

Hawaii Department of Health
Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD)
Request for Information (RFI) Response Summary
RFI Number AMHD 420-1-13
24-Hour Group Home and 8-16 Hour Group Home Services
Statewide

A Request for Information for statewide 24-hour and 8-16 Hour group Home Services was issued on October 5, 2012. Written feedback was received from two (2) respondents.

Both respondents indicated they would be interested in submitting a proposal for 24-Hour and 8-16 Hour Group Home Services. One respondent indicated they would be interested in developing services on the island of Oahu and another respondent indicated they would be interested in developing services more specifically along the Leeward Coast of the island of Oahu.

Regarding the challenges an agency may face while developing 24-Hour Group Home services, one respondent indicated that the challenge was for them to receive an authorization from the AMHD, and the other respondent indicated that start-up costs may be a factor.

The AMHD has consumers with special needs (e.g. aging and older adults, consumers with behavioral challenges or co-morbid medical issues, consumers needing medication support...), who may require housing support. The AMHD wanted to know how providers will accommodate and support consumers in achieving and maintaining their placement in the community. One respondent noted specifically that they would work with AMHD and consumers with special needs to provide appropriate accommodations and support. The other respondent noted that they would focus on comprehensive assessment and effective consultation with case managers and community resources, in order to meet their needs and maintain placement in the community.

The AMHD is considering the development of services that would provide in-home medication management support for the consumer. These services would follow the consumer wherever their housing was being provided, including 24-Hour and 8-16 Hour Group Home sites. The AMHD wanted to know the challenges and issues the providers may experience if we moved ahead with this development. One respondent noted they have a successful history of providing medication supports in the context of other programs they operate and feel confident those skills will translate to the Group Home setting, should AMHD proceed in the direction noted in the question. The other respondent expressed concerns that this direction might result in an additional, overlapping level of intervention that could actually result in more challenges than solutions.

The AMHD Group Home contracts require a Life Skills Assessment upon admission. We requested information on the kinds of skills consumers are most often in need of assistance with in order to move towards greater independence. Both respondents indicated that Life Skills were necessary to assist consumers to move toward greater independence. One (1) respondent identified specific curriculum that they use in other programs that focus on self-paced Life Skill development and felt confident that the curriculum could be incorporated into the group home setting to encourage the development of Life Skills.

The AMHD housing contracts require coordination of services with Case Management providers and we wanted to know what type of barriers exist that would make it difficult for residential staff to attend Treatment Planning meetings. One (1) respondent indicated that as long as treatment planning attendance is a reimbursable activity, there should be no barriers to participation and the other respondent noted that residential staff are generally not invited by case management providers to attend treatment team meetings.

The AMHD appreciates the time and effort the respondents put forward to participate in this process. Should AMHD proceed with development and release of an RFP to procure 24-Hour and 8-16 Hour Group Home Services the information and comments provided by the respondents will be taken into consideration.