**Housing Presentation (Staff Meeting February 2017)**

**Q&A Notes**

Resource requested during Q&A:

* [**HousingWorks.net**](http://www.housingworks.net/)- find Housing Authorities with open waitlists, print applications, find other types of assistance. Consumers can use this site. Though a great tool, **it does not include all options**; for example some housing authorities do not participate.  (Website is listed in our subsidized housing packet.)

**Addressing Housing Barriers:**

* **See our** [**CORI**](http://healthcare.partners.org/ss/ssframebottom/staffresources/New%20Site/Legal/Legal_CORI.html)**\* page** for information about sealing criminal records and CORI rights.
	+ Note: **Sex-Offenders** - **the only required life-time ban for federal housing is for those with LIFETIME sex-offender register requirement.** There is no equivalent MA life-time ban in state housing. Though this doesn’t mean it will be easy to get housing. **Those with sex-offenses on their record should** [consult a legal advocate](http://healthcare.partners.org/ss/ssframebottom/staffresources/New%20Site/Legal/Legal_CORI.html#Referral)**\*.**
* **Outstanding Utility Bills**- customers have a legal right to set up a new account **if** they never failed to pay two or more bills in a row **and** are willing to agree to pay off the total amount owed within three months. If the customer did go two or more months without paying then they can ask for a [**Cromwell Waiver**](http://healthcare.partners.org/ss/ssframebottom/staffresources/news/2016/12-Newsletter.html#CromwellWaivers)**\*** agreement to start new service. The consumer must
	+ Agree that the company may add the arrearage from your old address to your new account,
	+ Set up a reasonable payment plan to pay it off, and
	+ Give the company permission to terminate your new account if you fail to keep to the payment plan.
* **Also see** our [**Applying for Subsidized Housing in Massachusetts**](http://healthcare.partners.org/ss/ssframebottom/staffresources/New%20Site/Basic%20Needs/Housing_Search_Basicsv2.doc)**\*** *packet and the* [**Supplement: Options for Non-Citizens**](http://healthcare.partners.org/ss/ssframebottom/staffresources/New%20Site/Basic%20Needs/Housing_Search_Basics-Non-Citizen_Supplement.pdf)\*

**Emergency Assistance (EA- Family Shelter)**

Note: this program is administered by DHCD (outside MBHP’s purview).

* **Immigration status**- one person in family must have any type of legal status. **Residence**- must be a MA resident, BUT can be established by registering a child for school or registering to vote (do not need a permanent address to register) **or with a letter from the child’s primary care doctor listing a MA Address.** More on our [EA page](http://healthcare.partners.org/ss/ssframebottom/staffresources/New%20Site/SpecificPopulations/SP_HomelessNEWShelter.html#Family)\*.