

connections

HEALTH·WELLNESS·ADVOCACY

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Connections: Health•Wellness•Advocacy 24200 Chagrin Blvd, Beachwood, OH 44122
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CEO Corner

Our annual event was a great success! The event, held at the Beachwood Hilton on October 7, 2010, was attended by just over 200 people and served as

Connections: Health•Wellness•Advocacy's Annual Meeting. Dr. Roknedin Safavi was honored for his many contributions to community psychiatry and his retirement from Community Mental Health was recognized with a gift.

We greatly appreciated Harry Boomer's role as Emcee. He kept the event moving along in a smooth fashion. Our keynote speaker, Loree Vick, shared the story of the tragic loss of her husband to suicide in an honest and straight forward manner. Her account was very touching and all that attended were moved. We appreciated her candor and applaud her ability to overcome the heartbreak and use her experience to help others.

Thank you to the Planning Committee, which included: Board Members: Molly Wright, Ethel Robitson and Shelley Lipson; Staff Members: Timia DelPrete-Brown, Jim Nagle, Pam Holmes, Angie Sedgwick, Donna Ellison, and Kathleen Gustafson; and Miriam Plax from University Hospitals. A very special thank you must be extended to Miriam Plax for her pro bono efforts to assist the Connections Committee in planning the event. The annual event was a new undertaking for the organization and her guidance, experience and feedback was invaluable. Thank you, Miriam.

The Annual Report for FY 09 and 10 was completed and distributed at our Annual Event. If you would like to receive a copy please notify Ivette Ruch, Executive Staff Assistant at 216, 831-6466, ext. 241 or iruch@connectioncleveland.org.

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Connections Raises Funds and Awareness for NAMI

Thanks to Mark Johnson, team leader, and all the employees and volunteers that helped Connections meet and exceed its goals for the NAMIWalks event, which took place on October 12, 2010 at Voinovich Park in downtown Cleveland. We had a total of 74 walkers (staff, clients, families and friends) despite a rainy day, and raised \$3,750 for NAMIWalks 2010. This event raised a total of \$145,000 towards NAMI's goal of \$150,000. **NAMI Greater Cleveland (NAMI GC)** is the local affiliate of NAMI with approximately 800 consumer, family, professional and organizational members. NAMI provides services to individuals and their families with serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, clinical depression and anxiety disorders through a variety of support and education programs, including information and referral, support groups, and family and consumer education courses. Volunteer consumers and family members provide almost all of the services at NAMI GC. ❖

Employee "GEM"

Two of Connections' staff were nominated for the 2011 Woodruff Foundation Award for Clinical Excellence in the field of Behavioral Health. Ron Harris was nominated by Esther Pla, and Michael Rodio was nominated by the ADAMHS Board. Although neither of them were recipients of the award, Connections is proud of their accomplishments and their dedication and work in mental health. ❖

Meet our Board

Matthew Wyner, President	
Carolyn Watts Allen, Vice President	
Ethel Robitson, Treasurer	
Rochelle Lipson, Secretary	
Hinda T. Apple	Jacqueline E. Johnson
Mindi Axner	David M. Kribel
Dinorah Bialostosky	Norman Leavitt
Jeanette Brzoska	Kurt A. Leeper, J.D.
Kathleen Clegg, M.D.	Ana McDougal
Giovanni DiLalla	William H. Stevens
Gerald Fuerst	Molly Wright



Board President, Matthew R. Wyner, is a Senior Vice President and District Business Banking Executive for KeyBank in Northeast Ohio. Mr. Wyner leads a team of over 25 banking professionals and oversees efforts to significantly grow

and increase the number of relationships with businesses ranging up to \$10 million in annual revenues. Matt and his team help their clients find comprehensive financial solutions through lending, depository services, and cash management. Matt joined Key in 2000 as part of KeyBank's Management Training Program. Since that time Matt has served in a variety of roles throughout Key's Retail branch and Business Banking networks. Matt has a Bachelor's Degree in English from Louisiana State University and a Master's in Business Administration from Cleveland State University. He is a native Clevelander and stays very involved in the community. Matt has also been involved in various organizations throughout his career, including Recovery Resources, United Way and Junior Achievement. Matt and his wife, Joanna, reside in Solon with their 2 daughters.

