Memo, please contact your program advisor.

APR-03-2013 WED 02:07 PM

FAX NO.

P. 02



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

**JUL 25 2011**

Dear County Administrators/BH-MCOs:

As follow up to correspondence sent on June 8 and July 18, 2011 regarding MATP transportation to psychiatric rehabilitation services (PRS), the Department continues to explore various options to support the continuity of transportation to psychiatric rehabilitation programming statewide.

As previously indicated, effective July 31, 2011, MATP will no longer reimburse the cost of transporting individuals to psychiatric rehabilitation services. This policy change was necessary in order to continue administration of the MATP program and re-align it with its original mission to provide transportation to services identified in the State Plan. While earlier efforts were made to transition psychiatric rehabilitation into the State Plan, budgetary constraints did not make this possible at this time. Insofar as psychiatric rehabilitation is not an In-Plan service, MATP can no longer extend transportation services to cover PRS at this time. As this date represents an extension from the previous termination date of June 30, 2011, additional extensions cannot be granted at this time. However, to ensure service transport moving forward, counties are encouraged to develop agreements directly with their MATP coordinators to continue transportation services until such time that other arrangements can be made.

Also, to the degree possible, county psych rehab programs should encourage individual mobility training for individuals to support their ability to independently attend programming using public transportation as appropriate and needed.

Again, OMHSAS is requesting that BH-MCOs and PRS providers continue to work together to ensure that consumers impacted by this policy understand how they will continue to obtain and receive services.

Your cooperation during this transitional time is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your efforts to continue psychiatric rehabilitation as a viable service in your county.

Sincerely,

Sherry H. Snyder  
Acting Deputy Secretary

## Two Years at the Clubhouse

by Jim McKenna

I was not in good shape the year I came to the Clubhouse. My wife had died the year before after a long illness. I had stopped working three years previously to take care of her. Without her I felt lost and purposeless and became increasingly isolated. Since I have had a lifetime of problems with depression, this was very dangerous.

Marie, my therapist at Bellefield Towers, began suggesting the Howard Levin Clubhouse. She said it would be a good way to reconnect with people and rediscover some purpose. My psychiatrist made similar suggestions. I pretended to listen but inwardly rejected the idea. I've always been afraid of new situations and didn't want to push myself to try this one. I also couldn't grasp the Clubhouse "idea." I was sure, with the certainty that only ignorance can bring, that it was nothing more than a glorified drop-in center.

In the spring of 2010 things fell apart. I wound up spending 16 days at Western Psych and another couple of months in their partial hospitalization program. I decided I'd better trust my medical professionals advice, rather than my own, and give the Clubhouse a try. Marie had been saying for months that I needed to get out to be with other people. The Clubhouse now seemed to me to be the best way of doing this.

My first day was different than I expected. There were a lot of people doing a lot of work. Some of them, I was told, were "staff," but most were "members." One member had been on the same Western Psych floor as me in the Summer of 2009. He spent some time explaining things to me and showed me some of the different tasks. This was a big help, and since then I've tried to do the same with new members.

I felt comfortable with our work-ordered day from the beginning. I had worked in offices for over 25 years, so I was familiar with the general routine and many of the tasks. For a while I ran around trying to do everything, as long as it didn't involve the kitchen, but I came to realize that this wasn't good for either myself or the Clubhouse. I've had problems throughout my working life with overextending myself and prioritizing tasks. The Clubhouse staff has worked with me on this and other issues. Incidentally, I eventually found my way to the kitchen and now enjoy helping out there.

I have enjoyed my two years at the Clubhouse. I like the lack of hierarchy and the relaxed but professional atmosphere. I like having a reason to get out of bed every morning, because every day I come in there are things going on I can enjoy and learn from. I have many good friends here, both members and staff, and I enjoy being with them. They've helped me a lot and I've helped them as well. I am deeply grateful and proud to be a member of the Howard Levin Clubhouse.





