

SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH SYSTEM
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES DIVISION

Mental Health Services Act Housing Component – Waverly Place

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

**For questions regarding zoning regulations, please contact the San Mateo County Planning and Building Department*

What is the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing Program?

The passage of MSHA in November 2004 created the first opportunity in many years to provide increased funding, personnel and other resources to support county mental health programs. The MHSA Housing Program component of the Act was signed into law in May 2006 – with the stated goal of creating 10,000 additional units of permanent supportive housing for people with serious mental illness.

In San Mateo County, the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Division of the Health System initiated collaboration with the Department of Housing to plan and carry out the MHSA Housing Program in San Mateo County. Implementation of the program will also be carefully coordinated with the County Human Services Agency, which is leading the County's efforts to end homelessness through its 10 Year Plan, entitled HOPE (Housing Our People Effectively).

San Mateo County conducted a stakeholder input process in order to identify local MHSA Housing priorities. Community members, mental health consumers, family members and service providers were engaged in this process.

How many MHSA funded housing projects have been implemented in San Mateo County to date?

There have been three MHSA housing projects implemented to date include Cedar Street Apartments in Redwood City (14 units), El Camino Apartments in South San Francisco (20 units) and Delaware Street Apartments in San Mateo (10 units).

Who is the service provider for Waverly Place apartment?

The Mental Health Association (MHA) of San Mateo County, a non-profit organization, is the sponsor and primary service provider for Waverly Place. MHA has more than 25 years of experience providing a variety of housing types and supportive services to seriously mentally disabled, dually and triply diagnosed adults through emergency, transitional and permanent housing programs owned and/or operated by the agency. This would be MHA's second MHSA funded housing project in San Mateo County.

What services are provided for residents of Waverly Place?

Waverly place is a supported living apartment site. Activities and supportive services like comprehensive case management, daily living skills trainings and employment services will be provided on site by MHA and residents will also have support and encouragement to attend off-site activities, vocational endeavors, and other services.

Additionally, all residents are required to be enrolled in Full Service Partnerships (FSP) or integrated FSP services, or Intensive Care Management. FSPs provide the full range of mental health services including medication support with a focus on co-occurring mental health and drug and alcohol problems. FSPs offer “whatever it takes” to engage seriously mentally ill adults, including those who are dually diagnosed, in a partnership to achieve their individual wellness and recovery goals.

What is the eligibility criteria to live at Waverly Place?

Referrals to Waverly Place Apartments MHSA units will be made by BHRS directly.

- Enrolled in or pending enrollment with San Mateo County Behavioral Health & Recovery Service Full Service Partnership (FSP), Intensive Case Management (ICM) or Integrated FSP services
- An adult with serious mental illness.
- Difficulty obtaining/maintaining housing.
- Must be over 18 years of age.
- May not be registered sex offender.
- May not have been convicted of sale or manufacture of methamphetamine.

Is there a limited amount of time clients can live at Waverly Place? What is the anticipated turnover?

No, this is permanent supportive housing.

What additional opportunities for input and answering questions will be made available to residents near the proposed Waverly Place development?

The Mental Health Association will submit an application for the development of Waverly Place to the San Mateo County Planning and Building Department for consideration, providing another opportunity for public comment and a public hearing on the development before a decision is made

In addition, if you would like a tour of Cedar Street Apartment, a MHSA funded development by Mental Health Association; please contact Melissa Platte at (650)368-3345 x136 to schedule a tour.