

We Believe



PANDA
pg 2



Break the Cycle
pg 3



Great news about making new lives

Summer 2011

The Newsletter of the Community Health Center, Inc. and the Community Health Center Foundation, Inc.

A new way to get therapy
for mental health and addiction disorders.
Video Therapy
Easy. Confidential. Accessible.
www.DirectTherapy.org 330.315.3764

VIDEO THERAPY

Reducing the stigma associated with addiction

In the era of email and smart phones one is constantly connected, often working from anywhere there is an internet connection, making the need for an office almost obsolete. Likewise, in the healthcare industry the need for a brick and mortar building with exam rooms and counseling offices is also evolving. Enter telehealth, or as Community Health Center calls it *Direct Therapy*—the newest way to receive confidential treatment for a substance abuse or mental health issue from the comfort of your own home.

There is a longstanding stigma associated with substance abuse disorders among the community-at-large, but there is no denying that alcoholism and addiction reaches beyond the limits of the inner city and is growing among white collar professionals and suburban families, young and old. Direct Therapy aims to eliminate the stigma of receiving treatment for people who are struggling with an addiction while also maintaining a job and/or fulfilling obligations to their families.

Robert Terry, LISW, Director of CHC's Direct Therapy program has seen firsthand how the program has helped eliminate stigma and barriers associated with treatment. "I worked with a patient who was dealing with mental health and substance abuse issues, and as a result of legal problems she lost her driver's license. She happened to reside in a rural area and a requirement of her probation was to participate in treatment. Without the connection to our agency via Direct Therapy, she would have likely gone without treatment and faced jail time for not following the court's orders," explained Terry.

Direct Therapy offers a level of anonymity that is not achieved by walking through the front door of the agency. It allows the patient to access

treatment when it fits into their schedule, saves drive time and also the anxiety of entering into traditional treatment. Sessions are available in a package and private pay is accepted for those individuals who would prefer their insurance provider or employer not know about their treatment.

Community Health Center's telehealth program has been in operation since late 2009, but did not come into existence without some work. The agency successfully advocated with the State of Ohio to allow Direct Therapy

“Remember when professionals, like doctors, used to come out to the home to see patients? With Direct Therapy, we still do.”

to become an approved method of service delivery for mental health and addiction treatment. The State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board has

continued on pg. 2



PANDA Students from 11 area schools attended the Youth-to-Youth conference this summer with the support of a grant from Summit County ADM Board.

‘Thank you!’ ADM Board supports PANDA students

CHC’s prevention program, Project PANDA, received over \$8,500 from the Summit County ADM Board to send 29 students and four adults to the Youth-to-Youth Leadership & Prevention Conference in Columbus this summer. Youth-to-Youth was founded in 1982 as a community-based drug prevention and youth leadership program focusing primarily on middle school and high school students. The goal of its many projects is harnessing the powerful influence of peer pressure — making

it a positive force that encourages young people to live free of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

Students from Copley-Fairlawn, Stow, Hudson, Revere, Akron, Nordonia Hills, Woodridge, Wadsworth, Ravenna, Manchester and Strongsville were represented at the conference. These schools, along with many others host Project PANDA meetings in their schools. For more information about PANDA, visit www.projectpanda.org or call Lauren Munk at 330.315.2689.

Horizon House continues to grow

Horizon House, a program for homeless young adults, has only been in existence since 2005. In these few short years, it has proven to be the catalyst for many positive outcomes for the 20+ residents who have been served. Most recently, Horizon House has had four individuals graduate from the two-year program that focuses on life management and financial planning, education, self esteem and employment. Two graduates are working on Bachelor’s degrees at The University of Akron and two have moved into other housing programs offered by our housing partner OMCDC and have consistent employment.

Our first house in 2005, was opened with \$100,000 in private donations. Today, the Summit County Continuum of Care has put their support behind Horizon House, ranking the program as



its number one funding priority. They awarded Horizon House \$221,371 to be used to purchase two additional homes to serve young adults on our waiting list. As part of the grant, the CHC Foundation provided a \$101,000 match raised from local foundations and individual gifts. Both new houses will be open this fall.

To learn about how you can get involved with the Horizon House program, or to make a referral, please call 330-315-3736.

Video therapy

continued from pg.1

accepted it as an approved delivery method. As a result, Community Health Center can now see patients anywhere within Ohio.

Direct Therapy has been a positive addition to the array of services the agency offers and Terry believes that the program will help the agency grow into new markets and serve a wider population of people who are in need of comprehensive substance abuse treatment, “Remember when professionals, like doctors, used to come out to the home to see patients? With Direct Therapy, we still do.”

Learn more about Direct Therapy at www.directtherapy.org or call 330.315.3764.



CHC Foundation Board members along with (pictured center) Ernie Passeos, Rosemary Passeos and dog, Bella, of Liberty Harley-Davidson in Akron invite you to 'Break the Cycle' at Vegiterranean on Friday, September 23.

