

**New Agency Partnership Helps Local Clients
Find and Keep Meaningful Employment**

**WCADAMHS Board
Officers:**

- Judy Ennis, Chair
- Frank McLaughlin, Vice-Chair
- Stan Korducki, Treasurer
- Linda Amos, Secretary

**WCADAMHS Board
Members:**

- Michael Linthicum
- Jerome Carpenter
- Eric Reynolds
- Rickey Rudey
- Steve Spirn
- Jay Salvage
- Matt Harper
- Tom Vermilya
- Margie Harris
- Bev Hirzel
- Casey Cromwell
- Harold Rosenberg

**Meeting Schedule
Full Board**

4th Monday, 7:30 pm

Finance Committee

2nd Wednesday, 11:30 am

Program Committee

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.

Other committees as needed. Please call 419-352-8475 for meeting place and other details.

**WCADAMHS
Board Staff**

- Larry Mershman
Executive Director
- Thomas Clemons
Associate Director
- Ken Glassford
Finance Director
- Pamela Shumaker
Office Administration
Coordinator
- Michelle Roller
MACSIS Coordinator
- Cheryl Critton
Data Coordinator
- Britni Hagelberger
Secretary/Receptionist

Picture life without your job.

Sure, you would have less stress and fewer headaches. But (aside from missing money to pay the bills!) you'd probably miss the routine, social contact, and sense of pride that holding down a job creates. Complain though we might about them, our jobs have benefits that go far beyond their paychecks.

This is true for people with mental illness as well. They, too, have bills to pay, a need for meaningful routine, and a desire to play a role in the community. That's why Behavioral Connections of Wood County, Harbor Behavioral Health Care, the Wood County ADAMHS Board, and the Rehabilitation Services Commission of Ohio have teamed up to offer CareerLink. From its office at Behavioral Connections' 1010 North Prospect site, CareerLink helps Wood County residents with a mental health diagnosis obtain community employment. Eighty-five individuals have already signed up for the program, which began accepting cases in December. "We are amazed at the response," says Jeannette Bostelman, the Vocational Program Manager for CareerLink. CareerLink staff also includes Maria Cool, Caseload Assistant; Merriam Weaver, Pathways Vocational Coordinator; and Eric Shreve, Data Manager.

Job-seekers from all over Wood County have applied to CareerLink, a grant funded through a partnership between the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission and the Wood County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board. Unlike some other employment programs, CareerLink does not require those enrolled to be clients of ADAMHS Board agencies. Instead, anyone with a mental health diagnosis, whether receiving treatment from an ADAMHS Board provider or a private practitioner, can be referred to the program.

Jeannette points out that CareerLink does not directly "find clients jobs." Instead, it helps individuals determine their vocational needs and interests and establish a targeted job goal. It then links them to services to help them find that job. The employment search through CareerLink looks like this:

After being referred by a Wood County agency or therapist or calling the program themselves, applicants attend an orientation

with a staff member. They are then briefly interviewed by Jeannette or Merriam (both are Certified Rehabilitation Counselors) to determine their eligibility. To be accepted, applicants must:

- have a documented mental health diagnosis that is a barrier to employment
- be able to benefit from CareerLink services, and
- require CareerLink services in order to obtain employment.

Once an applicant is deemed eligible, a CareerLink staff member interviews him or her in greater depth, asking about education, medical history, work experience, interests, and family relationships. Clients are then coded either "most significantly disabled" or "significantly disabled." The latter group may be required to remain on a statewide waiting list for a time; the former is considered top priority. They directly enter the program's next steps which may include job search planning, vocational testing and evaluation, career exploration, and other vocational planning services.

When clients are ready to look for jobs that suits them, they are then referred by CareerLink to a Community Rehabilitation Partner. These include Community Employment Services, Harbor Career Connections, Partners in Employment, Capabilities, Network, Goodwill or other agencies in and beyond Wood County. These agencies have long-established relationships with local firms and organizations who need employees. Many of the employers are willing to provide job coaches to help clients master their new jobs.



Website:
www.wcadamh.org

Job developers with these Community Rehabilitation Partners “help break down doors” for clients, Jeannette explains. They explain to employers the benefits of hiring someone from CareerLink. These benefits go beyond job coaching to continuing support of, and troubleshooting for, their clients in the workplace.

Some individuals with mental illness do not pursue employment because they are not sure how working will change their social security benefits. CareerLink counselors can help clients determine how working, even if only part-time, will affect their benefits.

CareerLink’s purpose, in other words, is not only to help clients find employment in the community, but to help them become as independent as they can be. “Our program is meant to provide our clients with supported employment services in their effort to find employment. You’re not alone,” explains Jeannette. In this tough economy, that support is more important than ever.

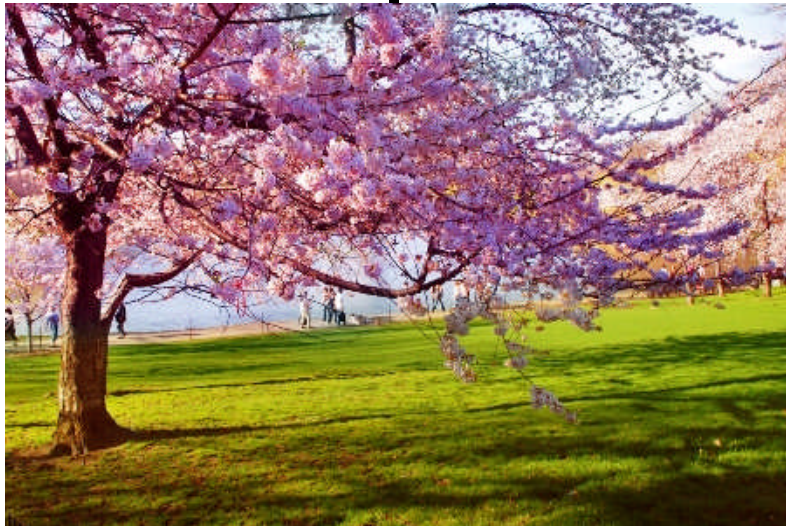
For more information about CareerLink, call (419) 352-5387 extension 3657 for Maria, extension 3622 for Merriam, or extension 3660 for Jeannette.

AGENCY ACTION

A clinician from **Behavioral Connections of Wood County** will soon appear regularly at Wood County Health Department clinics in the county, Mark Haskins, clinical director of BC, announces. Mothers and their children enrolled in the federal Women, Children, and Infants program attending Health Department clinics in Bowling Green will be able to be screened for depression and other mental health problems by a nurse trained by Behavioral Connections. These mothers (and their children, if appropriate) can be assessed and then receive treatment from a Behavioral Connections licensed therapist at the clinic.

The new program, which Mark and his planning group hopes will be available weekly, will give these clients easy access to mental health services while they take care of other health problems. Mark is working with Pamela Butler of Wood County Health Department to set up the project.

The Wood County Suicide Prevention Coalition is planning a regional suicide prevention conference for April, 2011. The group plans to schedule a nationally-known suicide expert as keynote speaker and several more local speakers for smaller breakout sessions. The conference will take place at the French Quarter in Perrysburg. Look for more details in coming issues of this newsletter and in other media outlets.



*With your Support, Treatment Works-
People Recover*

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
BOWLING GREEN, OH
Permit No. 94

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

745 Haskins Road Suite H
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402
(419) 352-8475