

STATEWIDE TELEPSYCHIATRY INITIATIVE RECEIVES NATIONAL HONORS

The South Carolina Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science, University of South Carolina School of Medicine, received the Psychiatric Services Achievement Award (Silver Award) at the Institute of Psychiatric Services Annual Meeting hosted by the American Psychiatric Association in San Francisco on October 27, 2011 for “The Statewide Telepsychiatry Initiative.”

The goal of the Psychiatric Services Achievement Awards is to recognize and publicize national models of creative service delivery. The awards have been presented since 1949 to innovative programs that deliver services to the mentally ill. Programs can be based in a school, a clinic, a hospital, or the community itself, and can provide unique treatment options, human resource development, prevention, or administrative models that improve clinical care.

DMH State Director John H. Magill and Meera Narasimhan, MD, professor and chair, Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science and DMH director of Research Initiatives, jointly accepted the award on behalf of the Agency and the University. They also presented the project and its impressive outcomes at the annual meeting.

“It has been a great model with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Department of Health and Human Services, South Carolina Hospital Association, Office of Research and Statistics and other stakeholders working collaboratively to address the mental health needs of the state in a time of declining resources,” stated Magill.

“We are proud to belong to the great state of South Carolina and to have successfully demonstrated how public, private, academic partners can come together to work effectively to improve access and



The Psychiatric Services Achievement Award

affordability, and provide quality care to the citizens of our state through this innovative project that delivers healthcare to the citizens of this state,” said Dr. Narasimhan.

This statewide telepsychiatry project has included public, academic, and private partners (The Duke Endowment; DMH; Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Health, University of South Carolina School of Medicine; Department of Health and Human Services; South Carolina Hospital Association; Office of Research and Statistics; and others) working together to address the mental health needs of the state as it pertains to access, affordability, and quality care in a time of declining resources.

This innovative initiative has proven to be a promising strategy for improving care and outcomes of mental health emergency department (ED) visits by increased access to emergency psychiatric consultation, and facilitated appropriate treatment and increased discharge activities, providing quality care on the one hand and reduced length of stay on the other.

The telepsychiatry services offered by the DMH currently provide consultations at 25 EDs (rural and urban) in South Carolina, with more than 8,400 consultations completed since March 2009. The program provides emergency psychiatric care access 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A psychiatrist provides assessment and recommendations for initial treatment and works closely with the ED doctor in identifying resources in the community to help the patient with follow-up care, a necessity for many patients that reduces the need for re-hospitalization and improves patients' quality of life.

We sincerely appreciate the generosity of Duke Endowment (The Board of Trustees and staff, Lin Hollowell, Mary Piepenbring, and Gene Cochrane) in funding this project and making it possible for us to render care to the citizens of South Carolina.

The other agencies that have been instrumental in making this project a success include the Department of Health and Human Services and the National Institute of Mental Health. We would also like to thank the South Carolina Hospital Association and its members who have worked closely with the teams to deliver quality mental health care in their emergency departments. ■

Congratulations, Team Members!

John H. Magill: Lead – The Duke Endowment Grant

Robert Bank, MD: Medical Director, Program Supervisor

Brenda Ratliff, MD: Lead Psychiatrist

Telepsychiatrists:

- **Patricia Nnadi, MD**
- **Greg Smith, MD**
- **Mridul Mazumder, MD**
- **Megan Embrescia, MD**
- **Jimmy Claytor, MD**
- **Richard Ellison, MD**

Ed Spencer: Program Director

Ralph Strickland: Program Coordinator

Stewart Cooner: Fiscal Consultant

Tekethia Matthews-Washington: Fiscal Technician

Info Resource Consultants:

- **Christal Jones**
 - **Stella Hansen**
- Steven Hickerson:** Programmer

Research Team:

- **Benjamin Druss, MD, MPH**
- **Silke Von Esenwein, PhD**
- **Liping Zhao** and **Gretel Glick**, Emory University
- **Julie Royer, Chris Finney, Sandra Kelly**, and **David Patterson**, Office of Research and Statistics
- **Steve Marcus, PhD**, University of Pennsylvania
- **Maria Butkus**
- **Sandy Hyre**

Meera Narasimhan, MD: Lead, National Institute of Mental Health Ro1 Award

HONORING MIKE: TEAM HENDRIX RAISES FUNDS FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

Jennifer Rucker, Administrative Assistant in SCDMH Quality Management far surpassed her fundraising goal for the Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk in October. “My goal was \$500, and I’ve raised nearly \$900,” she said.

“My team was *Team Hendrix*, in memory of my brother, Mike Hendrix, who committed suicide November 30 of last year,” said Rucker. “We had seven walkers, including my niece and nephew, their mother, as well as three officers from the Columbia Police Department, where Mike had retired from. The officer that took his position when he retired also walked in his honor, with his own team.”