Transitions

The annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Luncheon was held on November 18, 2010. Mario Parillo-Rodriguez, CPST at the West 25th Street site, brought a Latin dance troupe to perform for the staff. Mario works with under-privileged kids at the Clark Recreation Center on the West Side of Cleveland and teaches them Latin dancing. The group performed salsa, hip-hop and original numbers. A prayer of thanks was offered by Carmela Richardson and Dr. Joe Steiner before the meal. The food was plentiful and all enjoyed a wonderful meal. ❖

Connections Pharmacy



Congratulations to Ahmed Ibrahim on successfully passing his Pharmacist examination. Ahmed learned on September 14, 2010 that he passed the examination. The Pharmacy now has 2 full time Pharmacists on staff. Connections' Pharmacy allows prescribers and clients easier prescription of refill medications and quicker insurance authorizations, due to the coordination between the clinical staff and in-house Pharmacy staff. The Pharmacy also provides medication education dissemination to both staff and consumers. Our Pharmacists can fill non-psychiatric or medical medications prescribed by other physicians allowing them to detect any drug-drug interactions and coordinate medications. Secure mail order delivery for consumers who would like medications sent directly home is also offered. Although the Pharmacy is located at the main Beachwood site, next-day delivery is provided to both our Cleveland Heights and West 25th Street locations. ❖

CEO Corner (con't from page 1)

In November we began our Strategic Planning Process with "Currere" Principal Owner, Sally Breyley Parker, and her Partner, Adele DiMarco Kiou. Currere is an area firm, which specializes in assisting organizations to identify their purpose, values, vision, identity, core strategy and goals and objectives. It is time for us to look to the future and to develop a plan to create a more sustainable outlook for the agency. Only then can we be assured that Connections' particular brand of high quality care and integrated services will continue to be available to thousands of at-risk individuals living with Behavioral Health issues throughout Northeast Ohio. The entire process will take 6-8 months.

We are committing to releasing an electronic newsletter three times per year – late fall, spring and summer. It will be used as a way to keep our clients, families, the community, sister agencies, donors, foundations, staff and other stakeholders aware of some the happenings at Connections. Especially as the landscape of Behavioral Health care changes with the fluctuations in funding, it will be even more important for us to keep our constituents aware of where we are and how we are doing. It is of the utmost importance that we remain transparent.

With a very grateful heart I extend each of you the best of holiday wishes and hopes for a joyful, healthy New Year.
Esther Pla, RN, BC, President and CEO

Centralized Intake and Assessment

Connections submitted a Request for Proposal to become the Centralized Intake and Assessment Provider (S.C.A.L.E. Program) for individuals seeking mental health services who are new to the public behavioral healthcare system in Cuyahoga County. S.C.A.L.E (Screening, Centralized, Assessment, Level of Care Assignments, Engagement with/Linkage to Treatment) is designed to streamline the way in which individuals may access the public behavioral healthcare services in Cuyahoga County, which presently includes 9 service providers. It offers a single point of entry to Cuyahoga's Behavioral Healthcare services, expedites the enrollment process, and reduces the waiting period between assessment and engagement with treatment. Connections' role is to perform mental health assessments, assign a level of care, and make referrals to one of the nine participating S.C.A.L.E service providers based on the types of services needed, geographic location of the individual, individual preference, and any prior public system linkages. Connections will provide interim services until the individual is successfully linked to a provider, which is expected to be within 5 business days of the assessment. On October 6, 2010, Connections' executive and senior management staff were invited to meet with the ADAMHS Board to discuss the proposal with the Board staff. A motion was passed at the ADAMHS Board Planning and Oversight Committee on October 13, 2010 to fund Connections Health•Wellness•Advocacy to implement the S.C.A.L.E. Program. Connections has employed an Intake Director, Dorothea Galloway, to oversee the program. The program will begin on January 3, 2011. ❖

