

Section C: Local Provider Intended Use Plans

Vera French Community Mental Health Center
PATH Program Intended Use Plan
July 1st, 2007 through June 30th, 2008

In the *Intended Use Plan*, the State must furnish the following information for **each** agency that provides services with PATH funds:

1. *Provide a brief description of the provider organization receiving PATH funds including name, type of organization, services provided by the organization and region served.*

Vera French Community Mental Health Center is a private nonprofit agency located at 1441 West Central Park in Davenport, IA. Services provided include outpatient services, community support services, partial hospitalization and community outreach services. Scott County, Iowa, is the service area.

2. *Indicate the amount of federal PATH funds the organization will receive.*

The amount of Federal PATH funds requested is \$60,000.00. Vera French Community Mental Health Center receives PATH funds directly from the State through the Department of Human Resources, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. Vera French Community Mental Health Center uses federal PATH to provide service to those individuals who are homeless residing in Scott County IA and are in need of mental services. (See attached budget page)

3. *Describe the organization's plan to provide coordinated and comprehensive services to eligible PATH clients, including:*
 - a. *the projected number of clients who will receive PATH-funded services in FY 2007.*

The projected number of enrolled clients who will receive PATH-funded services will be 185. Previously the projected number of enrolled clients was 165 and it has been exceeded each year since 1999.

Indicate what percentage of clients served with PATH funds are projected to be "literally" homeless (i.e., living outdoors or in an emergency shelter

rather than at imminent risk of homelessness. (See page 12 for definition of “imminent risk of homelessness”);

The projected percentage of literally homeless was 50 %. This is the same projected number for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. Service Point data system has been used by the Vera French Community Mental Health Center PATH program since July 1st, 2005. Clients who have been served and who are enrolled PATH consumers served by PATH funds are counted as literally homeless based on the following definition taken from the RFP glossary. People who are literally homeless are individuals who, at first contact, were living outdoors or in short term emergency shelter. Based on the data collected for the first three quarters of the 2006-2007 fiscal year the number of literally homeless is 57 out of a total of 110 enrolled clients for this time period. Expressing this as a percentage it is 51 %. (57/110).

- b. *list services to be provided, using PATH funds (see pages 4 and 5, above, for PATH eligible services);*

The PATH-eligible services that are provided by the Vera French Community Mental Health Center PATH program include the following:

- Outreach and engagement services
- Screening and diagnostic treatment services
- Community mental health services
- Case management services
- Referrals for primary health care, job training, educational services, and relevant housings services
- Technical assistance in applying for housing assistance
- Improving the coordination of housing services
- Security deposits
- The costs associated with matching eligible homeless individuals with appropriate housing situations

- c. *community organizations that provide key services (e.g., primary health, mental health, substance abuse, housing, employment) to PATH eligible clients and describe the coordination with those organizations;*

The following is a description of the community organizations providing key services and the collaboration of these service providers with the Vera French Community Mental Health Center PATH program.

Outreach and Engagement Services

The Vera French Community Mental Health Center PATH program continues to work in conjunction with community service providers in assisting clients in transitioning from homelessness and/or in obtaining mental health care. Outreach services consist of shelter visits on a weekly scheduled basis. Scheduled visits include the Salvation Army Family Services, this is a short term shelter for single women and families. The John Lewis Community Services emergency shelter for single men and single women is another site for the weekly visits. The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center for single men is a third site. If necessary, the outreach worker will meet with consumers before or after regularly scheduled hours to accommodate those that are working or in substance treatment.

Emergency response to calls from agencies occur as the need arise. Community Health Care and Family Resources Domestic Violence Shelter are examples of these agencies. Community Health Care provides medical care for individuals and families for little or no cost dependent on their finances. Family Resources Domestic Violence Shelter is an emergency shelter for single women and families who are victims of domestic abuse.

Once a week, “street outreach” is done by visiting the local homeless camps providing canned goods, bottles of water, and clothing to those consumers who choose to stay outside. Some consumers have been helpful in identifying some of the newer camps and individuals in need.

Assistance is also given to consumers to obtain food, clothing, furniture, and in moving them when the need arises.

Accessing Mainstream Services and Resources

Mental health services provided by Vera French Community Mental Health Center include initial screening, assessment intake, psychiatric evaluations, psychiatric and therapeutic outpatient care, referrals to the case management program, the community support program, and referrals to the vocational services program.

The Vera French Community Mental Health Center PATH program receives referrals from the psychiatric unit of Genesis West hospital, the Salvation Army Family Services, the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center, the John Lewis Community Services shelters and transitional housing programs, the Family Resources Domestic Violence Shelter and the Center for Alcohol and Drug Services, the Scott County Community Services Rental program, the Community Health Care, the staff of Vera French Community Mental Health Center, Department of Veteran Affairs Health Care for Homeless Veterans and from self referrals from consumers. Referrals are for mental health services and for assistance for

security deposits, back rent, and utility deposits. PATH monies have been available for security and utility deposits. The total amount of available funds in fiscal year 2005-2006 was \$1,500.

