

connections

HEALTH·WELLNESS·ADVOCACY

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CEO Corner

It would be easy to begin this letter listing what all of us have been dealing with for the past 6 months- the work to advocate on all levels for additional funds for

mental health, addiction services, elder care, services to children, etc. I think I will refrain from mentioning what we all know – what we gained – what we lost – the effort we put into the battle. Instead, I will choose to focus on the achievements that the staff, the consumers, the families and the community have made in the past 6 months. I have found that there is such wisdom in focusing on our strengths in order to reduce our weaknesses. If we do this together as a community – if we shake off our fears –look at our strengths, and bring those to the table – our power then rises to the surface. Fear is left behind.

That is what we are doing at Connections – through our Strategic Planning Process that began in October with Currere Representatives, Adele DiMarco Kious and Sally Parker. Funds for this process were provided through the generous support of The Cleveland Foundation, the William J. and Dorothy K. O’Neill Foundation, Mr. Harvey Snider and Mr. and Mrs. Sal Grimaldi. We have worked diligently with our community partners, our consumers, their families, our staff at all levels, and our Board to define our core values and set our Three Goal Areas. Five Strategies have been identified that will individually and collectively support the Three Goals through 2014.

This process held the following components:

- Planning and Assessment
- Defining the Soul of Connections
 1. Mission
 2. Core Values
 3. Vision
 4. Identity

(cont’d on page 2)

University Schools – A Little Help From Our Friends

Daniel W. LoPresti, Class of ‘03, a gregarious, generous hearted young man, was happiest when engaged in service and fellowship. The LoPresti family has chosen to establish the Daniel W. LoPresti ‘03 Philanthropic Board in his memory. The LoPresti Board is a nonprofit student-run organization operating under the auspices of University School (“US”). The LoPresti Fund is a restricted fund within the University School Endowment. The LoPresti Board may distribute a trustee-determined percentage of the fund’s annual yield in the course of each school year.

Through the LoPresti Philanthropic Board, students have the opportunity to learn about the difficulties people face in Northeastern Ohio and to work toward improving their quality of life. Directors do community service. They learn the institutional skills necessary for philanthropic leadership, fund-raising and grant-writing. It is University School’s hope that the directors will be inspired by their experience and pursue philanthropic service as adults. The directors, through their experience, hope to encourage members of the US community to do the same. Beginning in January 2011, Connections commenced a partnership with this group of young men, creating a volunteer workforce. With a focus on supportive work initially in our Child and Adolescent Program, it is the goal of this collaboration to provide a unique opportunity of sharing and experience for all of the youth involved.❖

In Memorium

Donations were received in memory of Ronald Lipson, husband to Rochelle Lipson, a Connections Board Member. Mr. Lipson passed away on January 22, 2011.

❖

Employee “GEM”

The ADAMHS Board has honored Connections, along with several staff members, with several awards, which were presented at the Annual Meeting Brunch which took place on Monday, May 16th as follows:

Mark Colella: was selected as one of the recipients in the Consumer/Client Involvement category. This award was given for his commitment to helping consumers improve their overall quality of life, being a true advocate, actively participating in the quarterly SHAPE meetings, and providing training on peer support to police officers through the Board’s Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training program.

Chris Van Deusen: was selected as one of the recipients in the Consumer/Client Involvement category. This award was presented for Chris’ commitment to helping consumers improve their overall quality of life, being a true advocate, actively participating in the quarterly SHAPE meetings, and providing training on peer support to police officers through the Board’s Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training program.

Esther Pla: received an Award in the Contract Agency Collaboration category. This award was for her outstanding personal efforts throughout the Non-Medicaid pilot project and the start-up and design of the SCALE program.

Connections: was honored as one of the recipients in the Contract Agency Collaboration category. Connections received this award for its participation throughout the Non-Medicaid pilot project and for serving as the implementation agency for the SCALE program.

The awards were developed to recognize outstanding individuals and organizations that embody the ADAMHS Board’s mission, have positively impacted the lives of consumers/clients and helped to alleviate the stigma of mental illness and/or addiction in Cuyahoga County.