Telehealth Services

Connections will begin offering pharmacological management services through Telehealth. Telehealth is video and auditory technology used as a means of accessing mental health services, which may include assessment, Pharmacological Management and Counseling. An article recently circulated by Clinical Compass, an e-newsletter published by Neuroscience CME, states: **Telepsychiatry has offered improved access to psychiatric care in rural, suburban, and urban areas. Most studies have shown it to reliably allow clinicians to diagnose a wide range of conditions in adults, children, and geriatric populations, as they do through face-to-face care. It appears to be generally acceptable to patients, and it appears to allow relationship building with clear**

advantages over the telephone and few disadvantages when compared with face-to-face care. Educational use has included didactic, case-based consultation, and supervisory initiatives. The result is that telepsychiatry appears to have greatly empowered patients, providers, programs, and communities. Such access includes the use of agency equipment such as computer and webcam, as well as secure internet transmission. Connections role is to perform mental health assessments, assign a level of care, and make referrals to one of the nine participating S.C.A.L.E service providers based on the types of services needed, geographic location of the client, client preference, and any prior public system linkages. Connections will provide interim services until the individual is successfully linked to a provider, which is expected to be within 5 business days of the assessment. Authorized clinicians can make a referral to Telehealth based on program criteria and appropriateness for the service. All referrals are subject to review and approval by the Program Manager. Consumers who have previously been evaluated through a comprehensive Mental Health Assessment may be referred to Telehealth. Consumers can be seen for evaluation of psychiatric disorders, monitoring of medications, and for ongoing monitoring of response to treatment. Connections has written protocols for the new service and updated our consent to care to include Telehealth services. All clients and their families are informed about Telehealth services and must give consent and be agreeable to the service.

Connections has contracted with a former Connections child physician, Dr. Rim Ibrahim for Telehealth services. She currently resides in California and is licensed in both California and Ohio to provide pharmacological management services. She will be seeing our child population and be picking up some of her former clients. As part of the protocol, Dr. Ibrahim will work very closely with one Nurse/Case Manager (present on the premises during the visit) who will escort children and their families into the appointment and meet via video after the session with Dr. Ibrahim to document medications, concerns etc. Clients have a right to discontinue Telehealth services at any time and see a prescriber who is located at the site. Even if consumers engage in Telehealth services, they still retain the option of being seen face-to-face by an appropriate provider. ❖

Planned Giving

Planned giving is a way to include Connections: Health•Wellness•Advocacy in your overall estate and financial plan. Depending on your giving strategy, there could be immediate or future tax benefits for you.

Planned giving options

- gifts of cash
- wills and bequests
- gifts of stock
- charitable remainder trust
- life insurance policy

Wills and bequests

Bequests can be made in a new will, or an existing will can be easily amended to include a bequest to Connections. An unrestricted bequest is one that allows Connections to direct your gift where it will have the greatest impact. A restricted bequest allows you to designate what you would like the gift to be used for.

Gifts of stock

Gifts of stock can be made in two ways. You can call your financial advisor and transfer shares of stock directly from your account to Connections: or you can give stock certificates. You will receive a tax deduction for the full amount of the current value of the gift on the day on which the gift was given, and if the stock has appreciated significantly, you will avoid paying the capital gains taxes due if you were to sell the stock.

For more information, please call 216.831.6466 ext. 241 or email iruch@connections-cleveland.org.

Share Your Gift



You can help us provide a better life for those we serve with your gift. Your donation will help support Connections: Health•Wellness•Advocacy programs and continue to make our services available to all who need them. Simply complete the form below and mail to: Connections, Development Department, Attn: Ivette Ruch, 24200 Chagrin Blvd, Beachwood, OH 44122.

Please accept my tax deductible donation of: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other

Donation from:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Please enter your method of payment:

Check (make payable to Connections: Health•Wellness•Advocacy)

Mastercard Visa

Account Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

This gift is a tribute in memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Please send acknowledgment to:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Thank you in advance for providing your email address for our records to save on postage.