More than 50 staff and physicians from Windham and Natchaug hospitals attended a meet-and-greet with staff from Hartford HealthCare’s new Center for Healthy Aging at Windham Hospital on Wednesday, May 25.

Earlier this month, Windham, in partnership with Natchaug Hospital, opened the Older Adult Program for men and women ages 55 and older who are struggling with mental health or substance abuse in the center. The Older Adult Program is the second phase of the center located on the 3 West Wing of the hospital. This week, the Center for Healthy Aging’s Resource Coordinator Joseph Zuzel began working inside the hospital offering consultations, education and referrals for common geriatric issues such as medication support, in-home and assisted living services, dementia and Alzheimer’s, and more. Later this year, the GoodLife Fitness Program will begin offering on-site rehabilitation and individualized exercise programs geared towards older adults.

To contact the Center for Healthy Aging at Windham Hospital call 860-456-6785.
Numerous staff members and clients with the Behavioral Health Network showed their support for mental health awareness by taking part in the Connecticut chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)’s annual NAMI Walk in Hartford on May 21.

BHN staff members hosted a booth and handed out sunglasses, water bottles, stress balls, stress sticks and informational materials at the annual event, which took place at Bushnell Park and featured hundreds of participants representing mental health agencies from across the state.

The highlight of the event was a walk that encircled Bushnell Park as a way to show support for increased awareness of behavioral health issues and increased resources for treatment and care.

In addition to BHN staff members, the event drew numerous clients who receive care at locations across the BHN, including a van load of clients from the Friendship Club at Rushford, which was driven by social rehabilitation coordinator James Pitel.

The BHN walk team was led by co-captains Darcy Lauretti and Leslie D’Amato from Rushford and Patty Graham from the Institute of Living.

BHN walks the walk at annual NAMI event

BHN leader weighs in on opioid abuse

Patricia Rehmer, president of the Behavioral Health Network and Hartford HealthCare senior vice president, provided an overview of the ongoing opioid crisis in Connecticut during a workshop May 19 sponsored by the Capital Region Education Council (CREC) East Hartford.

Rehmer discussed the factors that have contributed to the increasing rate of opioid and heroin-related overdoses in Connecticut and the rest of the country, as well as what can be done to prevent addiction and treat those who have become addicted. As a former commissioner of the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Rehmer also discussed the ways in which local communities as well as the state and federal governments have been responding.

The event, called “Connecticut’s Opioid Epidemic: How Do Communities Respond?” took place at the CREC Polaris Center and drew a large audience of experts and members of the public who were able to engage in a question-and-answer session with Rehmer following her presentation.

Lake Compounce trip for Natchaug, Rushford staff

Save the date for the inaugural Rushford and Natchaug family outing at Lake Compounce on Saturday, Aug. 13.

Tickets are available to staff from both organizations at $15 for adults and $10 for children 12 and under (limit five tickets per staff). Included in the price are unlimited rides, shows and attractions; unlimited soda and water; free parking; and a two and a half hour all-you-can-eat buffet.

Check your email for more details in the coming months!
In order to improve efficiencies and enhance patient safety, the behavioral health program at The Hospital of Central Connecticut has successfully converted to Accumed, an electronic health record system that is streamlining the process of tracking and documenting patients through the course of their care.

“There was a lot of work done at all levels of the department to make this happen, so we are extremely pleased to see how well it has gone,” said Danielle Siedsma, regional administrative assistant, who helped lead the transition.

The transition to Accumed was undertaken over the past several months because the program is not scheduled for a conversion to the EPIC electronic health system, which is being implemented across Hartford HealthCare, for a long time, said Joe Scalercio, regional practice administrator.

Instead of using paper records, which have traditionally proven challenging in terms of consistent patient documentation, the new system has already eliminated many inefficiencies, said Susan D’Ambrosio, Psy.D, clinical program coordinator and clinical psychologist.

“We have received great feedback from patients already,” she said about the transition, which involved eight months of planning before the go-live occurred in March.

The next phase of the transition will involve physician prescription capabilities.

About BHNews

BHNews is published every other Friday, except for the weeks of Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s.

Story ideas or submissions may be sent to matt.burgard@hhchealth.org or amanda.nappi@hhchealth.org. Articles must be submitted as a Microsoft Word document. Every effort will be made to run the article in its entirety, but due to space constraints and style requirements, editing may be necessary.

