

October 10, 2019

Members of PCCEP:

The Subcommittee for People with Mental Illness recommends the COCL re-evaluate its initial determination of substantial compliance with Item 89 (addressing establishing drop off/walk in centers to focus on community based mental health treatment options rather than unnecessary hospitalization) in light of information¹ revealed since their determination was made (Recommendation #2).²

The Subcommittee urges prompt attention to this recommendation considering the Draft Compliance Outcome Assessment Quarterly Report asserts all sections of the settlement agreement have been complied with. It is important that both items be addressed prior to the November PCCEP meeting; public comment on the report closes on November 4, 2019. The Subcommittee wants to give COCL time to review and amend their report. Your immediate attention to Recommendation #2 will also allow COCL to investigate compliance with Item 89 before the February Status conference.

COCL previously determined that Unity Center for Behavioral Health met the need identified in Item 89 for a drop off/walk in center. The Subcommittee asserts in Recommendation #2 that Unity is insufficient. Unity provides much needed hospital level care but does not provide additional services that a drop off/walk in center could address. Access to a community resource that provides a sanctuary from judgment for having a mental health issue, where basic needs can be met, would significantly help struggling individuals and emergency services like Unity.

A separate drop off/walk in center from Unity would be more in line with the spirit of Item 89 and the Subcommittee recommends that COCL re-evaluate Item 89 compliance.

The Subcommittee for People with Mental Illness, in a related but separate recommendation (Recommendation #3), urges the City to contribute funding for a resource center currently being developed by Multnomah County. That center would provide services equal to or greater than the drop off/walk in center minimally outlined in the Settlement Agreement Item 89.³ Multnomah County's resource center would provide a place for consumers to wash their clothes, take a shower and charge their phones. Peer mentors would be available to problem solve day-to-day issues before those issues escalate and spark the need for crisis level services. The resource center would also provide access to resources for longer term planning, such as housing and employment, that would foster self-sufficiency. The model Multnomah County is proposing

¹ See attached e-document "Documents for Review to re-evaluate and update classification of Item 89"

² The Subcommittee passed Recommendation #2 with a 7-1 vote, with one member not present to vote.

³ The Subcommittee passed Recommendation #3 with a 7-1 vote, with one member not present to vote.

provides a long term solution that is forward-looking and beyond what would be just a temporary fix.

The Subcommittee urges PCCEP to take quick action on Recommendation #3 as well. The City of Portland is in the process of determining their budget for the next fiscal year. Now is the time to submit requests for funding from the City. Similarly to Recommendation #2, the window for requesting financial assistance from the City will close before PCCEP has their November meeting.

In summary, the Subcommittee for People with Mental Illness urges COCL to re-evaluate its determination that Unity alone provides substantial compliance with Item 89 in Recommendation #2. The Subcommittee also urges the City in Recommendation #3 to provide funding for Multnomah County's proposed resource center that would encompass the spirit of Item 89 in order to gain substantial compliance with the Settlement Agreement.

We'd appreciate your careful review of these recommendations and timely action. Please forward any questions to Patrick.

Sincerely,

Members of the Sub-Committee for People with Mental Illness

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