



# INFOCUS

VOLUME 2 | WINTER 2016

## January is Mental Wellness Month

### PSCH-PK Launches Community Education Programs for Professionals

January is designated as **Mental Wellness Month**. The new year is a time when many people set personal goals for the coming year. It is also a time when depression spikes in many individuals leading to thoughts of suicide. PSCH/Pederson-Krag (PK), through its Suicide Awareness and Training Programs for Professionals, confirms its commitment to enhance the public's awareness of suicide, its risk and protective factors and prevention strategies.

#### A Goal of Zero Suicide in NYS

The Office of Mental Health (OMH) Suicide Prevention Office (SPO) is seeking to make New York a model *Zero Suicide* state and a national model for integrating suicide prevention into behavioral health care. PSCH-PK is joining the New York State

ZERO Suicide Initiative by becoming one of the first behavioral health agencies, of its kind, to partner with OMH. The official kick off will be held on January 29th, 2016. *Zero Suicide* is both a philosophy and practical approach to suicide prevention. It begins with organizations committing to reducing the number of suicides through delivery of *suicide safer care*.

PSCH-PK is offering this free training to agencies, universities and other organizations and is designed for clinicians, counselors and other professionals interested in learning a comprehensive assessment model for suicide risk.

Seminars will be conducted by Max Banilivy, Ph.D., a noted clinical psychologist and Director of Training at the PSCH/PK Network.

We can change preconceived perceptions of mental illness by reducing the stigma surrounding mental health conditions, raising awareness, and connecting individuals with helpful resources that address their mental health concerns. Help us make 2016 a better year for mental health for all!

#### To Schedule a Training

**Contact: Max Banilivy, Ph.D.**

TEL 631.920.8039



**2** PSCH's Legal Council Dianne Camelo Elected Mayor



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# Dianne Camelo

## Counsel to PSCH, Elected Mayor of Oradell, NJ

PSCH, Inc. proudly congratulates Dianne Camelo on being elected Mayor of Oradell, New Jersey.

At PSCH, Camelo coordinates all legal affairs with outside law firms and oversees contract administration, risk management, insurance, and real estate services. She is a partner in the Uniondale law firm of Levy, Stopol & Camelo, LLP.

A 26-year Oradell resident and former Mayor and Councilwoman, Camelo has always been an active civic volunteer and demonstrated an unwavering commitment to Oradell. In 2007, she was elected mayor, becoming the first Democrat in more than 20 years to win that office in the historically Republican borough. "As the newly elected mayor, I am determined to restore transparency, accountability and democracy to the borough of Oradell," said Camelo.

Prior to serving Oradell as Mayor and Councilwoman, Camelo served as President of the Oradell Little League from 2002 – 2005. She is a past Board member of the Oradell Arts and Business Coalition and a past member of the Oradell Emerson Rotary Club. Currently, Camelo serves on the Family Selection Committee for Habitat.



*PSCH congratulates Mayor Dianne Didio, (center) and Council Members Tracy Schoenberg and Roger Tashjian on taking their oath of office in the Borough of Oradell. Photo courtesy PutOradellFirst.org*

Dianne and her husband, Tom Didio, have three children Thomas, Nicholas and Camille.

Alan Weinstock, CEO, PSCH, said, "We are proud that Dianne has been elected Mayor of Oradell, an accomplishment that reflects her strong civic responsibility. She will bring the same business acumen and love of people to her new position as she has so ably done at PSCH. She is a vital member of the PSCH family and valued corporate partner." ■



## Volunteers Make a Difference at PSCH-PK

PSCH/Pederson-Krag welcomes volunteers in a variety of roles, including activities that directly support our staff, leadership and client service programs. We have many projects that can assist a broad range of participants in achieving greater independence in the community. If you are interested in participating in a rewarding experience call:

**Jessie Ornstein**, Volunteer Coordinator, NYC

**347.924.3564** [Jessie.Ornstein@psch.org](mailto:Jessie.Ornstein@psch.org)

**Kimberley Grossman**, Volunteer Coordinator, LI

**631.766.3657** [KGrossman@pedersonkrag.org](mailto:KGrossman@pedersonkrag.org)



## A Story of TRIUMPH Over Adversity

“Now I am a caring, giving mother who can support my beautiful child and feel good about who I am. I am blessed, thanks to PSCH.”