Team Hendrix raised more than \$1,440 for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – SC (AFSP-SC), funds which will be used to support numerous area and statewide AFSP-SC programs and services across our state. Way to go, Jennifer and Team Hendrix, and thank you! ■

RECOVERY IS IN BLOOM AT BECKMAN CMHS

Tracy LaPointe, Office of Public Affairs

On Monday, October 17, Beckman Center for Mental Health Services (BCMHS) held its ninth annual Recovery Conference at Mount Zion AME Church in Promised Land, SC.

Director Melanie Gambrell welcomed the crowd of more than 150, which included clients and family members, clinic staff from across the Center's seven county catchment area, members of the BCMHS Client Advisory Board, BCMHS Board members, State and local legislators, and staff from DMH Central Office. Gambrell then introduced Mental Health Commission Member Jane Jones, who gave greetings.

Greg Ross, community support program coordinator at Beckman, and Brenda Johnson, human services assistant, served as emcees for the day's events, which began with recovery testimonials from several clients. Eva shared her feelings about treatment and recovery, Amanda focused on the importance of "second chances," and explained how important getting to know others just like her has been. Larry talked about going to Group and his successful return to school. Patricia talked about her journey to recovery and expressed thanks that her symptoms are under control. Tomora shared how medication, the support of family and friends, and the Arts: visual, written, and musical, have been in her recovery. Sandra explained that she is thankful for the support of her case manager and stressed the importance of taking medications properly and consistently.



SC State Senator Shane Massey took time viewing each of the banner contest entries.

Following these inspiring recovery stories, Richard Petty, MD, discussed Relapse Awareness and Reduction Strategies, explaining what relapse is, how to identify early warning signs of relapse, and the importance of developing one's own relapse reduction/prevention plan.



The team from Edgefield Mental Health took home this year's first place trophy in the banner competition.

This year's Recovery Conference featured several prizes. Not only did Palmetto Long Term Care Pharmacy gift each of the recovery speakers with a \$50 gift card to Wal-mart, but Mental Health America of Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, and McCormick counties provided the two door prizes. A client from Greenwood won a \$100.00 Wal-Mart gift card, and a client from McCormick won the second, surprise door prize - a 32 inch flat screen TV!

During the delicious lunch, sponsored by Jansson Pharmaceutical and prepared and served by Mount Zion AME Church volunteers, the Central Office judges of the highly anticipated banner competition perused the artistic offerings and struggled to choose their top three entries. Always a lively competition, this year the competition boasted 10 entries from across the counties, with their interpretations of this year's Conference theme: "Recovery in Full Bloom." Though the decision was difficult, the judges awarded the third place ribbon to Newberry

Mental Health’s group, the second place ribbon to the team from McCormick Mental Health, and the first place trophy to the Edgefield Mental Health Team. Upon its presentation, the crowd erupted in excitement and applause, as the group came to the front of the hall to collect the award. The conference ended with a talent show.

It is clear why the Beckman Recovery Conference is so highly anticipated and well attended. The day provided clients, mental health professionals, and members of the community with valuable information, uplifting stories of achievement, words of wisdom and hope, an exhibition of outstanding talent, and visual representations of the recovery process. “The Beckman Center is committed to this annual event,” said Director Gambrell, “It is a day of hope and promise for our clients, staff, board members, and other community supporters. Everyone in attendance was fortunate to hear the uplifting stories of recovery shared throughout the day.”

The dedication of the local community, as always, was apparent. In addition to the volunteers from Mount Zion AME Church, the Beckman Center board made a strong representation at the event. In addition, SC State Senator Shane Massey of Edgefield, State Representative Anne Parks of Greenwood, and Greenwood County Council Member Edith Childs took part in the day’s activities.

The Beckman staff who made this event possible do an outstanding job. Center and clinic staff work with client advisors to coordinate the day’s program and logistics; staff were out at 6:30 that morning, transporting clients to the conference from across the catchment area. The Beckman Client Advisory Board and staff once again made this a must-attend event. They begin working many months in advance, and no detail is overlooked, making this an informative and enjoyable day for all.

Congratulations to the Beckman Center for Mental Health Services on its Recovery Celebration 2011 – where recovery blooms, and thrives! ■



Client Advisory Board members (l to r) Pam Minyard, Ricky Whimbush, Francis Harris, Melvin Carter, and Sandra Maxwell were integral to the conference’s success.



Banner contest winners – second place: McCormick Mental Health (top), and, third place: Newberry Mental Health (bottom)

NEW SYSTEMS OF CARE PLANNING GRANT FOR SC

Kennard Dubose, Community Mental Health Services

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently awarded South Carolina a planning grant to expand comprehensive community mental health services for children and their families, the System of Care Expansion Planning Grant. The purpose of the grant is to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for improving and expanding services provided by systems of care to children and youth with serious emotional disturbances and their families.

SYSTEMS OF CARE ... HELP
CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND
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A “system of care” is an organizational philosophy and framework designed to create a network of effective community-based services and supports to improve the lives of children and youth with, or at risk of, serious mental health conditions and their families. Systems of care build meaningful partnerships with families and youth, address cultural and linguistic needs, and use evidence-based practices to help children, youth, and families function better at home, at school, in the community, and throughout life.

