



**Department
of Health**

**Office of
Health Insurance
Programs**

MRT Supportive Housing

Mark Kissinger, Director
Division of Long Term Care
Office of Health Insurance Programs
New York State Department of Health

Medicaid Redesign Team

- In New York State, Supportive Housing is part of a larger Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT), which was established in January 2011 by Governor Andrew Cuomo and initiated significant reforms to the state Medicaid program.
- The MRT launched an action plan and a series of innovative solutions designed to better manage care and reward providers that help keep people healthy.
- This approach differed from other states, which have relied on taking away benefits or cutting provider payment rates as ways to reduce Medicaid costs.



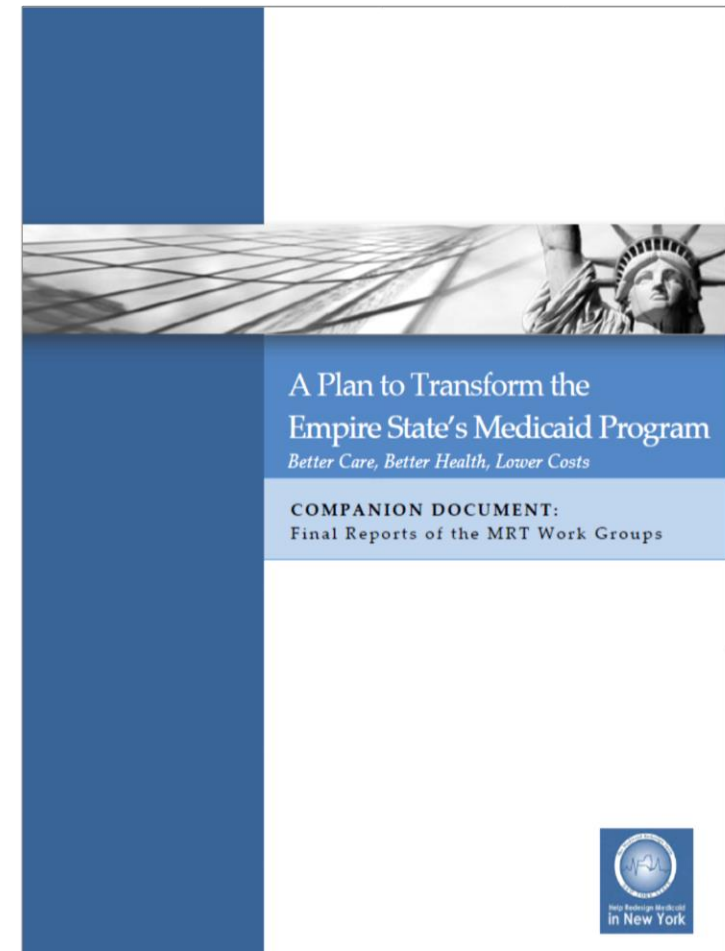
Supportive Housing Workgroup Overview

- The MRT included a Supportive Housing Workgroup which, was composed of representatives from more than 20 organizations that discussed barriers to implementing Supportive Housing and identified solutions.
- The MRT workgroup found that increasing the availability of affordable and Supportive Housing for high-need Medicaid beneficiaries who are homeless, unstably housed, or living in institutional settings was a significant opportunity for reducing Medicaid cost growth.
- The workgroup submitted a final report that included proposals for investments in new Supportive Housing capacity, as well as “collaboration/coordination” recommendations that were designed to ensure that various state and local agencies (both governmental and non-profit) are working together to maximize the value of all Supportive Housing programs.



Supportive Housing Workgroup Final Report

- The final recommendations included providing integrated funds for capital, operating expenses, rent subsidies, and services in new Supportive Housing units targeting high-need, high-cost Medicaid recipients.
- Supportive Housing Workgroup final report:
http://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/docs/mrtcompanion.pdf



Why Focus on Supportive Housing?

- Medicaid costs can be reduced if the need for additional investment in Supportive Housing is addressed:
 - Individuals who are not sufficiently, safely, and sustainably housed are more likely to suffer chronic medical conditions and episodic issues that easily spiral into more complex and expensive conditions.
 - Treatment of these individuals is difficult because their lives tend to be more chaotic. Routine and follow-up treatment is more difficult to dispense.
 - In addition, there are individuals who live in institutional settings, such as nursing homes, intermediate care facilities, and hospitals, simply because they have nowhere else to go.
 - These issues, combined with risks inherent in being homeless, lead to excessive Emergency Department use and frequent re-hospitalizations; key measures the MRT recommendations seek to significantly reduce.

