Permanent Supportive Housing for People with Serious Mental Illness in Virginia:

Opportunities and Recommendations

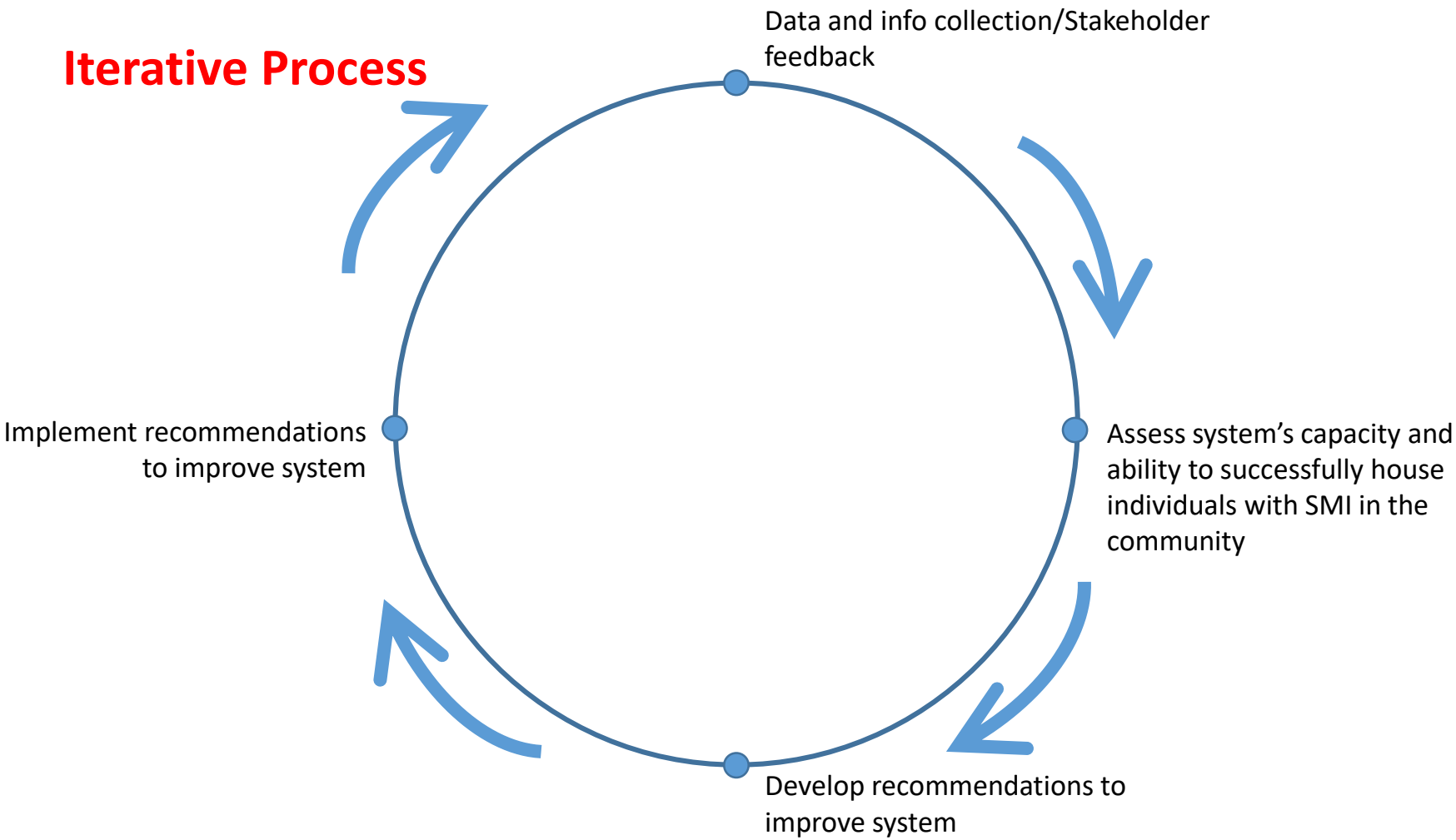
DISCUSSION DRAFT

November 14, 2017

AGENDA

- Review of the Project
  - Stakeholder Interviews
  - Meetings with the Strategy Group
  - Findings on Strengths, Challenges and Opportunities
  - Formulation of Recommendations
- How Project Relates to Other Activities
  - E.g. Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP)
- Recommended Strategies
  - Opportunities to Expand PSH Through DMAS
  - Opportunities to Expand PSH Through DBHDS
  - Opportunities to Expand PSH Through Capital and Rental Assistance
  - Opportunities to Expand PSH Through Systems Supports
  - Opportunities to Expand PSH Through Public/Private Partnerships