I, working closely with CAF Director Louise Johnson, Deputy Director of Community Mental Health Services Geoff Mason, and State Director John H. Magill will serve as project director for the initiative, called Breaking Boundaries.

The project will work closely with South Carolina’s Joint Council on Children and Adolescents (JCA), a collaborative effort that aims to develop a system of care that provides efficient delivery of services for youth and adolescents, particularly those with mental health disorders, substance abuse disorders, or both.

For the past three years, the JCA has led efforts to improve services for children and youth needing treatment services, specifically for mental health, substance abuse, and co-occurring disorders. The body was established in August 2007, as a mechanism for transforming the service delivery system for youth and their families, initially in the area of behavioral health interventions. Unique in its membership, the JCA comprises the agency directors of the principal child-service agencies, including the South Carolina departments of Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, Juvenile Justice, Social Services, Disabilities and Special Needs, and the Governor’s Office of Continuum of Care for Emotionally Disturbed Children.



Program Manager Kennard Dubose will serve as project director for Breaking Boundaries.

Other partners include the South Carolina departments of Education and Health and Human Services, The South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs, The Behavioral Health Services Association of South Carolina, Faces and Voices for Recovery-SC, The Federation of Families of South Carolina, The National Alliance on Mental Illness of SC, The South Carolina Primary Health Care Association, and two parents of children with serious mental illness. ■

DMH’S BEST: CALCOTE AND JOYNER HONORED AT CHARLESTON EVENT

Tracy LaPointe, Office of Public Affairs

Bringing Evidence-Supported Treatments to South Carolina Children and Families (Project BEST), funded by a grant appropriation from The Duke Endowment, is a state-wide collaborative effort that aims to ensure that all South Carolina children and their families, who are identified as having experienced abuse and resulting psychological trauma, receive appropriate, effective, evidence-supported mental health assessment and psychosocial treatment services.

On November 7, clinicians, clinical supervisors and senior leaders who have participated in Project BEST collaboratives gathered at Founder’s Hall at Charles Towne Landing in Charleston, SC, for the first ever *Project BEST Fest*. Billed as a learning opportunity to “share relentlessly and steal shamelessly,” the event offered advanced training in evidence-based treatment planning and case management, updates on national children’s issues, a forum to share ideas, and an awards ceremony honoring outstanding child abuse treatment professionals.

Berkeley MHC Executive Director Debbie Calcote and Charleston/Dorchester MHC Staff Training & Development Coordinator Cathy Joyner, LPC, were each honored with the Project BEST Champion Award, which recognizes outstanding Senior Leaders who have “championed the mission of Project BEST and the implementation of Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) and other evidence-based practices...and worked to strengthen collaboration among the community change team, found ways to overcome barriers to TF-CBT implementation, and worked effectively to build capacity in the community to provide trauma-informed, evidenced based services to all children and families who need them.”

Coordinated by the Dee Norton Lowcountry Children’s Center in Charleston, SC and the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center of the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC, Project BEST counts SCDMH and the Coastal Empire CMHC among its collaborators. ■



Debbie Calcote (top) and Cathy Joyner (below) received the project BEST Champion Award. Photos and logo courtesy Project BEST, MUSC.

DAY OF CARING VOLUNTEERS INVADE CHARLESTON DORCHESTER MHC!

Sherri Dangerfield, Charleston/Dorchester MHC

Ten years after Sept. 11, 2001, many people geared up for another amazing day of service to our community.

Trident United Way's 2011 Day of Caring was Friday, Sept. 9. On that date, 7,500 people descended on 400 projects throughout the Charleston community to help others and reflect on the values that were attacked that fateful day. While we mourn those who were lost and celebrate those who inspired us through their heroism, the Charleston/Dorchester community recommitted itself to helping those in need where possible--right here in our own community.

In the 10 years since Sept. 11, 2001, 50,000 people have participated in Trident United Way's Day of Caring, which has brought \$10 million worth of labor and supplies to area non-profits.

The Charleston/Dorchester Community Mental Health Center welcomed 50 volunteers from the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command to its grounds. Dressed in Day of Caring red shirts, these young men and women washed and cleaned 27 state vehicles, including the Highway to Hope RV, which is dedicated to serving those with mental illness in distant, rural communities who cannot, for a variety of reasons, get to the community clinic. One client who witnessed the volunteering reported, "We are being invaded by red tee shirts!"

Another day of dedication and selflessness has passed, but the spirit of humanitarian hope continues on in memory of those who sacrificed all. ■



50 volunteers from the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command came to Charleston Dorchester MHC as part of the National Day of Caring. These young men and women washed and cleaned 27 state vehicles, including the Highway to Hope RV.

Mental Health Matters is a newsletter of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health (DMH). Produced by the Office of Public Affairs, it aims bring items of interest within the DMH system to the attention of Agency personnel, the Mental Health Commission, mental health advocates, and other stakeholders.

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