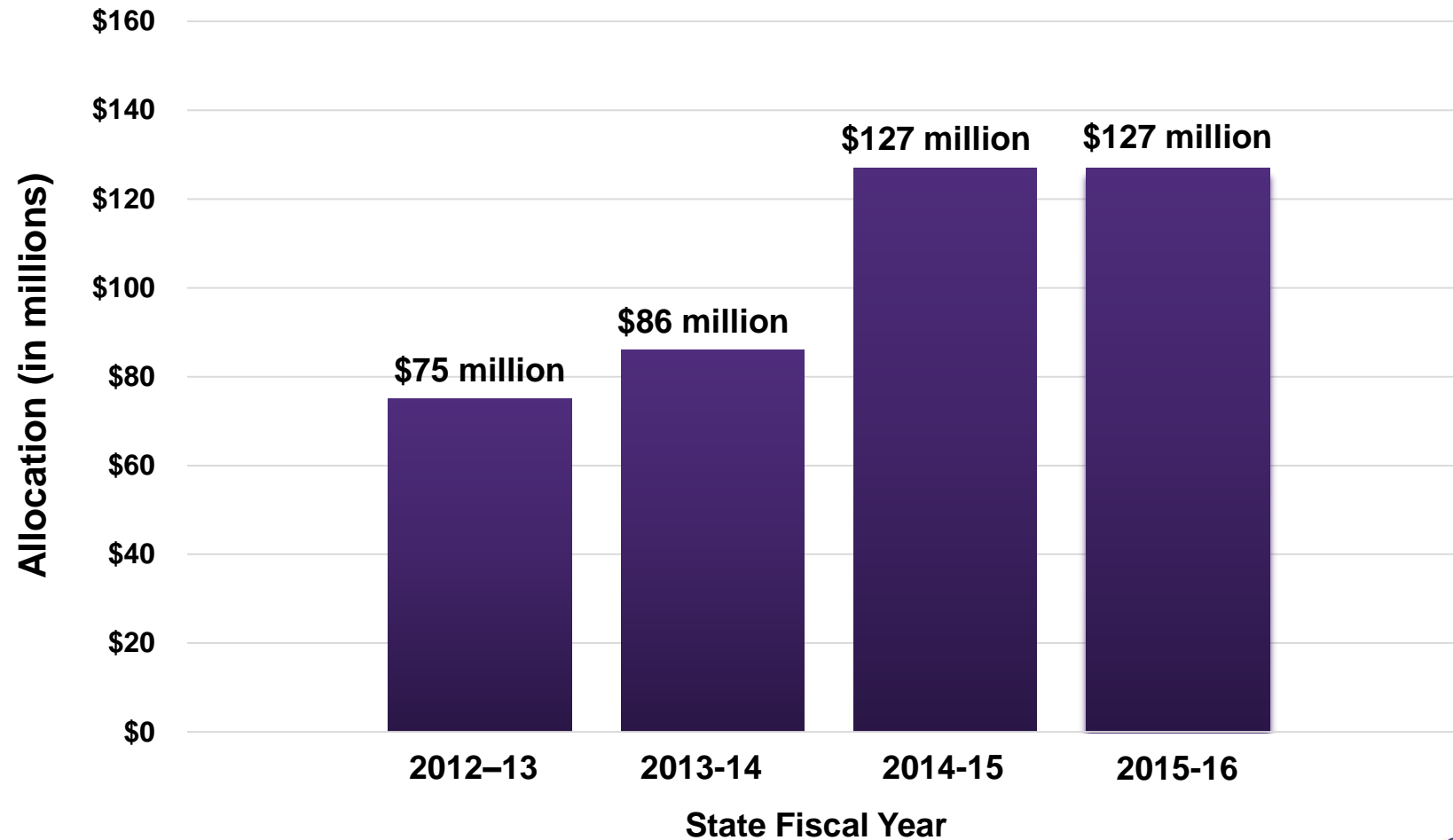
Implementation of MRT Investments

- MRT uses a 2-year allocation plan for all projects. Funding is approved yearly within the state budget.
- Funding is allocated from the Department of Health (DOH) to the lead project agency. Agencies include:
 - Office of Mental Health (OMH);
 - Home and Community Renewal (HCR);
 - Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD);
 - Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA); and
 - Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS).
- All programs are executed through a competitive procurement process (either through the lead agency or DOH).

MRT Supportive Housing Initiatives Include:



Existing MRT Supportive Housing Initiatives



Senior Supportive Housing Services (SSHS)

- \$4.4 million project;
- Provides supportive services and capital improvement;
- Nine contracts awarded and will serve approximately 1,000 people;
- This pilot is statewide and serves: Manhattan, Bronx, Nassau, Suffolk, Ulster, Westchester, Tompkins, St. Lawrence, and Jefferson counties;
- Capital improvements include: accessibility modifications such as bathroom safety and accessibility modifications, break-away cabinets, as well as acquiring assistive technologies such as in-home safety systems; and
- Services include: in-house behavioral and mental health services, wellness and health workshops, mobile supportive team units, house retention services, language barrier assistance, empowering and educational events, a toll-free number, as well as utilizing residents/volunteers to provide peer support.



