Admission Criteria

Individuals must:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Be a resident of Lancaster County
- Have a major mood or thought disorder or a diagnosis of borderline personality disorder
- Have serious mental health symptoms or be at risk for inpatient services
- Be receiving services from an adult mental health case manager
- Not be considered a danger to self or others, or is able to contract for safety
- Not have a significant history of violence or aggressive behaviors
- Be able to demonstrate progressive medication compliance
- Be willing to address any concurrent substance abuse issues
- Agree to participate in program activities and adhere to guidelines
- Not have a physical illness that precludes adequate participation

Planning for discharge begins at the time of admission and the resident is expected to be an active participant in the process.
The Lancaster Diversion Program is a short-term residential program for Lancaster County residents who are adults and have a serious and persistent mental illness. The intention of the program is – as the name implies – to “divert” persons from more intensive inpatient treatment (i.e., state hospital or Extended Acute Unit).

Diversion is an intensive program with its own psychiatrist and various therapeutic and psycho-educational groups. It is considered both a residential program and a community recovery program.

The program’s mission is to help participants develop the skills necessary to successfully integrate into the community. A safe, home-like environment is provided to help individuals develop emotional, relational and daily living skills needed to function in a more independent setting.

Program participants have an active role in their treatment and are encouraged to take full advantage of the opportunities available in the community. They are challenged to attempt new and different tasks with the understanding that recovery is a growth process. Family members and other significant individuals are invited to be involved with the ongoing treatment of residents.

**Lancaster Diversion offers:**
- Supportive counseling
- Therapy of varying modalities
- Educational programs
- Behavioral management
- Crisis intervention
- Community re-integration skills (e.g., independent living, social, leisure)

**Psychiatric Services**
The program psychiatrist meets with each resident once a week for treatment review and medication management. The program nurse oversees the administration of medications and the overall medical management of each resident.

**Convenient Location**
The Lancaster Diversion Program operates in two semi-detached houses and accommodates up to seven individuals for a period of 6-12 weeks. It is conveniently located near a shopping center and public transportation.

**Admission Process**
Referrals must be made through Lancaster County Behavioral Health and Developmental Services or Community Service Group and are reviewed in conjunction with the Lancaster Diversion Program. Individuals must meet the admission criteria to be considered for the program.

Seven beds are available at the Lancaster Diversion Program.