Congratulations to all of you! Well Done! ❖

CEO Corner (cont’d from page 1)

- Strategy
 1. Three Goals
 2. Five Strategies
 3. Each Strategy has Action Steps and Identified Metrics

The engagement of the staff has begun in what we call: defining “The Connections Experience.” This is an effort to give all staff a role in what excellence will look like at

Connections, what they want it to be. This process is actually a part of a much larger approach of attraction, retention and development of our staff. In defining excellence we want to be able to help each individual to find their own excellence; then working with them to empower each other, our customers and the clients we serve. The following is our vision.

VISION:

Connections will be a financially sustainable Behavioral Health Center of Excellence. It shall accomplish this by fostering:

- **Positive Emotions** in having a clear definition of the Connections Experience and creating an Attitude of Gratitude because
- **Engagement** will be necessary at all levels of the organization, with our staff, our clients, and our community. The landscape in healthcare is constantly changing, which will require that we have strong
- **Relationships** with our families, our co-workers, our clients, and the community. We have the teams in place; giving us the edge to move us to take advantage of the importance of
- **Meaning** in establishing ourselves as a cornerstone in the transitions in healthcare. We are aware of the purpose and potential of the opportunities we choose and see clear the way in which these action will support the
- **Achievement** of our goals and our ability to . . .

FLOURISH!

The second annual *Make a Connection* Dinner is scheduled for October 6, 2011, taking place during Mental Health Awareness Week. Tracy Plouck, ODMH Director is the guest speaker. The first Marty Infield Service Award (named after Connections Founder, Mrs. Marthea Infield) will be presented to Beachwood Mayor, Merle S. Gorden, on behalf of the Beachwood Safety Services for their dedication to treating our clients with respect and dignity, whenever called upon. Hope to see you there!

Though we know the year ahead will be difficult, I believe we are positioned to manage the Medicaid utilization caps, CPST tiered rates and the Non-Medicaid budget cut effectively. We are able to go into fiscal year 2012 with this certainty because of the teams of staff that have come together to break down barriers and find efficiencies. Connections has chosen to see change as an opportunity. I am blessed each and every day to work alongside such a dedicated, inspiring group of professional staff! Thank you all. ❖

Esther Pla, RN, BC, President and CEO

Meet our Board

Ethel Robitson, Interim Chair William H. Stevens, Vice Chair Rochelle Lipson, Interim Treasurer Giovanni DiLalla, Interim Secretary	
Hinda T. Apple	
Dinorah Bialostosky	
Jeanette Brzoska	
Joanne E. Cooke	David M. Kribel
	Molly Wright

❖

Centralized Intake and Assessment

The Centralized Intake and Assessment Program (S.C.A.L.E.) was implemented on January 3, 2011. Data related to SCALE Hospital and Community clients from 1/3/2011 through 7/08/2011 is as follows:

Hospital SCALE:

- 393 clients have been referred to the SCALE Hospital program, of those:
 - 161 assessments have been completed;
 - 103 clients were screened/referred out to Community Health Centers.

Community SCALE:

- 742 phone screens have been completed for the SCALE Community clients, of those:
 - 249 clients were screened/referred out to Community Health Centers;
 - 493 were eligible SCALE clients;
 - 329 assessments have been completed;
 - 133 SCALE clients have been connected to a CPST for benefits consultation.

SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions

Connections: Health•Wellness•Advocacy was recently selected to participate in the SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions' Integrated Health Provider Learning Collaborative. The award letter indicated Connections' application was rated very highly among an especially talented and large number of applicants. Participation in this Collaborative will greatly assist Connections to respond to the important question: How can community mental health and addiction provider organizations build collaborative relationships that support clinical integration?

The Integrated Health Provider Learning Collaborative is designed to provide community mental health and addiction provider organizations with the opportunity and means to achieve the following goals:

1. Provide basic information about the new integrated service delivery models being developed.
2. Provide an opportunity for each collaborative member to assess its readiness to participate in new integrated service delivery entities/methodologies.
3. Provide technical assistance/support to collaborative members to facilitate their addressing the typical service delivery challenges that have historically created barriers to providing value enhanced services.
4. Develop a Rapid Cycle Change Plan for each member of the collaborative that will address specific change goals and objectives and a specific timeline to accomplish the changes needed.
5. Support a continuous quality improvement based learning experience for each member.
6. Provide an opportunity for collaborative members to share their outcomes with other behavioral healthcare providers. ❖

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.

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@connectionsleveland.org.

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

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.