CT Money Follows the Person Quarterly Report

Quarter 3, 2015: July 1, 2015 – September 30, 2015

(Based on latest data available at the end of the quarter)

UConn Health, Center on Aging

Operating Agency: CT Department of Social Services Funder: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services





100 150 Number of Consumers Who Transitioned

/ 60

2010 3

2010 1

2009 3

2009 1





<u>Reinstitutionalization</u>: 13% (303) of participants who transitioned by September 2014 were in an institution 12 months after their transition

















Transition Challenges through 9/30/15

Transition coordinators and specialized care managers (SCMs) complete a standardized challenges checklist for each consumer. There were a total of 9,249 MFP referrals to SCM Supervisors. Challenges checklists were completed for 6,345 of these referrals, representing 5,892 consumers. Excluding the referrals which indicated "no challenges," the challenges checklist generated 37,101 separate challenges. Of these, the most frequently chosen challenge was physical health (16.9%), followed by challenges related to housing (15.4%), services and supports (13.1%), mental health (12.3%), and consumer engagement (9.7%).

Type of challenge by transition status

The figure below shows the percentage of each group (those who transitioned and those who closed before transitioning) which had each challenge. For example, of the referrals that closed without transitioning, 65 percent had a physical health challenge. Conversely, 55 percent of referrals that did transition had physical health challenges.

Nine of the twelve challenge categories had statistically significant differences between the two groups.









Meet Christopher Danton

After spending more than 20 years at an intermediate care facility (ICF), Money Follows the Person (MFP) has helped Christopher Danton transition into the community. In May of 2014, Christopher's mother, Lucy, was approached by Community Resources, Inc. about a new group home being built that would accommodate men with Chris' level of care. Christopher and his three other housemates now live in a home in a beautiful section of Middletown. Lucy explains, "This place is a family, a real home."

Chris' mother describes the transition process as rough. Faced with long waiting lists, Lucy advocated for her son for months to get him into a home like this, and through the help of MFP, her wishes came true. Chris' family has been seriously supportive of his care, especially in the last year and a half through the transition process. Christopher has a large family including many siblings. He is particularly close with his sister, Sandy. Sandy recounts fondly of visiting her brother now that he is at the group home. They are able to have more alone time. The privacy of his own room helps the family to bond and spend time together. Because this is a home, there are no rules for family visitation, and the ease of visiting Chris has increased family comfort.

While at an ICF, the family felt he was not given the opportunities he could have. Now, Chris' life is coordinated around his control. The staff are constantly assessing Chris' desires and include him in any activity Chris chooses. If he wants to go outside, listen to the television, play music, or simply rest, he can. Because Chris is blind, he enjoys the opportunity to trail throughout the house to better sense his environment. Chris attends a day program with his other housemates, a place where he can get his energy out. Chris' life had been filled with rigid structure, sometimes leading to difficulties between workers and the family – but now this has merely disappeared. Lucy explains, "This is his normal, whatever 'normal' really means."

The family described difficulties obtaining simple necessities for Chris when he was at the ICF. Lucy explains, "The process of getting small items for Chris before is so different now. If he needs a blanket, we contact the case manager of the home and we get a blanket - the anxiety has been taken away from our family." Lucy takes comfort in knowing that when she leaves, his care is top-notch and his safety is of the utmost concern.



Chris (middle) pictured with his sister Sandy (left) and mother Lucy (right) Photo credit: Kaleigh Ligus

Lucy reflects, "MFP is a step in the right direction, especially since they do try to follow-up. ... [It is] much better for my son to be in a group home - my son is flourishing under MFP where he was not in all the years [before]." "The only goal Chris has now is having a great quality of life."

MFP Demonstration Background

The Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration, created by Section 6071 of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 (P.L. 109-171), supports States' efforts to "rebalance" their long-term support systems. The DRA reflects a growing consensus that long-term supports must be transformed from being institutionally-based and provider-driven to person-centered and consumer-controlled. The MFP Rebalancing Demonstration is a part of a comprehensive coordinated strategy to assist States, in collaboration with stakeholders, to make widespread changes to their long-term care support systems.

One of the major objectives of the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration is "to increase the use of home and community based, rather than institutional, long-term care services." MFP supports grantee States to do this by offering an enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) on demonstration services for individuals who have transitioned from qualified institutions to qualified residences. In addition to this enhanced match, MFP also offers states the flexibility to provide Supplemental Services that would not ordinarily be covered by the Medicaid program (e.g. home computers, cooking lessons, peerto-peer mentoring, transportation, additional transition services, etc.) that will assist in successful transitions. States are then expected to reinvest the savings over the cost of institutional services to rebalance their long-term care services for older adults and people with disabilities to a community-based orientation.