

UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health

Helping the State Improve Mental Health Services

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



UNC
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Department of Psychiatry

UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health

In 2007, the UNC Tomorrow Report

identified one of the greatest needs facing 21st century North Carolinians: access to health care services and information

And, the University system committed itself to “Develop an organized, University-based program or institute to assist government officials and concerned citizens improve our mental and behavioral services in the State.”

http://www.northcarolina.edu/nctomorrow/reports/commission/Final_Report.pdf

UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health

UNC-Chapel Hill's Response

The Department of Psychiatry, in collaboration with other departments and schools, established the **UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health**.

The mission of the Center is to address quality of care and workforce development issues in North Carolina's public mental health system by creating partnerships between existing state, academic, and community programs.

The Center grew out of our well-established Schizophrenia Treatment and Evaluation Program (STEP), a clinical program in operation since 1993

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Goals

- Treat those with psychotic disorders and other severe mental illnesses
- Train mental health professionals
- Conduct research
- Inform state and local policy

UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health

Leadership

- Dr. John Gilmore, Professor and Chair for Research and Scientific Affairs, Department of Psychiatry
- Barbara Smith, Director of Outpatient Services, STEP Program, Department of Psychiatry

Current Funding

- Three-year grant from The Duke Endowment
- Cross Area Services Program (CASP) funds from the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, appropriated by the Legislature.

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UNC System Partners

UNC-Chapel Hill Schools of:

- Social Work
- Nursing
- Medicine (Psychiatry, Family Medicine, Social Medicine, Rehabilitation Counseling and Psychology, Occupational Therapy)
- Public Health (SHEPS Center)
- Pharmacy

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UNC System Partners

UNC-Chapel Hill College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Psychology

NC-Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

NC State University Department of Social Work

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Regional and Local Partners

Regional Partners

- Central Regional Hospital
- Dorothea Dix Hospital
- Duke University
- NAMI: North Carolina
- NAMI: Wake County

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Regional and Local Partners

Local Partners

- Orange-Person-Chatham LME
- Club Nova
- XDS, Inc. (ACT)
- Caramore Community
- Piedmont Health Care
- MHA of Orange County
- NAMI: Orange County
- Orange County Community Resource Court

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Providing Treatment

Comprehensive, multidisciplinary care for over 400 outpatients at UNC Hospitals and our new community clinic in Carrboro.

Core Treatment Programs

- STEP: Treatment & recovery for those with an established diagnoses
- OASIS: An early intervention program

Recovery Projects

- Book Project: **Our Voices: First Person Accounts of Schizophrenia**
- Brushes With Life: Supervised creative arts program

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Providing Treatment: Integrating Medical and Psychiatric Care

Train psychiatrists and primary care physicians in the integration of medical and psychiatric care

Community Collaborations

Case management for Medicare/Medicaid dual eligible patients with CCNC – Demonstration project

Integrated care in our community with Piedmont Health Care (a CCNC provider)

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Training Mental Health Professionals

Multi-faceted learning opportunities for current and future service providers

- Psychiatry and pharmacy residents, and interns from social work, nursing, psychology, rehabilitation counseling psychology, occupational therapy, and public health
- Two-year Community Psychiatry Fellowship – First fellow to begin in July 2010
- Visiting scholars from around the world

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Training Mental Health Professionals

Multi-faceted learning opportunities for current and future service providers

- Group home workers – In planning stages with NAMI Wake County
- ACT teams – Clinical supervision of local team
- Other mental health providers – Statewide AHEC workshops on schizophrenia

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Informing State Policy

State Level Workgroups

- Behavioral Health Medicine (MH/SA/DD)
- Physician's Advisory Group (DMA) Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, Behavioral Health Subcommittee
- Case Management (DMA)
- Community Support Transition (MH/SA/DD)
- Advisor to the Mobile Crisis Team Service Definition (MH/SA/DD)

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Informing State Policy

Other State Involvement

- Developed a quality initiative to improve reduce costs and improve utilization of antipsychotics (DMA, MH/DD/SS, CCNC)
Under review
- Trans-institutionalization study of patient movement between state psychiatric hospitals and prisons study (Department of Correction)
- iCareBoard

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Serving Our Local Community / Informing Local Policy

- NAMI Orange County Board
- Orange-Person-Chatham LME Providers Council
- Chapel Hill Mayor's Task Force on Mental Health

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Conducting Research

Current Studies

Improving the quality of clozapine prescribing in the state
(Duke University and DMH)

Trans-institutionalization -- patient movement -- between state
psychiatric hospitals and prisons (Department of Corrections)

Methods to improve physician prescribing in accordance with
evidence-based practices (UNC-Chapel Hill SHEPS
Center/School of Public Health and CCNC)

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Conducting Research

Current Studies

Comprehensive inpatient consultations and study outcomes for patients referred by community providers with persistent symptoms, polypharmacy, and/or poor functioning (Dorothea Dix Hospital)

Impact of an inpatient illness management and recovery program on prescribing practices (UNC Hospitals Psychotic Disorders Unit and UNC-Chapel Hill School of Pharmacy)

Photo-voice study on community experience (UNC-Chapel Hill Occupational Therapy)

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Conducting Research

Current Studies

Crisis services impact on state hospital admissions (UNC-Chapel Hill SHEPS Center/School of Public Health and Duke University)

Schizophrenia Trials Network (Member) – Sponsored by the National Institutes of Mental Health to study new treatments

Outcomes of model of early identification and treatment of psychosis, similar to our OASIS program – Nationwide study sponsored by the National Institutes of Mental Health

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What We Do

Use existing resources and private funds to advance mental health services and policy in North Carolina.

- Treat those who struggle with severe mental illness
- Train current and future service providers (best-practice)
- Partner with others to promote and provide affordable services
- Inform policy at state and local levels
- Add to our understanding of severe mental illness and through scholarly research and meaningful patient outcomes

UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health

**We are unique...and already up and running,
integrating UNC expertise and serving the citizens
of North Carolina**

We provide quality, multidisciplinary care in a community setting and use our experience on the “frontline” of mental health care to inform our training, our research, and our service to State policy makers.

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For More Information

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