Iterative Process



Opportunities to Expand PSH Through DMAS

- Existing Medicaid Services
  - Identify what housing transition and tenancy support services, as described per CMS guidance, are currently allowable under Virginia Medicaid and identify gaps or opportunities for Virginia to cover new housing related services under Medicaid
  - Identify and address operational barriers to existing housing transition and tenancy support services for Medicaid (MA) eligibles with SMI
- New Medicaid Services
  - If new services are needed to cover a full array of transition and tenancy support services for Medicaid and GAP enrollees with SMI, Virginia would need to:
    - Obtain authority and funding from the Virginia General Assembly to include transition and tenancy support services as Medicaid-covered services
    - Amend the State Plan to include a full array of transition and tenancy support services for MA eligibles with SMI
    - Amend the Managed Care Waivers with CMS and the Medicaid Managed Care contracts to include the new services
    - Amend the GAP Program Waiver with CMS to allow people who have SMI but don't otherwise qualify for Medicaid to access these services

Opportunities to Expand PSH Through DMAS

- Engage MCOs in risk-sharing/risk gain approaches to support PSH
  - Implement performance/outcomes measures clearly related to housing stability
  - Develop alternative payment arrangements that support a package of transition/tenancy sustaining services and supports
  - Add PSH as a performance measure for Medicaid managed care contracts
- Add Housing status to assessments and require MCOs reporting on it to better identify housing instability and evaluate the impact of services

Opportunities to Expand PSH Through DBHDS

- Continue to emphasize the role of PSH (housing and community-based supportive services) in the STEP-VA model for strategic transformation of the publicly-funded behavioral health system
  - Include PSH in STEP-VA rollout, including planning, funding, and system alignment activities
  - Ensure that PSH implementation adheres to STEP-VA's goals to increase access, strengthen quality, build consistency, and bolster accountability across the Commonwealth
- Examine current DAP utilization and explore strategies to align this funding with other housing initiatives for individuals with SMI such as bridge funding to housing
- Expand current, and explore additional, options to fund housing transition and tenancy support services for uninsured individuals, for example using state general funds and MH Block Grant funds
- Promote impact of PSH on reducing criminal justice involvement for persons with SMI
- Fund additional DBHDS staffing to conduct evaluation, monitoring, and provide operational support to assure fidelity to PSH

Opportunities to Expand PSH Through Capital and Rental Assistance

- Capital
  - Increase funding for State Housing Trust Fund
  - DHCD and VHDA will continue to serve special populations, including SMI, within existing housing efforts
  - Provide education and training to strengthen housing developers' ability to successfully apply for funding to develop PSH for individuals with SMI
  - Explore opportunities to use housing resources to create additional PSH for individuals with SMI
  - Through IAP and Phase II, identify need for new resources to create additional PSH for individuals with SMI, e.g. health care investments
- Rental Assistance
  - Continue to expand DBHDS PSH Program
  - Explore project-basing PSH
    - Explore opportunities to project-base a limited number of DBHDS PSH vouchers
    - Explore opportunities for local Housing Authority Project-Based Vouchers targeted for SMI

Opportunities to Expand PSH Through Systems Supports

- State Level Systems
  - Expand the existing interagency, collaborative infrastructure to include the Strategy Group to address the housing needs of the SMI population
    - Through a network mapping process, analyze where there is overlap working to house special needs populations
    - Through state and federal initiatives aligning housing and services for people with disabilities, e.g., IAP and Phase II, assess the capacity of state partners to implement recommended strategies; enhance systems capacity as needed
    - Through IAP and Phase II, work to align PSH funding, policies and systems across partner agencies e.g. screening, assessment and referral processes; data matching systems, etc.
    - Through IAP and Phase II, explore how to "braid funding" to maximize use of state resources
  - Explore incorporation of PSH – SMI needs in planning processes, e.g. Consolidated Planning, PHA Plan and Olmstead Plan
- Local/Regional Level Systems
  - Continue to expand local PSH Program Housing Specialists to ensure all providers have this capacity
  - Ensure CSBs and providers in all regions of the state have the opportunity to participate in a PSH Learning Collaborative

Opportunities to Expand PSH Through Public/Private Partnerships

- Engage health care systems in investing in housing to improve health
  - Educate health care systems on benefits of investment in housing
    - Dignity Health System's "Housing with Dignity" in Sacramento, Calif.
    - 5 major hospitals in Oregon are donating $21.5M to construct nearly 400 housing units for the homeless
    - Sutter Health is a partner in "Getting to Zero," a public private partnership aimed at eliminating homelessness in Sacramento, CA
    - Florida Hospital is donating up to $6M, with contributions from Orlando and Orange County, to reduce homelessness though PSH
  - Identify opportunities to provide incentives for health care system investments in housing
- Engaging the philanthropic community

Next Steps

- Strategy Group input reviewed and assessed for needed revisions to the draft recommendations
- DHCD posts draft recommendations
  - Additional opportunity for public input
- Public input reviewed and recommendations finalized
- Plan drafted and submitted to the General Assembly

Feedback and Discussion