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Central Clinic
Behavioral Health

FALL 2022

“The importance of the upcoming mental health levy cannot be overstated. We must stay focused on passing this vitally important levy which will enable Central Clinic Behavioral Health and all our sister agencies to increase service capacity so that we may be the safety net for those in need.”

Walter S. Smitson, Ph.D.
President/CEO



Message from the President/CEO & Chair of the Board

Welcome to the fall 2022 newsletter. So much has impacted the behavioral health field broadly and right here at Central Clinic Behavioral Health.

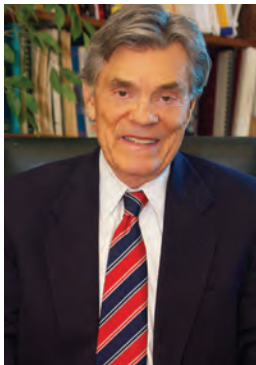
The COVID 19 pandemic continues to impact our world, and within the behavioral health system it has created an unprecedented need for behavioral health and substance use disorder services. The Ohio Council tells us that marijuana use is at record levels among young adults. In November 2022, the Hamilton County Mental Health Levy will be on the ballot, and it is our responsibility as a community to support it. This levy supports local services for people from all walks of life to make our communities healthier and safer.

Anxiety, depression, suicidality, and drug overdoses all increased during the pandemic and do not show signs of abating. Given the enormous increase in people from all demographics and all backgrounds requesting help, we must be able to increase our capacity to provide mental health counseling to those in need.

The Hamilton County Mental Health Levy has been approved by the county commissioners for an increase in millage, something that has not occurred since 2008. Without approval of voters for this increase, current service levels cannot be maintained, let alone respond to the increased number of children, families and adults seeking help.

Providers of behavioral health services work in close collaboration and partnership with many organizations in the community. This includes child welfare, the court system, police and fire departments, schools and universities, hospitals, and the developmental disabilities system, along with so many other community partners. All are invested in keeping all residents safe and healthy, and connected to needed services.

The importance of the upcoming mental health levy cannot be overstated. We must stay focused on passing this vitally important levy which will enable Central Clinic Behavioral Health and all our sister agencies to increase service capacity so that we may be the safety net for those in need.



Walter S. Smitson

Walter S. Smitson, Ph.D.
President & CEO



Michael O. Chaney

Michael O. Chaney
Chair of the Board



Our mission is to provide choices and options through a compassionate approach to behavioral health services that results in lasting recovery and resiliency for children, families, and adults.

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Adult Services

Promoted and New Staff

The work in the Adult Services division continues to increase as we change the lives of people in greater Cincinnati. Much of this increase is due to the lingering pandemic, but it is also due to innovative ways the personnel deliver behavioral health services. There were several strategic decisions made over the past few months that resulted in two departmental promotions. Nelly Rimini, the division director, is excited to announce that Kimberly Mages, who served as assistant director, has been promoted to chief clinical officer (CCO) for Central Clinic Behavioral Health. Ms. Mages, who is working on her doctorate, began her career in 2008 as a case manager. She will continue to work in two divisions – Adult Services and Court Clinic.



Bianca Ruffin will take over Ms. Mages' intake responsibilities and she will now supervise the intake team. Ms. Ruffin began her tenure in 2016 as a therapist.

New to the team in a therapist capacity are Amber Phillips and Elizabeth Staab.

Top Photo: Kimberly Mages

Bottom Photo: Bianca Ruffin



Child & Family Treatment Center



We salute Local 12 for helping us break the mental health stigma – thank you for telling our patient/client's story.

Community Foundation Support Means Everything To Children And Youth

The Child and Family Treatment Center (CFTC) is grateful to the Andrew Jergens Foundation, a private fund within the Greater Cincinnati Foundation for funding received, which will increase capacity to provide mental health services to children and youth. This funding will allow us to serve more children and youth who are in need of mental health services, but are unable to pay.

There are many children with behavioral/adjustment problems who need mental health services, but they do not have health insurance or their families cannot afford the cost. For some, their parent(s) work hard and their income is too high to qualify for Medicaid and while they may have private health insurance, the copayments required for mental health services are too expensive resulting in their children not having access to counseling.

These children, like undocumented Latino children with no health insurance, have a major financial barrier to mental health services. We are pleased to be able to serve children and youth who do not have insurance and those who do have insurance but cannot afford to pay their copays or deductibles – and we can do this thanks to The Andrew Jergens Foundation.

CDC Behavioral Health

Staff Advancements

CDC Behavioral Health in Butler County continues to experience growth and respond nimbly to the changing needs of the community. We believe in promoting from within our organization when possible and have recently promoted several staff members.

Nina Ellington was promoted from SAMI (Substance Abuse Mental Illness) referral coordinator to CDC administrative manager. Nina has been with the organization roughly six years and shows exemplary leadership skills.

David Brown has been with the Central Clinic Behavioral Health for four years and was promoted to case management supervisor in addition to his SAMI assessor/clinical coordinator role. His case management team is thriving under his supervision and will add group case management services in the next year.

Genevieve Sofranec has been with the team for roughly two years and was promoted from a therapist role at our Hamilton site to an Employment Success Program (ESP) assessor where she uses her finely tuned engagement and assessment skills to bring hope to Butler County residents looking to find sustainable employment at a livable wage.

Drema Keyer has been with us for two and a half years and was promoted from ESP administrative assistant to the ESP coordinator where she will lead the Employment Success Program team with her high level of organization and excellent team building skills. We are hoping to add at least two more therapists in the coming months and are excited about what the future brings.

Left to right: David Brown, Genevieve Sofranec, Drema Keyer, Nina Ellington



New 988 Hotline

Reimagining Crisis Response Systems in the U.S.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved the designation of a new, 3-digit national number (988) for mental health emergencies.

Learn how the 988 hotline is inspiring the restructuring of crisis response systems in the U.S.

Funder Gratitude

Central Clinic Behavioral Health relies on the generosity of the greater Cincinnati community for financial support. Contributions received support programs and services.

We salute the following foundations who invested in our mission from 4/1/2022 – 9/1/2022:

Greater Cincinnati Foundation – Thomas Emery Memorial Fund
Greater Cincinnati Foundation – The Andrew Jergens Foundation
The Spaulding Foundation
State of Ohio (COVID-19/Beat the Stigma grant)

We salute our long-term funding partners as well:

Butler County Job and Family Services, Clermont County Job and Family Services, Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and United Way of Greater Cincinnati.

Thank you to the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services

for awarding funds to help us reduce mental health stigma. Their generosity funded radio ads and billboards.

Niños también sufren de ansiedad. Pida ayuda.

Central Clinic Behavioral Health

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You are not alone. LGBTQ+ services offered here.

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