NEW NCEF CHILDREN’S MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE PROPELS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FORWARD

From the CEO
Scott Burgess

Holism is the idea that natural systems (physical, biological, spiritual, social, economic, mental, etc.) and their properties should be viewed as wholes, not as collections of parts. In the world of healthcare, we have a serious breakdown in holistic views of treatment. Mental healthcare is not adequately integrated into the broader healthcare spectrum and conversely those with mental health challenges often do not get adequate physical care. This circumstance results in a great human and economic toll. For example, persons with serious mental illness die, on average, 25 years earlier than those in the general population, often the result of untreated chronic medical conditions.

“The integration of medical and behavioral healthcare proves to be the most effective, holistic approach to caring for people with multiple healthcare needs and produces the best clinical outcomes.”

– SCOTT BURGESS, CEO

Prompted by healthcare reform, there is a new emphasis related to integration of medical and behavioral healthcare. Implementing integration and wellness strategies is just one of our strategic priorities laid out in the draft of our new 3-year strategic plan. With the announcement of the recent Children’s Mental Health Initiative grant from the Naples Children and Education Foundation, we are well on our way.

Through this grant, a team of talented professionals from DLC, Florida State University College of Medicine and Healthcare Network of SW Florida have been brought together to fill a significant and important void to create better integrated care and improved access to mental healthcare. This program integrates mental health treatment with local pediatric practices and other primary care professionals and strengthens the links among providers. By integrating behavioral and primary care we make it less threatening to visit with a behavioral health provider directly in the pediatric office where the family is already comfortable with their pediatrician.

This initiative also advances several other strategic priorities including enhancing alliances, community collaborations and partnerships; growing child and adolescent services; increasing access to care; and expanding development efforts and financial resource enhancement.
PROGRAM NEWS
Domestic Violence Grant Funds New Collaboration with The Shelter

The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence has awarded a grant to The Shelter for Abused Women and Children (The Shelter) to fund onsite counseling to survivors of domestic violence utilizing a DLC Licensed Clinician. The Center will treat Shelter participants seeking substance abuse counseling and co-facilitate onsite weekly support groups at the emergency shelter.

The grant will advance the support available to victims of domestic violence in our community.

Through the expanded partnership, DLC will also serve on The Shelter’s Multidisciplinary Collaborative Planning and Development Team to examine the intersection of domestic violence and

SUCCESS STORY

Jackie grew up in a self-described “dysfunctional” family. Her mother was in denial of her own mental health problems and ignored serious warning signs in Jackie, who struggled with crippling anxiety and depression.

When she finally sought help from a DLC psychiatrist, Jackie resisted other therapies convinced she didn’t need it. After a divorce, failed attempts at employment and bouncing from place to place, she shared, “I finally gave in and said I need help.”

Jackie was diagnosed with borderline personality disorder which affects how a person feels about themselves, how they relate to others and how they behave. Jackie

“No one has ever helped me the way that I am being helped. I’ve struggled for so long. It is hard to believe there is help out there for people who need it.”

– JACKIE

was nearly homeless when she was arrested for driving with a suspended license. She qualified for assistance from the Forensic Reintegration Support Team, which provides services to select inmates to achieve rehabilitation and reintegration.

Jackie’s new case manager immediately got to work helping her with everything from a Thanksgiving dinner and rental assistance to securing permanent housing and getting her furniture and clothes from our Encore Resale Shop.

With shaking hands she adds, “I needed everything. It is hard for me to get out and do things for myself. I was extremely indecisive and scared, but the Encore manager was so helpful. I never would have been able to do this on my own.” Together, they picked out furniture and clothes.

With increased self-confidence and security, she’s ready to start a new life. Her case manager is now linking her with vocational rehabilitation to help her get a job and dialectical behavior therapy, a new cutting edge experiential psychotherapy proven affective for her disorder.

“The Shelter has enjoyed a long standing partnership with the DLC, and this grant will serve to further enhance this important relationship.”

– LINDA OBERHAUS, SHELTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David Lawrence Center is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization and is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. The Center is funded in part by the State of Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Collier County Department of Housing, Human and Veteran Services, and private donations made through the fundraising efforts of the David Lawrence Foundation.
DLC Receives National Recognition

DLC has been honored with the Chairman’s Award (2nd Place nationwide) for the 2014 Annual Negley Award theme “Management of Cyber Risk.” The purpose of the annual Negley Awards is to facilitate sharing and recognition of creative, high quality behavioral health care practices. The national awards program provided the Center a $5,000 cash grant for its outstanding achievements in cyber risk management strategies.

The submission was presented at the Mental Health Corporations of America’s Annual Conference in Clearwater by Faron Richards, Information Technology Director, and Sharie Boscaglia, Quality Improvement Director. Their presentation focused on the development of a risk analysis process that was implemented to assess and identify cyber risk and security of electronically transmitted, protected health information on a daily, monthly and yearly basis.