Deadline for the next edition of BHNews is Tuesday, June 7, at noon.
IOL school study looks at academic pressures

In an effort to help children dealing with school-related stress, the Institute of Living’s Anxiety Disorders Center has developed a new questionnaire called the Screener for Academic Distress (SAD), which asks questions about the pressure to do well in school and anxiety about going to school.

The center is inviting students ages 13-18 in grades 7-12 and their parents to participate in the research study to help them understand how well this questionnaire works. You do not have to have problems with school or anxiety to participate in this study. To participate, parents and students can go to the website: [www.instituteofliving.org/SADstudy](http://www.instituteofliving.org/SADstudy).

After completing this study, you will have the chance to enter into a raffle for a $25 gift card to Amazon.com.

Find hidden treasure every week on the HHC Intranet

To have some fun and help you find your way around the HHC Connect Intranet, we’ve planned a little treasure hunt. Every two weeks or so, look for a new clue in BHNews. To find the buried treasure, log into HHC Connect (intranet.hartfordhealthcare.org) from work or your mobile device) and use the clue to find the treasure chest icon (shown here) buried on a page deep within the Intranet. Once you find it, click on the treasure chest to reveal the secret question. The answer to the question will be located on the page or a subpage in the section of where the treasure chest was found. Submit the correct answer and be entered to win a prize.

Congratulations to Wendy Starkel, of Windham Hospital. She is the latest winner of the Treasure Hunt game and won an HHC prize pack containing a $5 gift card to Dunkin Donuts, a reusable grocery bag, an umbrella, a baseball cap, and a mug.

To unlock this week’s buried treasure search the Employee Service Center section of HHC Connect.

Join this community conversation...

to listen and learn from each other and work together to support mental wellness with meaningful action.

Compassion Counts: A Community Conversation

How Trauma Touches All of Us

Monday, June 6
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Middlesex Community College
Chapman Hall
100 Training Hill Road, Middletown
Pizza will be served

MODERATOR
Nancy Hubbard, Family Resource Director / Institute of Living
Dan Osborne, Chief Executive Officer / Gilead Community Services

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Rob Gent, Co-founder & Chief Clinical Officer / Callo Programs

PANELISTS
Kelly Huffman, EAP Counselor / Middlesex Hospital
Samantha Crowley, Person who experienced trauma and is now helping others

This is a FREE event. You may register online at [https://adulttrauma.eventbrite.com](https://adulttrauma.eventbrite.com). For more information: Contact Sheryl Sprague at sheryl.sprague@hhchealth.org.

PARTNERS
- Clearview Consulting
- Columbus House, Inc.
- Community Foundation of Middlesex County
- Gilead Community Services
- Hartford HealthCare Behavioral Health Network
- Institute of Living
- Kuhn Employment Opportunities Inc.
- Middlesex Community College
- Middlesex Hospital
- River Valley Services
- Rushford: A Hartford HealthCare Partner
- St. Vincent de Paul Middletown

Anything to share?

Are you interested in sharing your clinical experience or knowledge with co-workers throughout the HHC Behavioral Health Network? Consider submitting an article to the Clinical Corner. For more information, e-mail amanda.nappi@hhchealth.org or matt.burgard@hhchealth.org.
Great support for autism program

I want to recognize and thank Sara Small (Thames Valley Mental Health Worker) for stepping up and helping out our Autism Support Group.

She jumped right in and worked wonderfully with our team. Not only will she be an asset to our monthly support group, she will be an outstanding addition to the Thames Valley program.

In addition, I would also like to acknowledge and recognize Cheryl Gagnon and Trish Hayward-Paige for their ongoing dedication to serving our Autistic population in the Norwich community. Our support group wouldn’t exist without you and I’m amazed at how much we do!

— Carleigh Hannah, Natchaug

Making a difference

Dr. Gengyun Wen recently joined Natchaug and is now the psychiatrist for Sachem House and Mansfield Young Adult programs.

He brought with him an incredible depth of knowledge, but presents in a humble and relatable manner. He helps the clients feel cared for and listened to. Shortly after arriving, he identified the need for a medication education group to give clients an opportunity to ask questions and to provide much needed education. He quickly worked with the treatment team to get this started and it has been an overwhelming success. He is an incredible addition to the HHC family.

