

2008 Program Highlights

Collaboration and Partnerships

"The County must ensure that safety-net providers offer culturally and linguistically competent behavioral health services to Latino residents."

Recommendation from:
[BluePrint for Latino Health
in Montgomery County, Maryland 2008 – 2012](#)
Latino Health Initiative

• Montgomery Cares Behavioral Health Project (MCBHP)

This is the third year funds have been earmarked by the Montgomery County Council to support a project that provides behavioral health services in public sector primary care settings. Designed by the Department of Psychiatry's Center for Mental Health Outreach (CMHO) in partnership with Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services and the Primary Care Coalition, Inc., the MCBHP provides short-term mental health services to uninsured county residents in three primary care clinics: Proyecto Salud in Wheaton, Holy Cross Hospital Health Center in Silver Spring and Mercy Health Clinic in Gaithersburg. Clinics accept patients who are referred by their primary care practitioner and are provided: mental health assessments, medication management, short-term therapy, case management and/or appropriate referrals. Bilingual services are administered by a nurse case manager, family support worker and therapist. The CMHO provides a psychiatrist from the Department who offers education, clinical consultation and supervision. In addition, the CMHO provides input regarding program implementation, training of mental health professionals and an evaluation of the clinical and cost variables associated with the intervention. The program was initiated in December 2005.

Outreach

"Our veterans coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan are not getting enough support in transitioning back to civilian life . . ."

Jack Reed, US Senate, RI
May 2008

• Mental Health Needs of the Military

In February, US Senator Jack Reed, a former Vietnam veteran and Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, was the featured speaker for a program on *Mental Health Needs of the Military Returning from Iraq and Afghanistan* at the Army and Navy Club on Lafayette Square. Participants discussed: how communities are seeking to better serve veterans; the Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center Trauma Services Program; the Department's collaboration with the NY Veterans Administration to adopt Interpersonal Psychotherapy for women returning from tours of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq who have experienced service related trauma.

• An Evening at the Lincoln Theater

In September, the Department hosted a outreach event at the historic Lincoln Theater featuring Carrie Fisher's Arena Stage production of *Wishful Drinking*. Guests included local District of Columbia officials, healthcare administrators, providers, students, residents, consumers and their families. Ms. Fisher, who suffers from mental illness, talked with Department guests informally immediately following her performance. Proceeds benefitted the Center for Mental Health Outreach.

• Community Outreach Advisory Council

The Department continues to appreciate the ongoing support of its Community Outreach Advisory Council. The Council met in the spring to discuss the background and development activities for the Center for Mental Health Outreach.

Education and Academic Leadership

"The Court Urgent Care Clinic (first floor of the DC Superior Court) should help defendants connect with necessary mental health services, and reduce the chances of re-offending. In both ways our community will be better off."

Honorable Ann O'Regan Keary
Presiding Judge Superior Court's Criminal Division
Immediate Care Newsletter – 7/28/08
Opening of New Clinic

• Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship

In April 2005, the Department of Psychiatry was awarded a contract from the DC Department of Mental Health (DMH) for education in forensic psychiatry. The DMH has granted up to \$475,000 annually to support the training of Georgetown fellows, residents, and medical students in this psychiatric subspecialty, which focuses on interrelationships between Psychiatry and the Law. The first class of three forensic fellows completed their work this past summer and a new fellow commenced training in July. The program has a comprehensive formal didactic curricula covering the principles and foundations of forensic psychiatry in both law and science of human behavior. It emphasizes teaching of expertise in the performance of forensic evaluations in a variety of locations.

• Continuing Medical Education

• In 2008, the Department of Psychiatry hosted more than 12 Grand Rounds programs open to clinicians, providers, students, educators and the general public. Speakers included nationally recognized experts and departmental faculty. This Fall, the Department presented, *Mood Disorders in Pregnancy and Postpartum: A Clinical and Research Update*, as an extended grand rounds program. In addition, it hosted the 3rd Biennial Schizophrenia Conference on *Developmental and Cognitive Trajectories: Clinical Implications*.

• As an element of the forensic partnership, the Center for Mental Health Outreach worked closely with the DC Department of Mental Health's Saint Elizabeths Hospital to present two public programs, *Psychiatric and Legal Issues in Death Penalty Cases* and *Youth Violence: Clinical and Forensic Considerations*. In addition, the partnership coordinated a series of lectures for clinicians and staff at Saint Elizabeths.

• Monthly meetings of the Department's NIMH funded Center for Trauma and the Community (CTC) featured noted speakers on topics such as: Communication Skills Training to Improve Child/Parent Mental Health in Primary Care; Intimate Partner Violence in Different Culture Contexts; Trains, Travel and Trauma; Prisoners with Mental Illness; Comparative Effectiveness of Antidepressant Treatments.

Research

The Center for Trauma and the Community, an NIMH funded developing center, aims to develop mental health treatments for primary care settings that serve low-income patients. The following studies, funded by the federal government, are affiliated with the Center:

- Ethnographic Studies of Depression and Help-Seeking
- Trauma and Loss-Related Mental Health Needs of Latina Immigrants in Communities
- Telehealth Trauma Intervention for Low-SES Abused Women
- Aza Sisters: HIV Prevention for African American Girls
- Improving Communication between Primary Care Providers and their Trauma Patients
- Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Female Veterans with PTSD and/or Depression

The Center For Mental Health Outreach is dedicated to improving mental health care for the underserved in the Nation's Capital

Please contact for additional information and donations

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- For more information about the department: www.georgetownuniversityhospital.org/body.cfm?id=512 •
- Georgetown Center for Trauma and the Community: <http://ctc.georgetown.edu> •