



MHMR Tarrant enhances the mental health and intellectual development of people in our community.

MHMR My Health My Resources

Summer 2014

New Board of Trustee Joins MHMR



Lyn Willis was sworn in earlier this summer as the newest member of the MHMR Board of Trustees. Lyn took the oath from County Commissioner J.D. Johnson.

Lyn is a retired Assistant Director at Tarrant County Juvenile Services, where she worked from 1974 to 2013. Most recently she was responsible for 175 probation staff in planning and execution of departmental programs and services provided to more than 4,000 Tarrant County community youth annually.

Lyn has been active in the community for years. She currently serves as co-chair of the Tarrant County Community Criminal Justice Plan; board member for the Tarrant County Mental Health Connection; member of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Needs Council; vice president of the Tarrant County Challenge Board; and volunteer for Leader Kids.

Lyn has her bachelor's of arts in psychology from Texas Christian University and her master's of arts in psychology from the University of Texas in Austin.

MHMR Awarded \$8 Million Grant for Comprehensive Homeless Services

MHMR recently received approval for a grant that will provide permanent supportive housing for 150 of the county's more chronically homeless individuals who have mental illness and/or mental health with substance abuse.

The Texas Legislature last year authorized \$25 million for Healthy Community Collaboratives for the five largest metropolitan areas to address homelessness. The grants are a matching grant of public and private funding.

The Fort Worth Foundation provided the match to enable MHMR to apply and be awarded an \$8.6 million grant.

"This is a perfect example of collaboration in Tarrant County," said Walter Taylor, director of housing services. "We came together with our partners at the city, county and nonprofits who all focus on addressing homelessness to offer this intensive case management approach to 'housing first.'"



The grant outreach is a rich array of evidence-based services located at partner sites across the

county, providing multiple points of access.

The grant provides funding for 30 full-time positions, including 10 case managers, peers, an outreach team and Forensic, addiction and administrative staff.

While the funding is only through 2015; the program is anticipated to continue for seven years.

MHMR Awarded Children's Trauma Care Funding

As part of the Health Care Transformation Initiative (1115 Waiver), MHMR was awarded three years of funding to provide 460 children and adolescents, ages 3-17, and their families with individualized, trauma-informed, culturally and linguistically competent services.

MHMR will create a trauma-informed team, integrating mental health, substance abuse and trauma treatment expertise and approaches using the Attachment, Self-Regulation, and Competency (ARC) trauma-focused evidence-based practice model.

"This initiative focuses on how early intervention for trauma care will help children and adolescents understand 'what happened' to them, not 'what's wrong with you,'" said Tracy Koller, director of children/adolescent mental health services.



ABG Solutions Stocks Vending Machines at 4 Agency Locations



A team of individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) who participate in work adjustment training at ABG Solutions has recently expanded its vending machine business to include three new MHMR locations.

Kevin Brown spent a recent morning loading, counting, stocking and unloading sodas, sports drinks and waters at the MHMR 1200 and 1300 Circle Drive Clinics.

MHMR employees at ABG Solutions provide the training, transportation and management of the team of individuals.

ABG has stocked its own vending machines for several years but this year expanded to provide the services for the Circle Drive clinics and 820 Business Park – a total of 16 machines are stocked by ABG . Some of the vending machines were purchased through the MHMR Visions Foundation.

"They are paid well but it's hard work, especially during the summer months," Bryce said.

Through the work adjustment training program through the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Kevin and his co-workers are paid hourly for their work stocking the machines.

Dr. Pepper is the most popular, Kevin said, noting he uses his paycheck to buy clothes and groceries.

'Run for Life!' is Saturday

Mental Health America's will host its 4th Annual 5K/1K Fun Run Saturday, Sept. 6 at the Trinity Park Arts Pavilion.

Proceeds from the registrations and donations will help raise suicide awareness through the Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) Team of Tarrant County.

This year, Run for Life! has a goal to raise \$100,000.

MHA is also seeking volunteers and accepting donations.

If you have any questions, contact Brenda Rios.



Serving Tarrant and surrounding counties in North Texas

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