



Transitional Living Services

News Release #10-001
January 26, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TLS EXPANDS ROLE TO INCLUDE HOMELESS/MICA AND CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Watertown, New York -----Transitional Living Services (TLS) of Northern New York has assumed the role from Mercy Behavioral Health of providing advocacy and service coordination to dually diagnosed individuals in Jefferson County who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. TLS also now provides a community case manager to help high risk individuals with mental illness to achieve independent living skills and stability in their psychiatric symptoms.

“Adding these two programs compliment our supported housing program,” states Mark Waterhouse, Supported Housing and MICA Manager at TLS. “Many of our past referrals to supported housing were from MICA and community case management, now by having them all under the same agency it allows for us to better serve those individuals who are identified as in need of our services.”

TLS was awarded the programs in January 2010 after successfully submitting an RFP to the Jefferson County Community Services Board. Case management links individuals to service systems, then coordinates and monitors the provision of services. Services are individualized to the specific identified needs of each person in a culturally sensitive way. This is achieved using a holistic approach considering several areas of strengths and needs including, but not limited to the individual's: history, culture, spiritual preferences, education and employment information, social involvement, mental health and substance abuse status, medical status, safety issues, legal issues and financial issues.

“Homeless MICA helps individuals who are homeless or facing eviction from their residence,” adds Stevie Smith, TLS Executive Director. “Assistance includes locating housing, helping individuals apply for benefits, and collaborating with other local agencies to help the individual maintain long-term stability.”

The goal of both programs is to assist individuals to maintain their independence in the community, thus avoiding potentially costlier and more restrictive interventions.

Transitional Living Services of Northern New York is a private not-for-profit agency certified by the New York State Office of Mental Health. With over thirty years of service to the civilian and military community, TLS has expanded to offer a variety of services for adults, children, and their families.

For more information about Transitional Living Services of Northern New York, please call Tom Spaulding, Director of Marketing and Program Development, at 782-1777 or visit the TLS website address at www.tlsnny.com.

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