Thank you Dr. Wen for all that you do.

— From the Sachem House and Mansfield Young Adult Team

Effective treatment

Email from another community provider to Journey House

I just wanted to let you know that Sarah* (name changed to maintain client privacy) seems to have really gotten a lot out of her respite.

Since coming back she has been more reflective and open. It’s clear she was able to use the time, space, and relationship she has with you all to help herself stabilize and reengage in treatment here. We are very lucky and fortunate to have you all as a resource!

I just wanted to thank you all for your support and help with her. While her behavior is occasionally challenging, she is a joy to have here, and it’s clear she’s gotten a lot out of her treatment at Journey House. Thank you again.
Anna Terryn, LCSW at the Institute of Living, started a garden therapy program for 6- to 9-year-olds last year and it continues to bear fruit — literally and figuratively — today.

The children take the food home to their families to encourage healthy and self-sustained living.

Over the summer, the children grow a range of flowering annuals and perennials as well as tomatoes and cucumbers that they eat right off the vine. The children take the food home to their families to encourage healthy and self-sustained living. The program has benefited greatly from the assistance and expertise of the IOL Horticulture Program and Laura Matthews.

New program offered for adolescents with psychosis

The Child & Adolescent Day Treatment Program at the Institute of Living has introduced a new program, “Connecting Adolescents with Psychosis” (CAP), which provides early intervention services for children 13-18 years old with psychotic spectrum disorders.

This specialty includes group psychotherapy to foster connections and promote socio-emotional growth; community trips to engage youth in rehabilitation activities; and cognitive remediation aimed at improving executive functioning and processing speed.

CAP offers a low-stimulation, therapeutic treatment setting for adolescents, as well as psychoeducation and support services for families. It also offers collaboration with schools and community providers to help meet the needs of young people dealing with psychosis. The average length of treatment is about three months but varies depending on the individual needs of the child. For more information, please call 860-696-0036.
Family Resource Center Support Groups

The IOL Family Resource Center (FRC) holds regular support groups. For additional information, please contact the FRC at 860-545-7665 or 860-545-1888. All programs are free of charge and, unless otherwise noted, are held in the Massachusetts Cottage, First Floor Group Room at the IOL Campus, 200 Retreat Ave., Hartford. The upcoming IOL FRC Support Group schedule is as follows:

- **Survivors Of Suicide Support Group.**  
  June 1 (First Wednesday of the month), 7 – 8:15 p.m. For those who have lost someone close to them by suicide. Please call the RSVP numbers with questions or concerns. 860-545-7716 or 860-545-7665.

- **Support Group For Families Dealing With Major Mental Illness.**  
  June 2, June 16 (First and third Thursday of each month), 5:15 - 6:30 p.m. in the Center Building, First Floor Conference Room. For family and friends of those who have schizophrenia, bipolar or other related disorders. Learn to care for yourself while caring for others.

- **Youth Psychosis Family Support Group.**  
  June 2, June 16 (First and third Thursday of each month), 5:15 - 6:30 p.m.

- **Dementia Support/Educational Group Meeting.**  
  June 7 (First Tuesday of each month), 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Donnelly Conference Room, First Floor. Please join us as we bring together experts and those who want guidance, direction, and support. Space is limited — reservations are required by calling 860-545-7665.

- **Social Support Group — LGBTQ Issues (Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Questioning).**  
  June 8, June 22 (Second and fourth Wednesday of each month), 5 – 6:15 p.m. in the Center Building, Young Adult Service Group Room. Support group for 16- to 23-year-olds who identify LGBTQ issues as being prominent in their lives. The goal is to discuss support strategies to manage life challenges.

- **Substance Use Educational And Support Group.**  
  June 9 (Second Thursday of each month), 4 – 5 p.m. For family members impacted by loved ones with substance abuse.

- **Bipolar: An Introduction To The Disorder.**  
  June 14, 6:30 – 7:45 p.m. This program is for family members and friends of individuals who have bipolar or a related disorder. It will present a basic understanding of the disorder, its treatment, along with specific suggestions to help family members and friends better cope with the illness.

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Seeking donations for the 3rd annual Back-to-School Resource Fair

**IOL Backpack & School Supply Drive**

The Institute of Living’s Back-to-School Resource Fair is set for Wednesday, August 10, and we’re seeking donations of **backpacks and school supplies** to give away to needy children from Greater Hartford.

