

Toward Health and Wholeness

2016-2017 Report to Central District Conference

Oaklawn's mission statement describes "joining with individuals, families and our community on the journey toward health and wholeness." The best way to participate in that journey is to go beyond the walls of Oaklawn and into the community. That's why we continue to develop innovative partnerships that extend our reach and provide training and education to both professionals and those on the frontlines of this important work.

Expanding mental health services

Some innovative efforts this year that aim to extend health and wholeness in our communities:

FUSE (Frequent Users Systems Engagement) – In partnership with the South Bend Heritage Foundation and the city of South Bend, there will be a new supportive housing community for the homeless built in South Bend, with mental health and addiction services provided on-site by Oaklawn professionals. The apartment complex will have 32 units and operates on a "housing first" model, which centers on the idea that people are more likely to participate in treatment when they have a safe place to live. The project is under way and expected to open in 2017.

Telepsych services – Oaklawn has partnered with Goshen Health to virtually embed one of our clinicians at the Anglemeyer clinic in Nappanee. He provides assessments and short-term services via videoconference. It's an effective and efficient means of extending services into the community, and this pilot allows us to test the sustainability of the model, with hopes of expanding it.

Medication Assisted Treatment – A HRSA grant has enabled a new partnership between Oaklawn and Maple City Health Care to provide medication assisted treatment, a relatively new and effective approach to addictions that brings together medication and treatment in a very intentional way. Oaklawn psychiatrists provide consultation and addiction staff provide assessments and treatment at Maple City.

Certified Recovery Specialists – Oaklawn has added several Certified Recovery Specialists to our staff. These specialists are themselves in recovery from a mental illness or addiction and specially-trained to help others on their journeys. We believe their "lived experience" provides invaluable insight and inspiration, ultimately leading to better outcomes for clients.

\$5 million SAMHSA grant boosts system of care

Elkhart County's system of care, The SOURCE, was awarded a prestigious \$5 million federal grant to strengthen partnerships, improve access and empower families. The SOURCE is a multi-agency network of programs and services for youth with mental health or behavioral challenges and their families.

Oaklawn will lead the project, which has six key initiatives: improving access among "front-door" organizations, early identification of at-risk youth, early childhood expertise and consultation, better access to mental health services for youth in the juvenile justice system and juvenile justice diversion, community education and cultural competency and evaluation.

Educating the community

Oaklawn values professional expertise – both for the development of our staff and the benefit of the community. In 2016, Oaklawn held 20 local training events. In May, we hosted 500 attendees at a suicide prevention event featuring Dr. Thomas Joiner, renowned suicide expert and psychologist, and Kevin Hines, suicide survivor. Other trainings focused on medication assisted addiction treatment, Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid, non-suicidal self-injury and community-wide diversity training. Through education and awareness, we help create a safer community for everyone.

Counsel from the church

Oaklawn is one of 14 organizations sponsored by Mennonite Health Services, which appoints our CEO and board members, approves any changes to the by-laws and gives helpful direction and support. CEO Laurie Nafziger serves as the MHS board chair. We value the counsel we receive from our corporate and Foundation boards, as well as our Faith and Mental Health Advisory Board.

Submitted by:
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