

2007 Program Highlights

Collaboration and Partnerships

I recommend a 20 percent increase in our Montgomery Cares program to provide access to health care for 20,000 more low-income uninsured residents.

—Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive

• Montgomery Cares Behavioral Health Project (MCBHP)

This is the second 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.

• Forensic Evaluations

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

Funding Sources Have Included . . .

- Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation
- Gulf Coast Community Foundation
- St. Bartholomew's Catholic Church
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
- The Washington Home
- DC Department of Mental Health
- Department of Health and Human Services, Montgomery County, MD

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
- Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents
- National Institute of Mental Health
- Washington Hospital Center
- NAMI DC
- Washington Psychiatric Society
- District of Columbia Psychological Association
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
- Council for Court Excellence
- Veterans Affairs Medical Center
- Family and Child Services of Washington DC
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Pathways to Housing DC

Education and Academic Leadership

Mental health services are a vital component of our healthcare infrastructure. We have a responsibility to ensure that our residents have access to effective, efficient, and competent mental health services.

—David Catania, Member-at-Large, Council of the District of Columbia Chair, Committee on Health

• 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. Three forensic fellows began their work this past summer by seeing patients at Saint Elizabeths Hospital and testifying in court. With the DMH, they are working on a study to monitor the outpatient competency to stand trial restoration program and preparing treatment recommendations for the District's mental health court. Next April, the fellows will be presenting a paper at the American College of Forensic Psychiatry's Annual meeting on *Panetti's Rational Understanding of Mental Illness: Denial and the Death Penalty*.

• Continuing Medical Education

In 2007, the Department of Psychiatry hosted more than 10 Grand Rounds programs open to clinicians, providers, students, educators and the general public. Speakers included nationally recognized experts and departmental faculty. The Center for Mental Health Outreach worked closely with the DC Department of Mental Health, as a part of the Forensic Fellowship program, to present two public programs, "Current State of Involuntary Mental Health Treatment in the District of Columbia" and "Forensic Evaluations: A Focus on Cultural Considerations." In addition, DC Department of Mental Health's Saint Elizabeths Hospital hosted a series of lectures for clinicians and staff, also a part of the fellowship. The Department's NIMH funded Center for Trauma and the Community (CTC) hosted a conference, "Stress, Trauma and Health" this past October. In addition, the CTC's monthly meetings featured noted speakers on topics such as: Preventing Postpartum Depression in High Risk Latina; Legal Issues Surrounding Research with Vulnerable Populations; and HIV/AIDS, Trauma, and the Impact of Communities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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
- HIV and Substance Use Prevention for African American Girls
- A First Line Community-Based Mindfulness Trauma Intervention
- Methods of Screening, Recruitment, and Retention
- Risks and Outcomes of Enhanced Consent in Psychobiological Trauma Research

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

- 3800 Reservoir Road, NW, 520 Kober-Cogan Bldg. Washington, DC 20007 • phone 202.687.0949 • fax 202.687.8577 • spp3@gunet.georgetown.edu •
- For more information about the department: www.georgetownuniversityhospital.org/body.cfm?id=512 •
- Georgetown Center for Trauma and the Community: <http://ctc.georgetown.edu> •