**Donation ideas include:**

- Backpacks
- Pens & pencils
- Erasers
- Highlighters
- Notebooks
- Crayons
- Markers
- Glue sticks
- Index cards
- Rulers
- Calculators
- Pocket folders
- Spiral bound notebooks
- Paper-lined & unlined
- Kid-friendly scissors
- (left & right handed)

Donated items may be dropped off at two locations: the IOL Assessment Center, located in the lower level of the Donnelly Building, or at the Carolina Cottage, Family Resource Center office, second floor, Monday-Friday from 9 AM to 3 PM.

**Donation deadline: Monday, August 8 by 4:30 PM**

For more information, contact Minka Martin or designated staff at the Assessment Center by calling 860-545-7200 or call Paula Rego at the Family Resource Center at 860-545-7665.
New hire in HR

Natchaug Hospital is pleased to announce that Jenna Hanelius, SPHR, has joined the Human Resources Department in the role of Human Resources Business Partner.

She will be responsible for handling employee relations issues/investigations, policy interpretation, labor contract interpretation, performance management, mentoring and coaching managers and employees, and process improvement initiatives.

Jenna brings a wealth of experience to her new role, having held Human Resources positions in Manufacturing and in Behavioral Health, including six years with Gilead Community Services. Her areas of expertise include employee relations, labor relations and employee engagement. She received her Master of Science Degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from Springfield College.

Graduation dates announced

All staff are invited to attend one of Natchaug Hospital's seven high school and middle school graduation ceremonies:

- **Journey House**: Thursday, June 9, Journey House at 10:30 a.m. (one graduate)
- **Hickory School**: Friday, June 10, Teachers Memorial Gymnasium in Norwich at 11 a.m. (sixth grade promotion)
- **Rushford Academy/Joshua Center Shoreline**: Friday, June 10, Stonegate Building in Durham at 12:30 p.m. (four graduates)
- **Joshua Center Thames Valley CDT**: Wednesday, June 15, at 11A Stott Ave. in Norwich at 11 a.m. (six graduates and four eighth grade promotions)
- **Joshua Center Enfield CDT**: Wednesday, June 15, at Joshua Center Enfield at 10:30 a.m. (six graduates and two eighth-grade promotions)
- **Joshua Center Northeast CDT**: Wednesday, June 15, at Gold Eagle Restaurant in Dayville at 1 p.m. (three graduates)
- **Joshua Center Windham CDT**: Thursday, June 16, at Joshua Center Windham CDT in Willimantic at 10:30 a.m. (three graduates)

Bonsai demonstration takes root in Glastonbury

The word “Bon-sai” is a Japanese term which, literally translated, means “planted in a container or tray.” This art form is derived from an ancient Chinese horticultural practice, part of which was then redeveloped under the influence of Japanese Zen Buddhism. It has been around for well over a thousand years and recently, staff and clients at Rushford’s location in Glastonbury were provided with a demonstration on Bonsai techniques.

The presentation was provided by a client who recently completed intensive outpatient treatment and now is receiving outpatient care. The client returned to Glastonbury to share his love of working with Bonsai trees — a hobby that has played a key role in keeping his mind occupied and away from alcohol. Clients in attendance learned how to start a bonsai plant and how to train the plant with techniques such as layering. Multiple varieties of bonsai plants were demonstrated, creating the opportunity for those in attendance to engage in sober skills of mindfulness.

Bonsai cultivation is being added to the creative expressions program at Glastonbury which also offers collage, knitting, photography and more. The Creative Expressions Program is open to clients, staff and community. Call 860-657-8910 for more information.
A special evening

Members of Rushford’s leadership team attended a May 12 celebration of Hartford HealthCare’s annual Nightingale nursing award winners, including Rushford’s own Jeannie Cardona, RN. Shown here at the celebration at the Pequot Museum in Mashantucket are, from left: Justin Sleeper, Nurse Manager; Jennifer Rodriguez, Nursing Team Leader; Jillene Bertolini, Director of Adult Residential Services and Adult Ambulatory Services, Rushford at Middletown; Jeannie Cardona; Steven Zuckerman, Vice President of Operations; and J. Craig Allen, MD, Medical Director.

Tips, tricks and best practices for communication

This is the third in a series of helpful tips on how to improve communications among employees at Rushford.