Nursing Home to Independent Living (NHIL)

- \$8 million project;
- Provides rental subsidy and services to nursing home level of care Medicaid members;
- Two contracts were awarded and will serve approximately 400 people in Nassau, Onondaga, and Suffolk counties;
- In addition to rental subsidies, this projects provides an array of services such as: intensive case management services, in-home interventions, services aimed at establishing independence, wellness, and self-management through positive interactions with peer specialists.



Olmstead Subsidy

- Procurement is currently under development and will be released by the end of 2015;
- DOH will award a two-year contract for a total of \$10 million;
- This will be a statewide program that will provide rental subsidies for Medicaid recipients who are enrolled in a Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) or Fully Integrated Duals Advantage (FIDA) Plan, are nursing home level of care, have spent at least 120 consecutive days in a nursing home in the last two years, and can live safely in the community.

Next Steps

- Evaluating these Supportive Housing initiatives is an important next step.
- A \$1 million Supportive Housing Evaluation Request For Proposals (RFP) was released and is now closed, to obtain a vendor to evaluate all MRT funded Supportive Housing using programs and pilots.
- In addition, MRT is investing a \$1.5 million into a MRT Tracking and Referral System
 - The system will create a centralized tracking and referral database to track MRT housing vacancies and assist with placements;
 - All individual spending will be tracked;
 - Analyze pre and post-Medicaid spending;
 - Partnering with researchers; and
 - Short-term and long-term results.



Contact Us:

Mark Kissinger email:

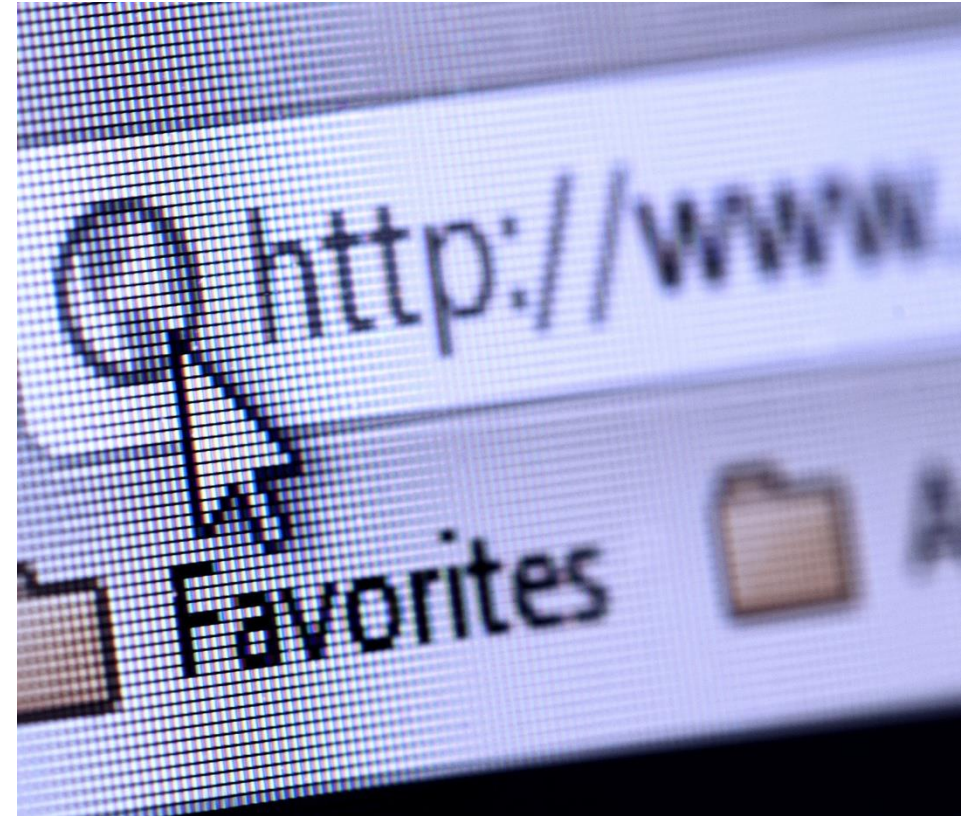
Mark.Kissinger@health.ny.gov

Supportive Housing email:

mrtsupportivehousing@health.ny.gov

Supportive Housing website:

https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medical_d/redesign/supportive_housing_initiatives.htm



Department
of Health

Office of
Health Insurance
Programs

QUESTIONS?

