

In TOUCH with the

Department of Psychiatry



Volume Four

2006 Program Highlights

December/January
2006/2007

Collaboration and Partnerships

"I recommend \$5 million in additional funding for the Montgomery Cares public/private partnership to provide healthcare for the uninsured. . . . Montgomery Cares will expand primary care office visits, provide for prescription medications, and support pilot programs for oral and behavior health. . . ."

Douglas M. Duncan
County Executive
March 2006

Montgomery Cares Mental Health Pilot

In May, the Montgomery County Council approved a \$5 million increase (to \$10 million) for Montgomery Cares, a program providing health care to uninsured County residents. This is the second year funds were earmarked to support a pilot project that provides behavioral health services in public sector primary care settings. The project, designed by the Department of Psychiatry/Center for Mental Health Outreach (CMHO) in partnership with Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services and the Primary Care Coalition, uses a collaborative care model to deliver mental health care in the primary care setting. Specifically, it focuses on the assessment and treatment of patients with depression, anxiety and PTSD. The Center has provided a psychiatrist from the Department who offers education, clinical consultation and supervision. In addition, the Center provides input regarding program implementation, training of program mental health professionals and an evaluation of the clinical and cost variables associated with the intervention. The program was initiated in December, 2005 at Proyecto Salud, a primary care clinic in Wheaton, MD. The program expanded to the Holy Cross Hospital Health Center in Silver Spring, MD in October. Further expansion is expected in 2007.

Advocacy, Policy and Public Awareness

" . . . For our city to continue to prosper we must enable our citizens to be productive by taking a comprehensive and more expansive view of the term 'health care' . . . we must commit to placing mental health on par with physical health . . ."

Mayor-Elect Adrian Fenty
District of Columbia

Town Hall Meeting: Mayoral Candidate Forum

In July, the Center for Mental Health Outreach hosted a Town Hall Meeting on "Mental Health Care for the Underserved in the District of Columbia" at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library. Consumers, family members, providers, organizational/agency representatives and advocates were afforded an opportunity to question invited DC Mayoral Candidates.

Key Partnerships Have Included . . .

- DC Department of Mental Health
- District of Columbia Primary Care Association
- Primary Care Coalition, Inc. of Montgomery County
- Department of Health and Human Services, Montgomery County, MD
- Department of Family Medicine, GU Medical Center
- National Institute of Mental Health
- Georgetown Center for Trauma and the Community
- Pathways to Housing
- Washington Psychiatric Society
- District of Columbia Psychological Association
- NAMI DC
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
- Council for Court Excellence
- Proyecto Salud Clinic
- Holy Cross Hospital Health Center
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

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

Education and Academic Leadership

"The forensic fellowship program is an exciting collaboration for DMH, St. Elizabeths and Georgetown"

Stephen Baron
Director
DC Department of Mental Health

Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship

In July, 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. Forensic trainees will perform assessments at the John Howard Pavilion of St. Elizabeths hospital as well as other local forensic sites. In addition, faculty from Georgetown will provide educational programs for DMH staff. The fellowship will be the only non-military Forensic Psychiatry fellowship in the Washington area and has been accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

Mental Health Education: DMH Training Institute

The Center continues its partnership with DMH Training Institute to provide training to providers, group home workers, clinicians and students on topics which include medication management, depression, dementia and aging.

Continuing Medical Education

The Department of Psychiatry hosted two conferences and more than 10 Grand Rounds programs open to clinicians, providers, students and educators. Speakers included nationally recognized experts and departmental faculty. Our most recent conference, "Novel and Emerging Strategies for Treating and Understanding Schizophrenia," took place in late October. The Department's NIMH funded Center for Trauma and the Community hosted "Trauma Survivors in Our Community: Integrating Mental Health into Primary Care," this past April.

Program and Clinical Consultations

"A city can be judged by how well it addresses the needs of its most vulnerable residents. Not only does the expansion of the Mental Health Court help address public safety by easing the load on our jail system, but it also helps ensure that persons with mental disabilities are treated fairly and with respect"

Phil Mendelson
Member-at-Large, Council of the
District of Columbia
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary

District of Columbia Criminal Justice System

The CMHO has consulted with local government and court officials to provide advice on the feasibility of creating a mental health court for the District. As a result of these discussions the Center completed a report: "The Interface of Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System in the District of Columbia: Analysis and Recommendations," commissioned by DC's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. The report includes an analysis and recommendations regarding the interface of mental illness and the criminal justice system in the District.

Forensic Evaluations

The Department has embarked on an agreement with the Medical Services Division of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City to provide court ordered juvenile competency evaluations for the Juvenile Courts of Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties.

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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