

## Connections Shines Spotlight on Mental Health Issues at Second Annual Cuyahoga County Mental Health Summit



On Friday, October 11, 2013, Connections, in partnership with Signature Health, sponsored the Second Annual Cuyahoga County Mental Health Summit. The annual event was held at the new Cleveland Convention Center and was attended by over sixty clinical behavioral health staff, including physicians, nurses, counselors, and social workers. Attendees of the Summit were provided the opportunity to learn more about new prevention strategies and treatment options, how proposed legislation and regulations will affect their medical practice, as well as the latest information regarding groundbreaking discoveries in mental

health research. This was accomplished through in-depth and interactive presentations by ten leading behavioral health care physicians and experts from northeast Ohio and across the country, including William Denihan, CEO, ADAMHSBCC, Douglas McLaughlin, D.O., from The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Jeffrey Kellams, M.D., Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at Indiana University, and Roueen Rafeyan, M.D., Chairman, Department of Psychiatry at Saint Anthony Hospital, in Chicago, IL.

The annual Summit also featured an update on behavioral health care in the State of Ohio by Tracy J. Plouck, Director of OhioMHAS. Closing remarks for the event were provided by Connections Peer Support Specialist, Mark Colella, who highlighted the importance of access to behavioral health care, citing the support and services of Connections as an integral part of his own personal road to recovery from mental illness. The administrative team and staff of Connections wish to thank everyone who attended and supported the Second Annual Cuyahoga County Mental Health Summit, and look forward with anticipation towards next year's event!

You can help us provide a better life for those we serve with your gift. Your donation will help support the programs and services provided by Connections. Visit the web page below to make a secure donation:

<http://www.connectionsleveland.org/pages/donate.php>

### Connections of Cleveland

24200 Chagrin Boulevard  
Beachwood, Ohio 44122

### Calendar of Upcoming Events:

**November 28-29, 2013:** All Connections Locations Will Be Closed For The Thanksgiving Holiday.

**December 11, 2013:** Children's Christmas Party at Beachwood Community Center, 4:00 – 6:00 PM.

*Interested in learning more about the comprehensive and integrated services offered by Connections?*

*Contact us at (216) 831-6466 to learn more today!*



# connections

HEALTH • WELLNESS • ADVOCACY

## New Venue and Engaging Special Guests Help Make 2013 Annual Dinner An Overwhelming Success



A sense of excitement and anticipation filled the air at the 2013 "Connect with Connections" Annual Dinner, as over 250 supporters and guests filled the ballroom level of the brand new Cleveland Convention Center on Thursday, October 10, 2013. This year's celebration was one of the first events held at the new facility, which provided guests a spectacular lakeside view of downtown Cleveland. In addition,

the annual event featured an exciting lineup of special guests, which included Honorary Chair, Matthew Wyner, former Board President of Connections and current Sr. V.P. and Retail Sales Leader for Key Bank's East Ohio Region. WKYC-Channel 3 Senior Health Correspondent, Monica Robins moderated the evening's program as the Event Emcee.

The highlight of the annual event was a presentation by special guest speakers NFL Super Bowl Champion, Jim McMahon and his Life Partner, Laurie Navon. With humor and personal insight, Jim documented how he suffered from severe head pain and memory problems before being diagnosed with early onset dementia several years ago, the result of suffering multiple concussions during his fifteen-year playing career. While the head pain has largely been eliminated due to regular treatment, Jim shared that he still struggles with short term memory loss. He also touched upon his recent advocacy efforts as a spokesperson for former NFL players who suffer from physical and mental health issues due to head trauma suffered during their playing careers. Laurie, his Life Partner, provided a unique caregiver perspective, delivering insight and encouragement for those who help provide care for individuals with mental illness. In conclusion, Jim and Laurie stressed how their goal was to create greater awareness of the long-term health risks associated with head trauma, not only for NFL players, but for younger athletes as well. After their remarks, Jim and Laurie were gracious enough to engage in a fun and interactive Q&A session with members of the audience, providing a fitting conclusion to a memorable evening for all who attended.



NFL Super Bowl Champion, Jim McMahon and his Life Partner, Laurie Navon.

## CEO Corner



### Expected Changes to Medicaid Bring Opportunity to Improve Overall Level of Care

*"What makes measurement so potent is its capacity to instigate informed action – to provide the opportunity to engage in the right behavior at the right time." - Dean Spitzer, PhD*

#### From "Transforming Performance Measurement: Rethinking the Way We Measure and Drive Organizational Success"

There have been a couple of Medicaid reform Bills written and sent to the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives. The changes are focused on payment innovation by combining Community Medicaid into regular Medicaid and outcome-based reimbursement. With Medicaid expansion planned for January 1, 2015, the State of Ohio must work to get their costs in line before the federal money is no longer available for expansion. This is especially true, given that currently Ohio Medicaid cost-per-person is higher than the national average.

This is a time of great change and the availability of health insurance for more people. It also presents unprecedented opportunities, such as:

- An occasion to have an influence on the best way to roll out these changes;
- The prospect of developing a network of care that includes all services at all levels of the continuum of care; and
- The opportunity to improve job readiness to help individuals get off the Medicaid rolls.

With these combined efforts lies hope for better outcomes for the people we continue to serve.

We have time – but not very long. I believe we must act now to ensure we have the systems in place to manage the care that our patients need. As Dr. Spitzer notes, we must be able to measure our outcomes in order to make informed decisions and take the right steps.

**Connections Client Advisory Board (CAB)** has initiated a Thanksgiving food drive for 6 of Connections' patients and their families. This is a wonderful way to say we are thankful and want to share in our holiday. Thank you to the CAB.

**Thanksgiving luncheon** – November 15, 2013. On November 15, 2013 we held our Annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Luncheon. This has been a tradition at Connections for many years. It has been a time to share fellowship, acknowledge our staff and distribute service awards. The food was plentiful and outstanding! Thank you to our staff for their generous participation! We are also grateful to God's Tabernacle of Faith Family Life Center and Pastor Eppinger for opening their facility to us. Pastor, we appreciate the effort you and your staff put forward to make the event a great success.

*"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." - John F. Kennedy*

## Connections and University Hospitals Partner to Provide New Primary Care Service



Connections is proud to announce that it will now provide primary health care services at its Beachwood location! Created in partnership with University Hospitals, the new clinic opened its doors on Wednesday, November 6, 2013. The clinic will be staffed by Dr. Sybil Marsh of University Hospitals' Department of Family Medicine and will provide onsite high quality primary health care services to patients of Connections who possess medical health needs, in addition to mental health and substance abuse issues. The new services will feature an emphasis on preventative health care, including health screenings and exams, as well as treatment referrals to medical specialists when necessary. Connections would like to thank the Woodruff Foundation for generously supporting the primary care clinic with a recent \$40,000 grant over two years. After a two year development process, Connections and University Hospitals are proud to announce this important partnership, which will help improve the overall level of care and quality of life for patients.

Connections: Health • Wellness • Advocacy is a contract Agency of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County, certified by Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), and accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).



### LOCATIONS

**Connections in Beachwood**  
24200 Chagrin Boulevard  
Beachwood, OH 44122  
**216-831-6466**

**Connections in Cleveland Heights**  
Rockefeller Pointe  
2490 Lee Boulevard  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118  
**216-831-6466**

**Connections in Cleveland - West**  
3104 West 25th, 2nd floor  
Cleveland, OH 44109  
**216-831-6466**

**Connections at North Ridge Commons**  
10426 Detroit Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44102  
**216-221-1241**