



SUMMER 2023

Dr. Walter S. Smitson, president/CEO receives the Behavioral Health Legacy Award from Michael Cheney, Board Chair.

1923 ANNIVERSARY 2023
100
years

What a difference 100 years makes!

What began in 1923 has evolved over the past 100 years into an award-winning behavioral health services organization serving nearly 18,000 people per year – Central Clinic Behavioral Health.



Message from the President/CEO & Chair of the Board

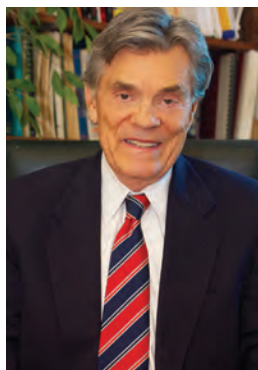
What a difference 100 years makes! What began in 1923 has evolved over the past 100 years into an award-winning behavioral health services organization serving nearly 18,000 people per year – Central Clinic Behavioral Health.

Established in 1923 with a five-year, \$30,000 investment from Community Chest (now United Way), Central Clinic Behavioral Health (CCBH) was the first mental health nonprofit organization in the State of Ohio and one of the only community clinics serving both children and adults. Central Psychiatric Clinic, its original name, received national attention because it provided community-based mental health services for children — a different approach for treating patients at that time. The uniqueness of CCBH is evident in every service delivered – every patient/client experiences hope. Services are accessible, individualized, effective, consumer-oriented, recovery/resiliency-based, and trauma-informed.

A centennial in business deserves celebration. We kicked off the year with an event celebrating our personnel – they are the ones who make it happen every day at CCBH. This special edition of our newsletter focuses on our 100th anniversary. While every employee – every therapist – every funder – every stakeholder is vital to our success, we have invited division directors and administrative personnel to share their thoughts around this milestone.

Dr. Walter S. Smitson, president/CEO has announced his retirement. Dr. Smitson has made an extraordinary impact on CCBH during his 55-year tenure. Dr. Smitson joined Central Psychiatric Clinic (now Central Clinic Behavioral Health) as an assistant professor at the University of Cincinnati's Department of Psychiatry in 1967 and has been its president/CEO since 1973. Driven by a passion for helping people reach their full potential, Dr. Smitson expanded Central Clinic's reach, budget, and staff, increasing the Clinic's budget from \$500,000 to \$20 million and growing its professional staff from 35 to 250 (plus psychiatric residents from UC's College of Medicine in addition to social work, counseling, and psychology interns from area universities).

Enjoy this special edition and please know that we are profoundly grateful to personnel, donors, funders, key stakeholders, and most of all, our patients/clients who put their behavioral health care in our hands every day. **Thank you.**



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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Central Clinic Behavioral Health

311 Albert Sabin Way
Cincinnati, OH 45229

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Photo Credit: Mark Bowen Media

Left to Right, Clockwise: Trish Smitson reacts as her husband, Dr. Walter S. Smitson, president/CEO speaks; Jimmy Burrow of the Joe Burrow Foundation addresses the audience; Liz Bonis, Local 12 News addresses the audience; Jasmine Parker wins a door prize; John Brinker wins a door prize; Senior leadership left to right: Kim Mages, Barb Namett, Dr. Maria Piombo, and Nelly Rimini; Board members Ron Hitzler and Grace Penn.



Adult Services

We are so proud to celebrate this milestone with our staff. Our outstanding team of mental health professionals help adults affected by stress, trauma, and mental health issues to heal, recover, and lead better lives. Celebrating 100 years of service is a testament to the on-going quality and dedication of our staff and to meeting important needs of the residents of our community.

Nelly Rimini, LISW-S | Director

Child & Family Treatment Center

The Child & Family Treatment Center continues to innovate in ways that bridge service gaps in the community and allows the team to make transformative changes. Thank you to our funders who continue to support the work we do now and for the next 100 years.

Maria Piombo, Ed.D., LPCC-S | Director



CDC Behavioral Health Services

CDC Behavioral Health offers individualized treatment by highly trained clinicians. We remain flexible to be able to serve the needs in our community and are grateful to be part of an agency that has been a leader in behavioral health for 100 years.

