

# Bringing People Home: The Marsters Settlement

Newsletter 1  
October 2024

The Commonwealth has agreed to a court-ordered Settlement Agreement to help thousands of people with disabilities leave nursing facilities and move to homes in the community over the next eight years.

Many people are stuck in nursing facilities because they lost, or could not remain in, their homes due to a lack of needed support. A core goal of the Agreement is to provide new residential opportunities and support services to allow people to return to the community.

## Highlights from the Agreement: Residential Services—More Capacity

Over the eight years of the Agreement, the Commonwealth must expand Residential Services from several agencies and types of settings, including:

- A provider operated setting or shared living environment (Moving Forward Plan-Residential Services waiver, DMH Group Living Environments).
- Their own house or apartment but need both housing and services (Moving Forward Plan-Community Living waiver, rental subsidies).
- The house they have already, with physical accessibility improvements (home modifications).

## Success Stories: Transitions

At the first implementation meeting with the Commonwealth, officials shared success stories demonstrating that a wide variety of people can move to the community.

An 81-year-old man who was in a nursing facility for several years expressed interest in returning to the community. Though he liked the idea—he enjoys writing and wanted to live in his own apartment—he just could not imagine leaving the facility and successfully transitioning to the community. With the support of his transition team, he moved his own subsidized apartment with supports from the Frail Elder Waiver (FEW) and the Money Follows the Person Demonstration (MFP-Demo).

Required added capacity over the course of the Agreement	
Setting Type	Added Capacity
Moving Forward Plan Residential waiver	400
DMH Group Living (required)	200
DMH Group Living (reasonable efforts)	200
Moving Forward Plan Community Living waiver	595
Rental Subsidies	320
Home Modifications	120



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### Implementation Update: Year 1, Quarter 1

After the federal court approved the comprehensive Settlement Agreement in *Marsters v. Healey* on June 18, 2024, the Center for Public Representation (CPR) launched its implementation initiative entitled Bringing People Home.

In partnership with the Dignity Alliance, stakeholders, and people with disabilities, CPR organized stakeholder meetings to hear directly from those with unique expertise and direct knowledge about the current experiences of people in nursing facilities.

On October 1, 2024, CPR, its co-counsel, and a number of state officials met for the first quarterly meeting required by the Agreement. Secretaries, Commissioners, and senior staff from all relevant agencies presented status updates on each program required by the [Agreement](#).

The Commonwealth shared data showing that over 1,200 people had been provided in-reach and information, over 750 people with SMI were provided behavioral health care coordination and case management, and 720 people had enrolled in the MFP Demonstration during the three months since the Agreement was initially signed (April-June 2024).

We encourage anyone interested in this case, and CPR's broader Bringing People Home project, to sign up for updates at <https://marsters.centerforpublicrep.org/contact/>

#### For more information, contact us!

**Phone:** 413-586-6024, press '2'

**Email:** [bringingpeoplehome@cpr-ma.org](mailto:bringingpeoplehome@cpr-ma.org)

**Website:** <https://marsters.centerforpublicrep.org/>



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