

Medical Respite Update

6/22/23

Overview: Our goal is to provide a St. Louis Medical Respite Home as a recuperative care option for safe, short-term residential care. Services will be targeted to people experiencing homelessness (PEH) with co-occurring chronic illness and indicators of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) so they can complete a course of post-discharge treatment, avoid hospital re-admission, and be connected to SUD harm reduction or recovery services. We had hoped to re-purpose funds in order to accomplish this for over a three year period.

Update:

- We have not been able to get this started as quickly as we had hoped. One of the key funders who originally made a soft commitment notified us that they were not able to make a firm commitment for at least six months as they re-evaluate their funding for BH.
- Our partner has shared a budget with us that is close to \$480,000 to operationalize the project.
- The location has been identified. It is located in the city. It will host 10 beds to support primary care coordination respite.
- We have had multiple meetings with Affinia Healthcare as they have Homeless grants that may support this work. At the last meeting, we were told that Affinia is down six nurses so re-purposing someone to support this work may be difficult although they remain interested. They are looking into a “volunteer nurse” option where Haven could hire a nurse to volunteer at Affinia, and thus be under their billing scope. This has been done with physicians, but we are inquiring as to whether it can be done with nurses.
- We secured a verbal fiscal commitment of \$140K from Healthy Blue Missouri (Elevance) to support the medical respite project for FY24.
- We recently hired a Director of Strategic Initiatives who will begin July 5th. She has some experience with Medical Respite and will be dedicating a majority of her time to get this moving forward.

Additional funding requests in process:

- In May, we submitted a SAMHSA grant to solicit additional funding for the medical respite project and evaluation.
- In June, we submitted two funding requests to the City of St. Louis – one for our partner Haven Recovery to support staff and one for BHN to support the infrastructure work we do.

Next Steps:

- Continue to solicit additional funds to operationalize the work. We hope to begin in January.
- Our goal is to identify a per diem rate by the end of the third year that will allow this to be contractually sustainable.