

October 21, 2008

Dear Mental Health/Criminal Justice Stakeholder:

As you know, housing is a critical issue for the successful re-entry and diversion of individuals from the criminal justice system, especially those with serious mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders. I am writing to let you know about an opportunity for you to meet with housing and criminal justice professionals, to learn about new initiatives in the state, and to discuss issues you are facing.

You are invited to attend Training Institute on November 18, 2008 from 1:30 pm. to 5:00 pm entitled "*The Mentally Ill Behind Bars: How Housing Can Break the Cycle.*" This Institute is being presented as part of the Housing Alliance "Homes within Reach Annual Conference," which is being held at the Hilton Hotel in Harrisburg, PA from November 17-19, 2008. The conference draws housing providers and developers from around the state and provides an unparalleled opportunity to get to know "housers" and find solutions to shared problems.

The agenda for this session is attached.

If you are interested in attending this workshop, please register for the Homes within Reach Conference. The one day fee for Tuesday entitles you to attend the breakfast program with Rick Lang, Executive Vice President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia talking about the housing and credit crisis, and Michael Smerconish, talk radio host, talking about the presidential election. It also includes breakfast, lunch, a choice of one additional workshop and a networking party in the evening.

To register on line, please go to [www.housingalliancepa.org](http://www.housingalliancepa.org) and click on the Homes within Reach link. If you do not have internet access, please call 215-576-7044 and ask that a conference brochure be mailed to you.

There are a limited number of scholarships available for representatives of small, especially rural organizations who would like to attend but who cannot afford the fee. Please submit a paragraph on line to [info@housingalliancepa.org](mailto:info@housingalliancepa.org) stating why you would need a scholarship and how your community will benefit. Scholarships are competitive and based on need.

I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to address an issue that is of concern to you and others in your network.

Sincerely,  
Robbie Altenor, MSN  
Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

**Housing: The Keystone for Diversion, Treatment and Re-Integration of People with Serious Mental Illness Involved in the Criminal Justice System**

PA Housing Alliance Conference  
November 18, 2008

1:30 Introductions and Overview of the Session- Diana Myers, Diana T. Myers and Associates, Inc.

1:45 Understanding the Problem- April Billet Barclay, York County

- How People with Serious Mental Illness Become Involved in the Criminal Justice System

2:00 The Mental Health Perspective- Dr. Patricia Griffin,

- The Sequential Intercept Model and its Application to Housing
- The Importance of Cross-Systems Collaboration
- How the Model has been Applied to Housing in Allegheny County

2:15 The Criminal Justice Perspective- Judge Penny Blackwell, York County

- What York County Criminal Justice System is Experiencing with this Population
- The Role of the Mental Health Court
- Why a Housing Study was Conducted
- Benefits to the Criminal Justice System

2:30 Housing Options and Models- Diana Myers

- Findings and Results of York Study
- Emergency/Crisis Housing
- Transitional Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Housing Resources in Your Community

3:00 Barriers to Addressing the Target Population- Diana Myers, facilitator  
Participants will identify and brainstorm solutions to specific barriers in addressing housing for people with serious mental illness involved in the criminal justice system.

5:00 Adjourn