This is the fourth time the Center has been chosen as a Negley Award recipient since the program’s inception. In 2010, the Center won the Chairman’s Award for their theme of “Minimizing Medication Errors” and again in 2012 for “Keeping People Safe.” In 1991, the Center was the sole award winner of the first ever Negley Award.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

NAMI Walk Supported by DL “Sea” of Blue

Riding on the waves of energy from beginning a new year with a new CEO, DLC employees, families, supporters, board members and clients made a splash at the 2014 NAMI Walk with the largest team of the year! With 123 walkers – not including our four-legged supporters – we broke a personal record for the most participants in twelve years further demonstrating what an amazing staff we have. In addition to an ocean of blue t-shirts, the DLC sponsor table hosted a spirit booth fit with DLC tattoos and balloons, and held decorating contests to encourage the fun and camaraderie in support one of our most invaluable community partners.
Running in Support of Mental Wellness
On a beautiful March morning the Young Executives and Gulf Coast Runners hosted a sunrise run on Naples Beach. The Beach Bum 5k led nearly 300 participants through the sand and waves at Lowdermilk Park in a race that raised more than $1,500 for the Center’s Mental Health First Aid prevention program.

Marilyn Proves that Benevolence is Fashionable
At Marilyn’s European Fashion Exhibition, guests were transported to the designer cities of Paris, Venice, Rome, Madrid, London and Milan without even leaving the runway! An intimate trunk show allowed guests to take part in high fashion while enjoying the 1950’s-era, Parisian entertainment, fit with hors d’oeuvres and champagne. The sold-out event on Fifth Avenue South raised $6,000 to support the life-changing wellness programs at David Lawrence Center.

Waterside Shops Shares the Wealth with DLC
As part of their First Fridays giving program, Waterside Shops donated 5% of all purchases to DLC while Escales Paris generously donated an additional 10%. The evening’s VIP soirée included wine, hors d’oeuvres and camaraderie in the name of philanthropy. Charitable customers shopped with a purpose and made donations to float stars in the fountains helping to raise more than $1,300 for the DLC mission.
FACT:
As a result of the new NCEF Children’s Mental Health Initiative, in Immokalee we have seen an increase of 22% in children’s services and 54% in children’s psychiatric services since the program began and our new board certified Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Dr. Maribel Rivera was hired through the grant funding.

MUSIC FESTIVAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM PLANNED
NOVEMBER 15, 2014

On Saturday afternoon, this November at the Naples Botanical Gardens, the Center will host a new and exciting event like no other in Collier County, Sound Minds™, a music festival and mental health symposium in partnership with IMHRo. The symposium is modeled after the wildly successfully Music Festival for Brain Health held at the Staglin Family Vineyard in Napa Valley each year for the last 20 years.

Begin your day interacting with featured scientists and professionals at the symposium. Then feed your senses with wine tasting and hors d’oeuvres, followed by live music at the concert. You may even choose to pair your experience with an exclusive dinner featuring harmonious couplings of Staglin Family Vineyard wines. This symposium will highlight up-to-the-minute brain science with talks by scientists and mental health advocates: Dr. Carrie Bearden, UCLA, Dr. Scott Russo, Mount Sinai, Dr. Scott Haltzman of DLC and Brandon Staglin of IMHRo and the Staglin Family Vineyard. Proceeds from sponsorships and music festival and dinner ticket sales will allow us to make this Symposium free and open to the public.

DLC YOUNG EXECUTIVES SUNSET CRUISE
JUNE 12, 2014

This June, climb aboard the Naples Princess with the DLC Young Executives from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. for an evening of festivities in support of mental health. Set sail with music, drinks and hors d’oeuvres, and a captivating Naples sunset with our friends and supporters.

Tickets are $40 in advance and $50 the day of the event and the price includes one drink ticket and a two hour sunset cruise. Don’t miss the boat! This event sells out every year.

DESTINATION-THEMED SIGNATURE GALA
JANUARY 17, 2015

The 2015 Gala Co-Chairs have been named! Board member Caryn Buechel had so much fun last year as co-chair she’s back at that helm and joined by seasoned committee member Jenny Haire and newcomer and wife of our new CEO Renae Burgess. This dynamic trio is building their committee and planning has already begun for what is sure to be another spectacular journey to a far away destination. Dying to know this year’s port of call? In 2015, we’ll take you to historic, majestic Greece at the “Signatures of Greece... An Evening at the Parthenon” Annual Gala.

DLC Annual Report Now Online

Our 2012-2013 Annual Report to the Community entitled “HOPE” celebrates the Center’s successes and demonstrates how our programs offer hope and healing that inspires life-changing wellness. The report acknowledges the generosity of the hundreds of donors, listed in its pages and is available at DavidLawrenceCenter.org or by calling the Foundation at 239-354-1434.
The most common donations to charities are outright gifts, such as cash or a check. However, if you wish to hold on to your assets to be sure you can meet your family’s future financial needs, there are exceptional alternatives that allow you to still make a gift – in many cases a much larger gift than you thought was possible.