## My Member Anniversary

by Mike Hogan

I arrived at the Howard Levin Clubhouse shortly after my birthday in February of 2006. I was brought here by Steve of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. He decided that OVR had exhausted its resources to help me, and that I needed a different kind of vocational assistance. He thought that the Clubhouse might be the answer. As it stands, he was right on the mark.



At first, I was bewildered by the Clubhouse. People seemed to be rushing around, doing things that made no sense to me. Nonetheless, I decided to give it a try. Everyone seemed so nice, which was quite different from my experiences in life.

It took me some time to get used to the Clubhouse way of working. Tasks were distributed voluntarily, rather than assigned. Given my background in administration, I gravitated to clerical functions. First, I worked in Member Services. One of the funniest things that I did for Member Services was to make my own birthday card one year. With the coming of Sarah Hughes as the new B/E coordinator, I moved to the Business/Employment Unit (now the Business/Employment/Education area).

The great attraction of B/E for me was the revival of the HLC newsletter, *The Open Door*. I volunteered to write a music column, which I dubbed "Bargain Bin Record Reviews." I figured that this would last a month or two. I had no idea that I would still be writing it for six years and counting. I'm quite proud of my achievement. It is my baby, and I guard it jealously.

One of the things that I had to get used to was the "historically Jewish character" of the Clubhouse. As a practicing Catholic, I had a rudimentary exposure to Jewish life and traditions. The Clubhouse, and its Jewish members, gave me a fine respect for Jewish culture, holidays, and the kosher laws. Now, I know why we use noisemakers at Purim, and a third set of dishes at Passover. I have come to defend the Clubhouse's Jewish character, as I think it gives HLC its central role in the community.

One of the honors bestowed upon me was to be the first member to work at the Law Office of Jay Fingeret. This was fortunate for me because a law career was one of my objectives of my Goal Plan. I learned a lot at Jay's law office. Not just shredding and filing, but also patience and pleasantness. I must thank Jay and his wife Ilene for their tireless efforts to assist me in these invaluable skills and personality traits.

In the last six years, the Clubhouse has become a second home for me. Having lost both my father and mother, the members and staff have become like family. I've come to depend upon them for support and validation. I must thank Steve, as well, wherever he is, for introducing me to this wonderful organization. My experiences at the Clubhouse have materially improved my psychiatric health, and imbued me with a sense of social grace that I had never experienced before. My sincerest thanks to all of my friends, and I expect to be celebrating many more member anniversaries. Thank you.

## Member Testimonials about the Clubhouse

**Joe** – “Before I came in I had nothing to do and nobody to talk to. It was quite maddening. Now things are a lot better. I’ve made a lot of good friends and feel a lot more independent.”

**Patty** – “I started coming to Howard Levin Clubhouse four years ago. During that time, we have been to many social events. There are a lot of different things a person can do at the Clubhouse, and the people and staff are wonderful, easy-going people.”

**Bill** – “Coming to the Clubhouse has been instrumental in structuring my life. The atmosphere fosters both personal growth and achievement, which has given me a stronger and healthier sense of self-worth.”

**Dianne** – “Coming to the clubhouse has helped me to isolate less. The work ordered day gives me something to do that I feel accountable for and this has boosted my self-esteem.”

**Pat** – “Being a member of the Clubhouse provided me with a sense of purpose by feeling productive. The members and staff have become ‘*my family*’. The atmosphere here is so positive...not clinical. We focus on recovery. We are not our disease...we are functioning, productive people doing meaningful work! I love it here!”

**Ed** – “I originally came here on the suggestion of my psychiatrist. I learned, and am still learning new skills, but perhaps the most important of all these skills is showing me that I can socialize in an open atmosphere. Before, I was isolated; now, I am more social.”

**Jim** – “My therapist referred me to the Clubhouse to help combat the feelings of isolation and uselessness that had led to several hospitalizations. We agreed that I needed to connect with people and find a sense of purpose. The Clubhouse has enabled me, far more than I expected, to do both.”

