

Riverwood Mental Health Services Case for Support

We work with some of the toughest to serve clients. Persons with serious behavioral health issues and the chronically homeless. Both are populations with extraordinary high levels of need. Over time, Riverwood has developed a reputation for being able to effectively serve persons with multiple and complex issues. While we focus on serious mental illness and chronic homelessness, our clients may also suffer from substance abuse issues, trauma, serious medical problems and criminal justice involvement.

Our services are cutting edge. Riverwood strives to provide the finest of services and was the first provider in the state of both assertive community treatment for persons with serious and persistent mental illness and housing first services for the chronically homeless. In 2011, the state acknowledged the need to coordinate behavioral health and primary care and began funding the development of Health Homes. Riverwood, however, has long understood this need and has been providing health homes for two decades. In fact, Riverwood was given an exemplary citation in 2010 by our accrediting body for our efforts in integrating primary care with behavioral health services.

Of the highest quality. Our mental health services have been rated number one in service outcomes for 10 straight years as determined by the RI Outcome Evaluation Instrument. Success of our homeless services is determined by housing stability, and after 12 months, we have a housing retention rate of 87%. After 36 months, the rate is 80%.

And cost effective. There is no dispute that community based mental health services are more cost effective than hospitalization. The results of our Housing First program are equally impressive. An independent evaluation determined that while homeless, a person used \$31,000/year in publically funded services. After entering the program, the annual cost, including a rental subsidy, was 23,000. In other words, provide a chronically homeless person a home and the opportunity to grow and become a productive member of society and save about 8,000 per person per year. For the 175 persons in our program that's an annual savings of over \$1,400,000 each year.

We are also administratively sound with a diversified funding base and an audited admin overhead rate of just 10.3%. We have seven program sites, 85 staff, and an operating budget of \$5.5 Million. In addition to 3 group homes, we lease 150 apartments that we sublet to our clients and provide services to 130 more in units they lease themselves. Our success has enabled us to generate over \$7 Million in grant funding and another \$8 Million in housing subsidies over the past 7 years.

Nationally accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) and licensed by the RI Department of Behavioral Health.

And ensuring our long term viability by being a member of Horizon Healthcare Partners, a network of behavioral health providers including NRI Community Services, The Kent Center, and the Newport County Community Mental Health Center.