The Vera French Community Mental Health Center PATH program makes referrals to the psychiatric unit of Genesis West hospital, to the Salvation Army Family Services, to the John Lewis Community Services master lease and rental assistance, to the John Lewis Community Services for shelter and transitional housing, to the Family Resources Domestic Violence Shelter, to Center for Alcohol and Drug Services when substance treatment is needed, to the Scott County Community Services program for rental assistance, to the Department of Veteran Affairs Health Care for Homeless Veterans for enrollment when dealing with a veteran, and to Community Health Care for medical treatment.

d. gaps in current service systems;

The current gaps in the service systems are as follows:

- The Davenport Housing Authority has a five year waiting list for Section 8 housing
- The lack of sufficient funds for Security deposits
- A person's poor credit and tenant history
- The state law restricting sex offenders residences
- A client's criminal record
- Inadequate shelter and transitional housing for women and children

e. services available for clients who have both a serious mental illness and substance use disorder;

The Center for Alcohol and Drug Services and Vera French Community Mental Health Center jointly manage homeless persons with co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse. This is an on-going and formalized process.

f. strategies for making suitable housing available to PATH clients (e.g., indicate the type of housing usually provided and the name of the agency that provides such housing);

Every two weeks a list is compiled by going through the classified ads in the Quad City Times. This is done online and the listings are kept at an affordable range. The majority of housing provided is single room occupancy and one bedroom apartments. There are two agencies in Davenport that provide housing for low income beside the public housing authority that has a five year waiting list in Scott County. They are John Lewis Community Services and the Vera French Housing Corporation.

PATH staff has developed relationships with several area landlords who have rental units within the affordable price range of consumers. A list has been developed of landlords who work with the Scott County Community

4. Describe the participation of PATH local providers in the HUD Continuum of Care program and any other local planning, coordinating or assessment activities.

The PATH program participates with the City of Davenport through reports and attendance at meetings when scheduled. The Vera French Housing Corporation provides input into the Consolidated plan of Davenport, IA. The PATH program staff is a member of and participates in meetings of the Quad Cities Shelter and Transitional Housing Council, and the Quad Cities Homeless Count Too. These groups include providers of homeless services including, John Lewis Community Services, Project Now of Rock Island, IL, the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center, Salvation Army Family Services, the Humility of Mary Shelter, and the Vera French Housing. Vera French community Mental health Center PATH program is involved in a collaborative effort with other service providers in the area for the service coordination HUD grant.

5. *Describe: (a) the demographics of the client population; (b) the demographics of the staff serving the clients; (c) how staff providing services to the target population will be sensitive to age; gender and racial/ethnics differences of clients; and (d) the extent to which staff receive periodic training in cultural competence. (See Appendix I: "SAMHSA Guidelines for Cultural Competence.")*

Following are the demographics for fiscal year from July 1st 2006 until March 31st 2007 for enrolled consumers:

Race/Ethnicity:	
D3a. American Indian or Alaska Native	0
D3b. Asian	0
D3c. Black or African American	26
D3d. Hispanic or Latino	7
D3e. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2
D3f. White	70
D3g. Other	0
D3h. Unknown	

The Illinois-Iowa Center for Independent Living has been accessed for deaf interpreters a few times when needed. Translations Unlimited has provided Spanish and Vietnamese translators for consumers that have English as their secondary language. Community Health Care will allow their Spanish and Vietnamese translators to assist with shared clients.

PATH services are respectful and sensitive to the diversity of each consumer with special regards to ethnicity, race, age, and gender. PATH staff has received annual training in cultural sensitivity for the past seven years. The outreach worker for the Vera French Path program is a white male which is representative of the clients served as seventy four percent of enrolled participants were white males in fiscal year 2006 for the first three quarters.

Barry Gallagher PATH Project Officer attended and participated in a two day diversity training held in Des Moines in November 2005 as part of his duties as an outreach worker to the Responding to Katrina program.

6. *Describe how persons who are homeless and have serious mental illnesses and any family members will be involved at the organizational level in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of PATH-funded services. Also, are persons who are PATH-eligible employed as staff or as volunteers? Do persons who are PATH-eligible serve on governing or formal advisory boards? (See Appendix J)*

Each PATH consumer is given the opportunity and is encouraged to allow appropriate family, friends, or advocates to take part in assessment, case planning and evaluation. The rights of the consumer as well as their choices and decisions over their individual case are respected also.

VFCMHC PATH Program has one full time staff but the position is not filled by a homeless consumer. However, PATH staff is a non-voting member on the newly formed Iowa Council on Homelessness. This is a thirty member committee comprised of twelve delegates from Iowa state agencies and eighteen members from the general public. Of those eighteen three must be individuals who are homeless or have previously experienced homelessness.

PATH staff in Davenport has a commitment to attend and participate in the meetings of the Council. The meetings are held in Des Moines and at ICN sites throughout the state every third Friday of every other month.