



# Ohio Department of Mental Health

30 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3430

## REVISED NUMBERED LETTER

**DATE:** 2/10/09      **NUMBER:** C-02-09-02      **ORIGINATOR & TITLE:** Jeannette Welsh, JD and Mario De Santis MA, CPM

**OFFICE:**  
Consumer and Recovery Supports

**APPROVED BY:** *me*  
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### DISTRIBUTION:

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### SUBJECT:

Allocations       Certification       Community Plan       Critical Information  
 Licensure       MACSIS       Medicaid       Policy  
 Procedure       Other (specify):

### TITLE OF CORRESPONDENCE:

Implementation of Revised Housing Outcomes Performance Evaluation (HOPE) Data Collection System

### CONTENT:

This letter has been reissued to offer clarification regarding future reporting and the Mental Health Housing Outcomes Performance Evaluation (HOPE) Program database.

Since its inception, the HOPE database has been used to track information related to the Housing Assistance Program (HAP) and the Supportive Housing Opportunities for Prosperity (SHOP) Program. Feedback from the Governor's Office, the state legislature, Boards and housing stakeholders suggests that the database is invaluable in evaluating how persons with mental illness obtain acceptable choices of permanent community housing and the recovery supports necessary to live in community. However, changes in the last few years have raised the question as to whether or not reporting into the database is mandatory or elective. This letter firmly establishes that reporting relative to HOPE related activities is voluntary. A brief summary of the events that brought about this change is set forth below.

In SFY06, housing dollars were removed from the Allocation Guidelines and Boards were left to determine the amount of their allocation to be used for housing. As a result of this change, Boards were no longer required to submit their HOPE data to ODMH. Even after the housing dollars were removed from the Allocation Guidelines, 96% of Boards voluntarily continued to report HOPE data to ODMH. Many Boards did so because they used the data for housing and community planning. ODMH has also benefited from the continued use of the database. ODMH has used HOPE data to document need around housing for persons with mental illness at both the state and the federal level.

In SFY08, the HOPE database was interrupted when it was brought in-house to ODMH. An assessment of the database quickly revealed critical problems including, an aging server, an obsolete programming code and potential security risks to ODMH. In light of fiscal constraints facing Ohio, using limited financial resources to upgrade and reprogram the original database was not deemed to be efficient.

Given the usefulness of the information collected via the HOPE database, an internal decision was made to find an alternative, cost-effective means of securing historical and current HOPE related outcomes. After careful review, existing HOPE housing elements were refined, eliminated, and/or consolidated. This information was then used to develop and pilot a Microsoft Office Excel spreadsheet to selected HOPE administrators. The programmed spreadsheets are currently being modified to incorporate feedback from the test group (comprised of Boards and providers). We anticipate making the new tool available to all HOPE administrators by February 27, 2009.

Finally, as many of you are aware the Governor's recently announced budget proposal eliminates the 505 line item. While ODMH understands the constraints that budget restrictions place on everyone we would still like to continue to collect local level housing data with your assistance. As such, this new tool is being provided to you as a courtesy.

ODMH appreciates the patience you have shown during the interruption of the former HOPE database, as well as the opportunity to clarify expectations regarding reporting. We look forward to sharing this new tool with you in hopes that it will continue to provide all of us with critical information relative to housing.

**DATES FOR ACTION:**

Please communicate this information to your Board's HOPE Administrator and the appropriate housing provider who oversees your Board's HOPE activities. If the Board elects to continue using the Revised Housing Outcomes Performance Evaluation (HOPE) Data Collection System please email Mario DeSantis at [desantism@mh.state.oh.us](mailto:desantism@mh.state.oh.us).

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