



META HOUSE

*Ending the generational cycle of addiction
by healing women & strengthening families*

Who we serve

In 2018, Meta House served 541 women, 123 of whom were pregnant or postpartum, and 230 children.

At admission in 2018:

- 31% earned a HS diploma or GED
- 71% were unemployed
- 95% had an annual income of less than \$20,000
- 63% were homeless or unstably housed
- 80% had experienced abuse in their lifetime
- 79% had a co-occurring mental health disorder
- 79% had been to treatment at least once before
- 80% had criminal justice in their lifetime
- 50% were involved with child welfare





Treatment Approach

Our Approach

- Meta House is a **gender specific** treatment program for those who identify as women struggling with substance use disorders and often co-occurring mental health concerns
- ~80% of our clients report a history of abuse. For that reason, we ensure that we are **trauma informed** and **strength based** in all that we do.
- ~80% of the women we treat are mothers. It is critical to the long-term success of our clients and their families that we are **family centered** in our approach.
- Addiction is a disease. Meta House incorporates **evidence-based** therapeutic practices in our work to ensure that our clients have the tools to build a strong recovery program.





Treatment Settings

A Snapshot

Residential Treatment

- 43 beds for women
- 15 beds for our clients' children 12 and under

Outpatient Treatment

- Tailored to meet women where they are in recovery
- Services offered Monday through Friday

Recovery Housing Community

- 16 apartment units for families led by women in early recovery
- 10 shared apartment units for single women in early recovery



Across our continuum of care...

For over 55 years, our program has evolved to meet the unique needs of women in our programs.

Services

- 1:1 and Group Therapy for SUD
- Ability to address co-occurring mental health concerns
- Child & Family (& Child Care)
- Peer Support
- Vocation & Education (& Literacy Lab)
- Case Management
- Psychiatrist/Addictionologist
- Connection Medication Assisted Treatment
- Experiential Therapies



Specialized Services for Pregnant Women

Meta House served 123 women who were either pregnant or had a baby under the age of one in 2018

- Nutrition
- Connection to prenatal care
- Transportation to medical appointments
- Parenting classes
- Connection to community resources

"The most important thing for me was giving my baby a fair shot at a healthy life. [Getting into] treatment was that opportunity for my daughter. I was in a safe, supported and very structured environment that helped me stay clean. I learned how to properly care for a newborn in every aspect. That made all the difference."





BadgerCare Reform Waiver

- Historically, Medicaid hasn't covered residential substance use disorder (SUD) treatment provide in facilities with 16+ beds.
- On June 7, 2017, Wisconsin sought a waiver from the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), in part, to allow reimbursement for SUD treatment provided in facilities with 16+ beds
- In its application, Wisconsin noted **access to treatment** options for Medicaid consumers as one of its primary concerns.
- On October 31, 2018, CMS approved Wisconsin's waiver application.
- In approving Wisconsin's waiver, CMS articulated a directive that the state work towards "advancing the health and wellness needs of Medicaid beneficiaries" noting that the state must "structure a program in a manner that prioritizes those needs."

DHS/ForwardHealth Updates



- Since October 2018, there has been very little official information from the state on implementation.
- In October 2019, ForwardHealth circulated a *draft* memorandum addressing administrative issue (enrolling).
- In early November, ForwardHealth circulated another *draft* memorandum addressing levels of care, prior authorizations, and lengths of stay.
- On November 12, 2019, DHS representatives attend a SCAODA - Planning & Funding Committee meeting and announce reimbursement rates.
 - \$60.64 - Low Intensity
 - \$155.80 - High Intensity
- Meta House's approximate base costs for services (excluding R&B):
 - \$153.67 for Low Intensity
 - \$238.21 for High Intensity



Effect of Proposed Reimbursement Rates

- As soon as the rates were announced, providers, including Meta House, communicated concerns regarding their ability to continue providing residential SUD treatment.
- Based on the rates proposed by ForwardHealth, Meta House would need to absorb the following deficits:
 - \$93.03 per day (\$34,048.98 annually) for each Low Intensity client
 - \$82.41 per day (\$30,162.06 annually) for each High Intensity client
- In total, Meta House could face an annual operating deficit of **\$1,113,975.90** if rates aren't adjusted.
- To be clear: **Access will not be improved** by the implementation of this benefit if the rates do not change and the health and wellness of many Medicaid beneficiaries in need of residential SUD treatment will not be improved.

Impact on Other Systems and Providers

- If providers close, consumers in need of residential SUD treatment will seek services elsewhere – ERs, FQHCs, other mental health providers.
- Child Welfare and Criminal Justice systems will see influx and unnecessary burden.
- The financial impact is reflected in handout = For every \$1 invested in treatment, \$7 in costs to other systems are saved.
- Other states that have implemented the benefit have set rates **significantly higher** than those proposed by Wisconsin – noting the savings captured by investing in treatment.

Next Steps




- Meta House and other providers wish to educate public and provide additional information to decision-makers.
- The goal is to get rates in-line with actual costs and/or slow down the implementation so that stakeholders have time to weigh in.
- DHS has agreed to hear from providers.
- Timeline for finalizing procedures and rates remains unclear but we will keep MHTF updated on developments.
- Other considerations: room and board rates.


Questions?



A photograph of a woman with brown hair tied back, smiling warmly as she hugs a young child from behind. The child is lying on a light-colored sofa, laughing joyfully. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a window in the background. The image is framed by a white, stylized geometric shape.


Thank You


 Valerie P. Vidal, President and CEO

 (414) 977-5808

 vvidal@metahouse.org

 Christine Ullstrup, VP Clinical Services

 (414) 977-5871

 cullstrup@metahouse.org

 www.metahouse.com