“Planned” gifts are gifts that are planned in advance for the future benefit of the David Lawrence Center. Planned gifts are popular because of the financial flexibility and tax benefits they provide. There are several options to help you make wise and prudent gifts. Planned gifts can be revocable so you can change your mind at any time, or, they can be irrevocable – just as outright gifts are – so that you benefit from an immediate income tax deduction.

The most common planned gift is simply providing for the David Lawrence Center in your will.

Giving by bequest costs nothing now, yet it may give you a great deal of satisfaction to know that your future gift will live on.

The most important thing you can do for yourself and your loved ones is to draw up a will. Secondly, it is important to have your attorney review your estate plans regularly, as federal tax law, state probate and estate regulations often change.

If you have already included the David Lawrence Center in your will, please let us know so we can include you in the David Lawrence Society.

If you are considering a planned gift, please consult with your financial advisor and your attorney. They can advise you on the most effective way to plan your estate according to your wishes.

“My deep appreciation for the David Lawrence Center inspired me to put the center in my will so that, even in my passing, I can continue to help those in need of mental health care.”

– ALVERNA, DLC EMPLOYEE

For more information on making a planned gift to the David Lawrence Center, please contact Aaron Lapp in the David Lawrence Center Development Office at 239-354-1419.

This information is not intended as legal advice. For legal advice, please consult an attorney.
In honor of May’s Mental Health Month and our strategic priority of integrating mental health and physical healthcare, let’s focus on how we can care for our mind and body to improve our overall wellness. We all know about the importance of taking care of our health – eating right, getting enough sleep, exercising. These healthy habits positively influence both how our body functions and how we feel. Positive health and wellness involves not only caring for our body, but also our mind.

The fact is our mental health is integral to our overall health. Far too many Americans fail to see the correlation, yet these two aspects are inexplicitly intertwined.

When a person’s mental health and wellness is optimal, they can better manage issues that come their way. By contrast, when mental health is more compromised – such as feeling overwhelmed by stress – day-to-day life can become very difficult.

Less than optimal mental health can significantly harm a person’s physical health. Studies show that people who feel depressed or chronically stressed are at a greater risk of physical illnesses. For instance, research demonstrates that stress is closely linked to high blood pressure, heart disease and obesity.

A healthy lifestyle can help ameliorate some of the symptoms of depression, anxiety and other mental health conditions, as well as heart disease, diabetes, obesity and other chronic health problems. It can also help people recover from these conditions.

“Studies show that people who feel depressed or chronically stressed are at a greater risk of physical illnesses.”
– MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA

There are many healthy choices and steps we can adopt to promote and strengthen mental health – and overall health and well-being. These include getting regular exercise, eating right, building social support, recognizing the signs of stress, reaching out for help and support through counseling if needed. Remember one in four Americans will experience a significant mental health challenge. There should be no shame associated with seeking care in any realm of building health including mental health.

In honor of Memorial Day, we invite you to become a permanent part of the beautiful new entrance of our recently renovated Admission Services building where all new clients come for an initial assessment. Help pave the way towards positive, life-changing wellness and leave a lasting impression on this community. Use your brick to honor and celebrate someone special, or memorialize someone dear to you. Your brick could be engraved with your family name, a business, someone special’s name and sentiment, an outstanding co-worker, or in memoriam. Commemorative brick pavers cost $100. The 8”x 4” paver and can be engraved with three (3) lines of text with 18 characters per line. To purchase a paver, call 354-1434 or use the inscription form online at DavidLawrenceCenter.org under the Your Help, Waves to Give page.
ENCORE NEWS

Volunteers Feed Donation Acquisitions; We Need You

Donations are the lifeblood of Encore’s success. Revenue from the store supports the Center’s mental health and substance abuse services. In addition, families in need enrolled in the Center’s community-based programs and affordable housing units, can receive furniture and clothing donations. From helping one depressed child’s family who lost their home in a fire to helping a near homeless client get back on their feet after leaving the crisis unit, Encore donations are impacting lives. Who knew a couch or a chair could do so much good?

Our dedicated volunteers not only help manage the day to day operations of the store, but some are dedicated to helping with specific tasks such as the acquisitions of donated items. These volunteers help extend Encore’s outreach efforts and seek new opportunities and relationships for obtaining high quality merchandise. Relationships with a variety of vendors, social and civic groups, gated communities, churches, real estate offices, trust and estate attorneys, condo associations, etc. are wonderful audiences to secure donation relationships with.

Invaluable volunteers like Jean Bellezzo, a retired teacher, are making a big difference in the stores and so can you. She has been volunteering at Encore for that last two years. She loves what she does because she enjoys being out and about and meeting new people. As a recent widow, Jean shares, “Volunteering at Encore keeps me busy, social and feeling fulfilled.” Her talents and hard work in acquisitions and outreach have helped transform the store’s inventory.

Encore is currently building a new Encore Acquisitions Committee. If you are interested in helping in this capacity and serving on a committee to seek new opportunities for donation relationships, please contact Kim Mayeu, Encore Manager at 775-0032.