

Comparison of Mental Health Settings and Shelter/ Advocacy

Substance Abuse/Psych In-Pt. Treatment

- Entry requires assessment, diagnosis, referral
- Evaluation for medication
- Highly structured, daily schedule determined by program
- Meals prepared by staff to meet standards
- Few programs accommodate children
- Paperwork identifies individual - for payment for services and must meet accreditation requirements and insurance standards
- Mandatory group sessions required sessions
- Individual therapy required
- Recreational and occupational groups built into daily schedule and required activities
- Not allowed to leave facility without authorization; has to be earned
- Progress notes maintained and used in determining discharge; notes reflect compliance/non-compliance and staff judgement/assessment of attitude and behavior
- Staffing to determine progress, management and interventions; case management to facilitate goal setting and manage cravings/behaviors; aftercare plan to maintain sobriety and/or emotional/behavioral balance
- Payment required or treatment discontinued
- Confidentiality defined by federal law; privileged communication; professional ethics written
- Academic credentials required and required for billing for services

Shelter/Outreach

- Entry based on need for safety
- Medical advocacy
- Resident/survivor determines structure/daily schedule
- Meals prepared by resident
- Children expected and accommodations made for them
- Paperwork minimal; less is best; may need to meet grant requirements; reporting does not include identifying info
- Support group; other groups offered
- Advocacy
- Recreational activity determined by resident/survivor; participation in program activities voluntary
- Residents/survivors come and go as they please
- No progress notes; written communication reflects advocacy and other needs
- No evaluation of “progress” any further contact determined by resident/survivor; identification of resources on-going
- No payment required
- Confidentiality defined by federal law and program policy; few states allow privileged communication for advocates
- Life experience, cultural knowledge, personal ethics, non-violent behavior valued; educational requirements may not be needed to competently perform job functions