- **No. 3: Make sure your voicemail is properly set up at all times and that you include your emergency contact information for when you are away.**

Look for other tips in future issues of BHNews.
The Treasure Trove is a free classified ad section for the benefit of Behavioral Health Network employees, retirees, medical staff and volunteers.

We welcome your submissions, which you can submit by emailing matt.burgard@hhchealth.org or amanda.nappi@hhchealth.org. The deadline for submissions to be included in each Friday’s BHNews is Tuesday at noon. BHNews will include community events for not-for-profit organizations that are open to the public and free of charge. We do not accept ads for real estate, firearms or personal ads.

FOR SALE

DIETING ROOM SET — Seven-piece cherry finish wood formal double pedestal dining set including two leaves, fitted table cover and cherry finish wood china cabinet with lights. $500 or best offer. Call 203-819-1552

2003 GRAND MARQUISS — Excellent condition, cloth interior, grey/silver, $5,000 or best offer. Call 860-212-2449.

HYDRAULIC LIFT ASSIST — Vest, strap, the lift wheels under the bed for ease of lifting patient, $300 or best offer. Call 860-634-4037.

HOME INVERSION SYSTEM — Like new, rarely used, $100. Call 860-212-2449.

STORCK CRAFT GLIDER/OTTOMAN — This set is Espresso and Beige, excellent condition, $75. Call 860-861-1822.

KINKY BOOTS THEATRE TICKETS — Sunday, Jun. 12, 1 p.m. at The Shubert Theatre, New Haven. Two aisle orchestra seats, $220. Call 860-884-5400.

WANTED

VENDORS — For the Kris Kringle Fair, Saturday, Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Saints Peter & Paul Church, 181 Elizabeth St., Norwich. Please apply by calling the Rectory at 860-887-9857.

EVENTS

AMERICAN LEGION POPPY DISTRIBUTION — The poppy is the memorial flower of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, going back to 1919, when, amidst complete devastation, poppies bloomed in abundance on the battlefields of France where so many of our men had fallen in battle. It is a time-honored Auxiliary activity to distribute poppies each year in May, which will be happening throughout the state. Of donations given generously by Poppy recipients, $300,000 is paid annually to needy and disabled servicemen and service women for making the poppies, and 100 percent of the proceeds of the distribution of 25 million poppies annually are devoted to Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation work by both The American Legion and Auxiliary in the United States. Thank you for remembering and helping our Veterans.

LISBON ESTATE MOVING SALE — Saturday, May 28, Sunday May 29, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 15 Fitch Road, Lisbon. Master bedroom suite, loads of kitchen items, shelving, generator, furniture, dogpens, yard tools.

AUCTION — Friday, June 3, 7 p.m., preview 6:30 p.m. at Holy New Martyrs Church, 364 Canterbury Tpke., Norwich. Ernie Eldridge Auctioneer, antiques, collectibles, new items, gift certificates, gift baskets, refreshments served. Call 860-887-3145 for more information.

CHICKEN PIE SUPPER — Saturday, June 4, 5-7 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 8 Chapel Hill Road, Yantic. Old fashioned traditional home-made chicken pie supper, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, cranberry sauce, chicken pie supper, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, cranberry sauce, gravy, vegetables, cranberry sauce, gravy, vegetables, cranberry sauce, gravy, vegetables. Drive up or take out service available, $8, $5 for children ages five to 12, valet parking, take-out available.

THE THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE PROGRAM — This program provides intensive training and support services to mature, stable adults who wish to provide loving homes to children. Our children are typically ages eight to 18 and have emotional and behavioral needs. With our ongoing training, assistance and support you can successfully meet the challenges of foster parenting. Please call the Waterford Country School Foster Care at 860-886-7500 or visit wcsfostercare.org.

For more information about MATCH, call 1.855.825.4026

Hartford HealthCare’s Behavioral Health Network now offers Medication Assisted Treatment Close to Home (MATCH™) for people struggling with opioid and other addictions. MATCH™ makes treatment convenient, with schedules built for the working professional. The program, with Suboxone®, Naltrexone and other medications, also includes confidential, private support services and small relapse-prevention groups.

Call 1.855.825.4026

Hartford HealthCare Behavioral Health Network
Connect to healthier™

hartfordhealthcarebhn.org