Jennifer Wlodarczyk, LCDCIII | Director

It is our intention at the Family Healing Center to focus on today with the hope that our impact will last another 100 years.

Vanessa Brown, LPCC-S, LICDC, CTP-C | Clinical/Program Director | Family Healing Center



Court Clinic

It was one of my best decisions when I joined the Central Clinic Behavioral Health family in 2006. The TASC program, where I provide impact, has increased staff and referrals to continue to meet the needs of the underserved criminal justice population in Hamilton County. Without the strong leadership of Central Clinic for the past 100 years, none of this would be possible.

Ken Becker, LCDCIII TASC/CCRS | Director
(Treatment Alternatives to Street Crimes/Court Clinic Recovery Services)

The 100th anniversary of Central Clinic Behavioral Health highlights the mission we have been able to accomplish and continue pursuing at Court Clinic, serving individuals and families involved in the criminal justice system. Through our Alternative Intervention programs, we have adapted to the needs of the community and provide much needed dual-diagnosis treatment services that have a lasting impact on so many lives.

Madison Hollar, LPCC/LOCDC | Alternative Interventions Program Director



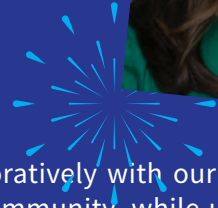
Central Connection

The excitement of celebrating 100 years as a behavioral health provider was palpable – the conversation was buzzing as we thought of the impact on our community over the last century. We are looking forward to the next 100 and being a part of the growth of the Clinic – especially this year as we see Mental Health Access Point rebrand as Central Connection, and expand into providing integrated substance use and mental health care.

Shelley Batch, LISW-S | Director

While stating the number of clients served is critical to describe our services, ultimately it is the impact of those services that matters most. Are our patients/clients better? Did we make a difference? Did we help our clients fully live their lives? Evaluating our impact is a difficult task because it forces us to measure a qualitative and rich experience by drilling it down to a quantitative result. This is a challenging, but necessary process that allows others to understand its importance and to support it.

Barbara Bergan, LPCC | Director of Outcomes & Performance Improvement



As we traverse into the next 100 years, I look forward to working collaboratively with our workforce to inspire innovation and continue to adapt to the changing needs of our community, while upholding the vision that has made CCBH what it is today. The 100th anniversary celebration provided an opportunity to shed light onto the impact Central Clinic Behavioral Health has had on meeting the needs of the community, by consistently providing state of the art services.

Kimberly Mages, LPCC-S | Chief Clinical Officer

Funder Gratitude

Central Clinic Behavioral Health relies on the generosity of the greater Cincinnati community for financial support. We are grateful to all of our donors. The board and all personnel salute those donors who paid tribute to our 100th Anniversary celebration and Dr. Smitson's retirement announcement:

Jim & Marcia Anderson
Robert Buechner
Pamela & Kenneth Carl
CoFre Family Foundation
Cynthia and Steve Drefahl
Dianne Dunkelman
Robert Garwood
Lenore Hatfield
Andrew Jergens Foundation,
(part of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation)
Laurie & C.H. Maguire
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Drew Morgan
Joseph & Mary Lou Rimsky
Scott Rubenstein
Michael Walton
Geraldine Warner
Judge John & Miriam West
Geraldine Warner
Judge John & Miriam West

List current as of July 6, 2023

We are grateful to our long-term funding partners as well as they are a large part of our 100 years in business:

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.





Photo Credit: Mark Bowen Media

Left to Right, Clockwise: Danielle Stanton, assistant to the president/CEO greets JoAnn Clifton, Centennial Award winner; Liz Bonis, Local 12 anchor interviews Kim Mages, chief clinical officer; Centennial Award winners: Gail Hellmann, Jerry O'Flynn, JoAnn Clifton, Sean Pennington, Tracy Sickles, and Kathy Fields; Jimmy Burrow with the Joe Burrow Foundation, Liz Bonis with Local 12 News, and Jim Anderson, Central Clinic Behavioral Health board member; Staff enjoying the luncheon left to right: Scott Pickens, Angel Cook, Amanda Combs, Joslynn Pretty, and Jennifer Wlodarczyk; Jimmy Burrow with the Joe Burrow Foundation and Dr. Walter S. Smitson, president/CEO.