**Stan** – “As a long time member, the Clubhouse has always been a peaceful oasis in what can be a tumultuous and unforgiving world.”

**Lee** – “I had been out of the work force for several years and was isolating socially. My therapist recommended that I come to the Clubhouse. I’ve become more social and have returned to part-time work thanks to the social and work skills I’ve learned here at the Clubhouse.”

**Mary** – “They say it takes a village to raise a child, and the HLC is my village. It has brought me from a purposeless existence to a meaningful life.”

**Michael** – “My therapy was at a dead end. Conventional therapies could not allow me to progress any further. The HLC opened new vistas for me.”

**Aileen** – “I found out about the Clubhouse from JRS Supportive Housing. Since joining I feel better about myself. I socialize much more easily and feel much more comfortable around people.”

TRANSACTION REPORT

P. 01

APR-04-2013 THU 08:30 AM

FOR:

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DATE	START	RECEIVER	TX TIME	PAGES	TYPE	NOTE	M#	DP
APR-04	08:27 AM	97722062	3' 14"	8	FAX TX	OK	842	
TOTAL :						3M 14S	PAGES: 8	

Facsimile Cover Sheet



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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION  
 333 MARKET STREET, 14<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

To: Beverly Mackereth, Acting Secretary  
 Agency: Department of Public Welfare  
 Phone: 7-2600  
 Fax: 772-2062  
 Date: April 4, 2013  
 Pages: 8

RE: Department of Public Welfare's Regulation #14-521 Regulation # (IRRC #2879)

**URGENT!**

Section 5.1(j) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5a(j)) requires us to forward to you any documents we receive, during the 48-hour blackout preceding our public meeting, within 24 hours of our receipt. **Please distribute this material to the appropriate regulatory staff as soon as possible.**



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P. 01

APR-04-2013 THU 08:32 AM

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TOTAL :						1M 7S	PAGES: 8	

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION  
 333 MARKET STREET, 14<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

To: Honorable Patricia Vance, Chairman  
 Agency: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
 Phone: 787-8524  
 Fax: 772-0576  
 Date: April 4, 2013  
 # of Pages: 8

RE: Department of Public Welfare's Regulation #14-521: Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (#IRRC 2879)

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P. 01

APR-04-2013 THU 08:33 AM

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APR-04	08:32 AM	97720581	1' 06"	8	FAX TX	OK	844	
			TOTAL :	1M	6S	PAGES:	8	

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION  
 333 MARKET STREET, 14<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

To: Honorable Shirley Kitchen, Minority Chairman  
 Agency: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
 Phone: 787-6735  
 Fax: 772-0581  
 Date: April 4, 2013  
 # of Pages: 8

RE: Department of Public Welfare's Regulation #14-521: Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (IRRC #2879)

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P. 01

APR-04-2013 THU 08:38 AM

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APR-04	08:33 AM	97722414	5' 08"	8	FAX TX	OK	845	
TOTAL :						5M 8S	PAGES:	8

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION  
 333 MARKET STREET, 14<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

To: Honorable Gene DiGirolamo, Majority Chairman  
 Agency: House Human Services Committee  
 Phone: 783-7319  
 Fax: 772-2414  
 Date: April 4, 2013  
 # of Pages: 8

RE: Department of Public Welfare's Regulation #14-521:Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (IRRC #2879)

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P. 01

APR-04-2013 THU 08:40 AM

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DATE	START	RECEIVER	TX TIME	PAGES	TYPE	NOTE	M#	DP
APR-04	08:39 AM	97804769	1'23"	8	FAX TX	OK	846	
TOTAL :						1M 23S	PAGES:	8

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION  
 333 MARKET STREET, 14<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

To: Honorable Angel Cruz, Minority Chairman  
 Agency: House Human Services Committee  
 Phone: 787-1407  
 Fax: 780-4769  
 Date: April 4, 2013  
 # of Pages: 8

RE: Department of Public Welfare's Regulation #14-521: Psychiatric Rehabilitation Service (IRRC #2879)

**URGENT!**

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