



EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

INFOCUS

VOLUME 1 | SUMMER 2015

Webinar Report to Staff

Improving Operating Efficiency & Technology

Alan Weinstock, CEO and Bob Hettenbach, President, presented a Webinar on June 11th. They discussed key issues facing PSCH.



Enhancing technology empowers families and participants to take an active role in planning their future.

IMPROVING THE BOTTOM LINE

The \$46M Bond Refinance (for many of our buildings) was completed in June, with PSCH refinancing its existing bonds at a lower interest rate. This will save approximately \$300-400K annually and underscores the confidence that the refinance company has in PSCH. We have allocated \$3 million for repairs and maintenance, such as for H.V.A.C. systems, on buildings we own. PSCH recently gave a 2% pay

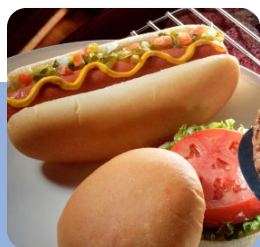
increase to all employees, together with a contribution to the employee pension plan. We would like to do even more for employees – and we hope to do so in the future.

SEEKING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

PSCH is now looking for additional mission-driven opportunities to enhance our position in the community. All of the Article 31 clinics have successfully been transitioned to other providers.

Article 16 clinics had financial issues, with a model that does not appear to work for any provider, and we are working with the NY State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to transfer our clients to existing vacancies. PSCH wants to be clinically relevant, but not with clinics – so we are looking at new ways to provide clinical care, as we focus on core competencies.

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Triumph Over Adversity



4 Shopping on Amazon Helps PSCH Help You

Summer Picnic Celebrates Recovery

The PSCH Mental Health Staff Invites Program Participants to a Day In the Park



Staff and participants enjoy a perfect day celebrating and enjoying the freedom that recovery brings.

MH Consumers Celebrate their Recovery with a Picnic

The sun shone brightly on the second of July as PSCH Mental Health Services programs held its Annual Consumer Picnic at Forest Park.

Tables were filled with inviting summer fare - salads, sandwiches and chips. Staff and participants sang songs, enjoyed their friends and gave thanks for the steps they have made in their recovery. ■

A BBQ Fit for A Rancher

On June 18th, the Pederson-Krag Wyandanch Addiction Recovery Services program held their annual Sober Socialization BBQ for program members and their families.

The response was overwhelmingly positive, with a record-breaking turnout. Special thanks to the Wyandanch ARS team for creating an outstanding event, complete with great food, gifts for the children and plenty of laughter. The Wyandanch ARS team created a model which showed us all how a good time can always be substance free. ■



Deanne and Charles stoke up the fire for the BBQ burgers and hot dogs enjoyed by all.



A Story of TRIUMPH Over Adversity

“I came to PSCH in 2002, on my birthday. I was in Covenant House before coming to PSCH, due to my mother’s passing in 2000. Then, I lost my apartment and ended up in Covenant House in 2001. There, I was part of their Mental Health unit and applied to PSCH. They interviewed me and loved me so much that I had another interview the next day. This is how I came to PSCH – and my reason for being a social worker. Social work became a part of my life, with my mother being a sort of counselor. This changed for me after she passed away. I just want to help others who cannot help themselves—and give a voice to the voiceless.”

Michael Taylor

In 2009, Michael Taylor earned an Associate Degree in Mental Health at LaGuardia Community College. He then pursued a BA in Social Work, with a minor in Sociology, at Lehman College. Michael graduated with his BSW in 2012. He then pursued a Master’s Degree in Social Work at Lehman College, and in May 2015, graduated with an MSW Degree.

Michael’s peers report that he is a hard worker and is persistent in achieving his goals. Although he has encountered many obstacles along the way, Michael was determined to achieve his educational goals – obtaining his LMSW by next year. ■

Webinar Report to Staff

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In the past, PSCH tried to develop new sources of revenue such as with the Pharmacy, Consulting Company, and Transportation. We now want to improve internally, e.g. communications, quality of care for clients, and conditions for staff. Managed Care and Housing are the 'hot' areas, and we need to embrace 'Smart Growth'.

NEW HOUSING INITIATIVES

We will expand into housing, such as our new 10-story, 58-bed building in the Bronx. We will also grow the programs we have, such as Care Coordination and Health Homes and tweak programs such as the Residences, to serve a different population, e.g. crisis housing.

UTILIZING TECHNOLOGY FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

We also plan to become a leader in educating the public on Mental Health issues and Substance Abuse. We will be utilizing technology such as smart phones; i-Pads; and tele-health (for remote visits etc.) to innovate new treatment models.

GROWING THE PSCH NETWORK

Pederson Krag (PK) has had a remarkable turnaround since PSCH took over four years ago. Because of the Bond Refinance, most of the existing debt will be paid off and their finances will be in the 'black'. The leadership at PK deserves much of the credit for this. It usually takes five years for a successful turnaround, and PSCH is proud that we supported PK financially and that we now have a viable partner in Suffolk County. Our goal is to ensure that PK feels that it is a true part of the organization. We see PSCH and PK as one network, with PK as the 'Suffolk Division' of PSCH.

PROMOTING ADVOCACY

Advocacy for our consumers is an important goal for PSCH. We want to develop and refresh channels through which staff can provide input and reach those who need to hear their voices. We have allocated \$75,000 for a beautification program for our consumer residences in the coming year. Regarding Day Habilitation, we have an aging population and although our consumers may not want to attend, it is a requirement. Ideally, consumers should have an option not to attend, and we will be developing a new level of care where health care needs can be addressed in a residential setting. We will also be enhancing our Arts and Music programming to showcase the talents of our consumers and, at the same time, promote their self-esteem.

HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS

PSCH tries to keep the costs of insurance down, but health costs usually increase annually and these increases are shared between PSCH and employees. We renegotiate health care costs on an annual basis to find the best and most cost effective provider. Our 'pie' of funds is only so big; therefore, we can either create operating efficiencies to save money or reduce the workforce (which we try to avoid). It is a challenging task, and we are trying our best.

STAFF RECOGNITION & DEVELOPMENT

You, our staff, are most important resource. Recognizing your talents and dedication is important to us. We plan on holding a staff recognition function, but will have to ensure that we comply with the State Controller's recommendations, which will drive how we will format staff recognition. We encourage career development at PSCH. Please contact HR for details on existing career policies, such as scholarships and training. ■

BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FOR PSCH STAFF

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BUY ON AMAZON - HELP PSCH

PSCH is now an Amazon affiliate, making it easy for a portion of your shopping to directly benefit the work we do at PSCH!

All you have to do is click on the Amazon link at the bottom of the PSCH homepage. Through this program, Amazon will donate a percentage of each eligible purchase made through the link on the PSCH home-page, back to PSCH. Purchases will **NOT** cost you more using this Amazon program.

Please spread the word to family and friends to do the same! You can have a positive impact on your loved ones as well as on PSCH - just click on the Amazon button below and begin and together we can make a difference! ■



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