PHMC
SERENITY COURT MEDICAL
RESPITE FOR THE HOMELESS

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As the only respite in Philadelphia, Serenity Court provides post-acute medical care for homeless men and women on the streets or in an emergency shelter who are too ill or frail to recover from a physical illness, surgery or injury.
IN 2014 THE MEDICAL RESPITE STARTED AS A PILOT STUDY WITH LIMITATIONS

4 BEDS FOR MALES ONLY
MUST BE ABLE TO AMBULATE 2 SETS OF STAIRS
NO OXYGEN PERMITTED
NO SEXUAL OFFENDERS PERMITTED
WITHIN A YEAR, THE DEMAND FOR MORE BEDS WAS EXPRESSED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

WOMEN
TRANSGENDER PATIENTS
PATIENTS ON OXYGEN
HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY
PATIENTS LISTED ON MEGAN’S LAW
MAY 2018 SERENITY COURT MOVES TO A 20 BED STAND ALONE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE FACILITY
FUNDING SOURCES

CONTRACTED LOCAL HOSPITALS – RESPITE COST IS $300 A NIGHT AND A DISCOUNTED RATE OF $275 FOR RESERVED BEDS (ANNUAL CONTRACT)

KEYSTONE FIRST AND HEALTH PARTNERS HAVE CONTRACTED FOR OVERNIGHT STAYS FOR COLONOSCOPY PREPS

OFFICE OF HOMELESS SERVICES (OHS) UTILIZE THE RESPITE WHEN A HIGHER LEVEL OF CARE PRESENTS TO THE SHELTER

APPLY FOR GRANTS TO ASSIST PATIENTS AT THE MEDICAL RESPITE WHENEVER POSSIBLE
CLIENTS SERVED AND ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

• 1. PATIENT IS CURRENTLY HOMELESS.
• 2. PATIENT IS INDEPENDENT IN ALL ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING (ADLS) AND INSTRUMENTAL ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING (IADLS).
• 3. PATIENT IS ABLE TO AMBULATE AND TRANSFER INDEPENDENTLY WITH OR WITHOUT USE OF ASSISTIVE DEVICES.
• 4. PATIENT IS CONTINENT OF BOWEL AND BLADDER.
• 5. PATIENT IS NOT ACUTELY INTOXICATED AND IS NOT LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE SIGNIFICANT ALCOHOL OR DRUG WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS.
• 6. PATIENT IS WILLING TO COMPLY WITH THE RULES AND GUIDELINES OF THE PHMC SERENITY COURT MEDICAL RESPITE.
• 7. PATIENT IS OVER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN.
• 8. PATIENT IS AN UNACCOMPANIED ADULT.
CHALLENGES AT THE RESPITE

• PATIENTS ON OXYGEN WHO DO NOT MEET SNF CRITERIA
• THOSE WITH BEHAVIORAL ISSUES UNABLE TO RETURN TO SHELTER AND NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SKILLED NURSING
• UNDOCUMENTED AND UNINSURED PATIENTS
• PATIENTS ON MEGAN’S LAW IN NEED OF A SKILLED NURSING
• THE INABILITY TO RENT A ROOM ON A FIXED INCOME DUE TO THE INCREASE OF MONTHLY RENTAL COSTS
DISCHARGE OUTCOMES FY 2021
JULY – JUNE 2021 TOTAL OF 98 PATIENTS SERVED

INDEPENDENT HOUSING: 6
FAMILY OR FRIEND: 18
PERMANENT SUPPORTED HOUSING: 3
SKILLED NURSING FACILITY: 12
PERSONAL CARE BOARDING HOME: 4
RAPID REHOUSING: 2
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING: 1
SUBSTANCE TREATMENT: 9
MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY: 0
RE-HOSPITALIZED: 8
AMA: 12
CITY SHELTER: 19
STILL PRESENT: 4

TOTAL: 98 PATIENTS SERVED (-) 12 LEFT AMA = 86 PATIENTS
19 PATIENTS PREFERRED TO RETURN TO SHELTER - OF THE 67 REMAINING
77% OF PATIENTS WERE FOUND HOUSING AND ONLY 8% WERE RE-HOSPITALIZED.
FUTURE POSSIBILITIES
AT SERENITY COURT

CONNECTING WITH ADDITIONAL MAT FACILITIES (METHADONE OR SUBOXONE) FOR CONTINUITY OF TREATMENT WHILE RECEIVING SERVICES AT THE RESPITE. CURRENTLY METHADONE RESTRICTED TO 2 OUTPATIENT FACILITIES

ACCEPTING PREGNANT WOMEN IN NEED OF BED REST

ACCEPTING PATIENTS ON TPN (TOTAL PARENTERAL NUTRITION)