*Princesa*

Princesa, 36 year old, knows the struggles that a woman who abuses alcohol from her teen years has to witness – loneliness, despair and the numb feeling of “who will take care for me?” Princesa felt lost and abandoned in a spiraling slope of hopelessness. Princesa engaged in a life of drinking and partying. At 26 years old, Princesa became pregnant and was facing a life of single parenthood. Through a family friend, she was referred to PSCH’s Family – Supported Housing Program in Queens.

Her life and her perspective shifted when she was introduced to PSCH Case Manager

Eunice. Eunice became her inspiration to attend therapy and to provide a safe and healthy home for her daughter. Eventually, the veil of alcoholism lifted from Princesa as her new found determination for clean living and motherhood became her focus.

Princesa began to invest time to help her daughter develop properly. Princesa enrolled her into a day school and other activities that would enhance her daughter’s chance for success.

Princesa began to volunteer at a local Catholic school as a receptionist and

teacher’s assistant. Her voice is now being heard by the community in her new role as an advocate for the safety and well-being of young children.

Princesa is an inspiration to others facing substance abuse issues and hopes that by sharing her story she can influence more of her friends to do the same. She has reclaimed her life and is taking control of her future and that of her nine year old daughter. With the help and support of her clinical team, the supervision of PSCH and the desire to become a better parent, Princesa is on the road to recovery. ■



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## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Join us in congratulating these outstanding employees who embody the PSCH-PK mission.



**OCTOBER**

### Jeanelle Campbell

Since joining PSCH in 2008, Jeanelle consistently brings a high level of professionalism, commitment and enthusiasm to her work. As Medicaid Service Coordinator in Family Support Services, she manages the most difficult tasks with confidence and poise to insure the most favorable outcomes for the individuals and their families served. Jeanelle exemplifies PSCH's core values.



**NOVEMBER**

### EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR Kimberly White

Kimberly is an exemplary direct care counselor whose engaging personality, creativity and work ethic are recognized and appreciated by all she encounters at the Hill Street and Glendale residences. Always with a smile, she successfully diffuses difficult situations and strives to provide quality consumer care. Kim has been a loyal PSCH employee since 2012.



**DECEMBER**

### Tanya Bridges

As Office Manager at the Pederson-Krag Wyandanch ARS, Tanya goes the extra mile whether it's efficiently managing the flow of clients in the clinic, putting out sand bags to prevent floods or staffing the pantry when short staffed. Her outstanding attitude and work ethic have made a difference at PK since 2004.

## Internship Program Creates Experiences that Work

Connecting to a life-changing internship experience is now easier through PSCH-PK Internship Connections. PSCH, Inc and Pederson-Krag offer college students on-site experiences in a variety of "real life" settings throughout New York City and Nassau and Suffolk counties.

The Internship Connections program is customized and will help each intern define and explore career opportunities in the health and human services field.

Interns will gain practical experience as a professional under conditions conducive to educational development. We offer internships, externships and practicums in:

- Behavioral Health
- Health Administration
- Nursing
- Psychiatry

The key to the PSCH internship is *quality* in the experience and training. At the same time, we want it to be enjoyable as interns gain the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts create a life-changing impact for the most vulnerable in our society.

We partner with universities and agencies to create opportunities that help to further professionalize the network and experiences offered.

## A Customized Experience

PSCH/Pederson-Krag helps interns realize their potential, with personalized, one-on-one coaching sessions and in-depth career workshops and mentoring opportunities.

Through thought leadership initiatives, interns will meet young professionals and emerging leaders to spark their ambitions and expand their network. An internship experience at PSCH/Pederson-Krag offers a variety of settings, including: mental health clinical training, developmental disabilities, health administration and medical nursing. Interns may work with many populations in a wide array of human and social service settings on challenges ranging from mental health; family services; developmental and other disabilities; domestic/child abuse; suicide prevention; addictions; crisis intervention; high-risk youth; to programs for the elderly.

Interns will be better prepared to enter the health and human services field, where employment opportunities are expected to increase by about 23 percent by 2018.

## For More Information, Call

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