Rev your enthusiasm for a good cause: September 16-23

The Community Health Center Foundation introduces a new event this year called *Break the Cycle of Addiction*. September is national recovery month, and locally we will be holding events in our area to illustrate the need for comprehensive substance abuse treatment for children and adults in our community.

Mark your calendar:

Sept. 16 & 17: Break the Cycle at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Bath. Learn more about CHC, participate

in our book fair and free family activities including miniature golf, crafts and face painting both days.

Sept. 23: Join us at Chrissie Hynde's VegiTerranean for a unique menu, live entertainment and auction for a trip to Italy and a motorcycle courtesy of Liberty Harley Davidson. Tickets are \$75 or \$125 per couple.

Call Rachel D'Attoma at 330.315.3770 or email her at rachel.dattoma@commhealthcenter.org for tickets and more information.

CHC board welcomes new officers



Bob Papa

CHC's Board of Directors recently elected new officers beginning July 1, Bob Papa is our new president. Bob is from Youngstown and retired a year ago after 37 years in the banking industry, 27 of which he was the CRA officer at Chase. Doug Mory is our new vice president, and is a retired VP of Private Client Services at FirstMerit Bank. Janet D'Antonio is our new treasurer and serves on Stow City Council. Lastly, Julia Sigel is our new secretary. She is also retired after 17 years as the executive assistant to the Summit County Executive.

These officers and our 12 other board members are leaders in our community and we appreciate their time and expertise in guiding our organization in a responsible and effective manner.

We Believe

is a publication of the Community Health Center and the Community Health Center Foundation.

Ideas for articles are welcome and should be addressed to the Editor at: 702 East Market St., Akron, OH 44305 330.315.3715

CHC and CHC Foundation are equal opportunity employers and providers of services.

Theodore P. Ziegler, CEO

Editor: Chrissy Lockhart Gashash

ADM BOARD The Community Health Center is a contract agency of the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board and Mental Health and Recovery Services of Stark County.



The Community Health Center facilities and services are certified by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations



Member agency of Prism Health LLC, your source for quality behavioral healthcare for children and adults in Northeast Ohio.



ACCREDITATIONS, LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)
- Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS)
- Ohio Department of Health
- Ohio State Board of Pharmacy
- Ohio Civil Rights Commission (HEW 504)
- Federal Drug Enforcement Admin.
- Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, CLIA
- Medicaid Certified Treatment Agency
- City of Akron Health Department
- Ohio EPA Certification
- Ohio Department of Human Services
- Ohio Department of Mental Health

THE CHC IS FUNDED IN PART BY:

- The City of Akron, Department of Planning
- The Summit County Department of Development
- The County of Summit Department of Job & Family Services
- The County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board
- The Akron Health Department
- Summit County Family & Children First Council
- US Department of H.U.D.
- Ohio Department of Development
- Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services
- Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
- Community Health Center Foundation
- Akron Public Schools
- US Department of Justice Department of Youth Services
- Mental Health and Recovery Services of Stark County



If you have received more than one copy of this publication, or if your name appears incorrectly on the mailing label, call the CHC Foundation at 330.315.3776, or write to us at the above address.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Break the Cycle at VegiTerranean
Friday, September 23

CHC joins local agencies to create Prism Health LLC

Community Health Center announces its membership in Prism Health LLC an innovative healthcare venture designed to create opportunities for providers, consumers and employees. Prism Health LLC is a collaboration among four of the leading behavioral health providers in Summit County — Child Guidance & Family Solutions, Community Health Center, Community Support Services, and Portage Path Behavioral Health — who collectively serve 33,000 area residents with a full spectrum of healthcare services such as outpatient counseling & psychiatry, emergency psychiatric services, case management, addiction treatment, and specialty services like housing, employment, medical services, criminal justice diversion programs, homeless outreach, crisis intervention and other supportive services. Prism Health LLC member agencies employ over 770 people at more than 20 locations.

This initiative fits in perfectly with the spirit of collaboration proposed by Summit County Executive Russ Pry, and embodies the principles of accountability and accessibility guiding healthcare reform. Prism Health is committed



Comprehensive Behavioral Healthcare

to strengthening services to meet the needs of the community. Working together has enabled the organizations to harness collective purchasing power, eliminate duplication and realize various efficiencies. This savings will assist the agencies to serve many people caught in difficult financial circumstances due to the recession while managing to absorb severe cuts in support from the State of Ohio.

The future holds even more opportunities for the citizens of Summit County and the surrounding region as Prism Health LLC builds a stronger network of care. We are currently creating a Call Center where anyone with a mental health and/or substance abuse need is able to contact and be quickly connected with the appropriate service provider. This service will also be adapted for use online. In addition, the four agencies are developing "one-stop shops" where anyone needing behavioral health care can go to receive services under one roof.

If you would like more information about Prism Health LLC or if you have a suggestion on how we can improve, please visit us at www.prism-health.com.