

The MA- Dept. of Mental Health (DMH) has contracted with Advocates, Inc. to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate respite services to Deaf/HH/DB adults.

Services are residentially based in the Westborough area and community based in the Central Massachusetts area.

Deaf Respite is not a substitute for Crisis Stabilization Services or Acute Mental Health Services. Persons with significant safety concerns should be referred to a Crisis Stabilization Service.

Referrals must be:

Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind

A resident of Massachusetts

At least 18 years old

Meet at least 1 of the referral criteria on the attached referral form

Referrals are prioritized as follows:

- DMH referrals from WRCH as diversions or step downs from inpatient
- Referrals from WRCH as diversions or step downs from inpatient
- Referrals from Emergency Rooms as diversions/Mobile—*This is not a substitute for Emergency Psychiatric Evaluations, but an addendum for the purpose of a thorough evaluation*
- Referrals for clients who are currently authorized for DMH services – *These must be discussed and approved by the appropriate DMH site office through the Deaf/hh case manager/supervisor or contract manager for the service.*
- Individuals who are not DMH clients and meet the referral criteria

Procedures:

Obtain **2** consents/releases of information:

1. Consent to the referral/consent for referrer to release information to Advocates
2. Release of information to release information to DMH

Complete DMH Statewide Referral Form—*Self-referrals for persons who do not have services can work with LPHA Clinicians to complete the referral form*

Submit both DMH Statewide Referral Form and Release of Information forms by email or fax to Advocates by email: [DeafRespiteReferrals@Advocates.org](mailto:DeafRespiteReferrals@Advocates.org) or fax: 508-628-6899

The referrer will be contacted to request additional information if needed. Referrer will receive a response from Advocates within hours following the submission of a site-based referral or within 24 hours for a mobile-based referral. Clinical Program Manager or LPHA Clinician will contact the referrer and/or the individual to inform whether or not referral is approved.

Upon approval Advocates will require:

Current medication list/signed doctor's orders if applicable

Identification of current and past risk factors

A recent treatment plan if available

A recent crisis plan or crisis/relapse prevention plan if available

The individual should bring medications, if possible.

Advocates is not responsible for transportation to the respite, unless those arrangements are made with Advocates.