The Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Health (AABH) has awarded the innovative Young Adult Services Program at the Institute of Living with the first-ever National Program of the Year award, praising the program for its pioneering work on behalf of young adults experiencing early signs of severe mental health disorders.

The designation was given to the IOL program at the AABH’s 47th annual conference on July 18 in San Diego. AABH is the national trade association for Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOPs) and Partial Hospitalization Programs (PHPs), that are vital components of the behavioral health continuum. The IOL program is the first in the country to receive the newly created designation, which will now continue to be given out annually.

“We could not be more pleased or honored to be recognized with this award,” said Lawrence Haber, PhD, director of Ambulatory, Young Adult and Health Psychology at the Institute of Living, who accepted the award at the ceremony along with David Vaughan, LCSW, who was credited with creating the vision for the IOL young adult program.

The IOL program was one of five finalists to be considered for the award, which is meant for IOPs and PHPs that demonstrate effectiveness and innovation in improving outcomes for patients.

The IOL program was recognized for, among other things, customizing treatment plans for patients in the young adult program, who range from age 17 to 26 — a time when most patients...
experience their first episode of severe mental illness. Statistics show that for most young patients, it can take an average of two years or more before they contact a specialist for support or treatment. The IOL program is meant to help patients and their loved ones identify issues early on and take steps to arrange treatment as soon as possible.

Once enrolled in the Young Adult Services program, patients take part in innovative group and individual therapy designed to integrate techniques from cognitive behavior therapy, psychodynamic therapy, coping skills training, motivational enhancement, emotion-focused expression and art therapy, family systems therapy, relapse prevention and interpersonal therapy.

The IOL program is the only one of its type in Connecticut, and is widely regarded as one of the first in the country to recognize the need for intensive intervention and therapeutic programs for young adults. Among other innovations, the program is among the first in the country to create a special program for patients coming to terms with their sexual identity, known as the Right Track or the LGBTQ Track. The program also was among the first to establish a program for early psychosis and a comprehensive outreach component that provides a holistic approach to meeting the full range of a patient’s needs. Vaughan estimated that since the program was first established in 2004, patients in the outpatient program have experienced a 70 percent success rate in overcoming their illnesses and engaging in a life that’s connected to the world around them.

Six members of the BHN family took the ultimate leap on behalf of clients on Wednesday, July 29, rappelling from the top of the Hartford Hilton in support of Shatterproof, a national advocacy group for young people struggling to overcome addiction and substance abuse.
David Vaughan: A calling to help young people

David Vaughan had just moved to the United States from his native England when he took a job as a licensed clinical social worker at the Institute of Living in the early 1990s. It would not take long for him to recognize a glaring need within the local community.

“I kept seeing these young people — late teens, early 20s — having these early onset signs of depression or psychosis and severe mental illness, but there was no infrastructure in place to take care of them,” said Vaughan. “We just had to stabilize them as best we could and refer them to specialists outside of our system. You could just see they were not going to follow up and were going to fall through the cracks.”

In the early 90s, the idea of establishing a special psychiatric program for young adults was extremely uncommon, if not unheard of. Yet Vaughan began pressing his colleagues and the leadership within IOL to see if something could be done for the young people he routinely saw showing signs of mental illness — substance abuse, isolation, hallucinations.

Vaughan’s idea took hold within the IOL, and by 2004 he was treating young people between the ages of 17 and 26 as part of the Young Adult Services program — one of the first in the country of its kind. His pioneering vision has since expanded to include numerous specialized programs for young adults, including a comprehensive outreach program designed to meet the full range of needs for young people struggling not only to overcome their illness but embark on an independent life for themselves.

Other innovations include a program for young people coming to terms with their sexual identity, known as the LGBTQ Track, and customized treatment plans tailored to meet each young person’s clinical needs.

The program has proven to be a great success within national psychiatric circles, earning the first-ever Program of the Year Award from the national Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Health. But it has proven to be an even greater success with young people, who have experienced an estimated 70 percent recovery rate after going through the outpatient program. Despite suffering from extreme mental disorders such as schizophrenia, many of the program’s patients have gone on to complete college and hold down high-level jobs, including lawyers and professors.

Lawrence Haber, PhD, who supervises the Young Adult program, said Vaughan’s persistent advocacy for young people, combined with his infectious positive energy and humor, have been the driving force behind the program’s success.

“David believes in this program and he believes in the young people who come here for help, and the young people can see that,” Haber said. “That gives them the hope and confidence they need.”

About BHNews

BHNews is published every other Friday, except for the weeks of Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s. Articles for submission are due by noon on the Tuesday of the publication week.

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. Thank you.

Deadline for the next edition of BHNews is Tuesday, Aug. 18, at noon.
The Behavioral Health Network is hosting a forum on mental health, hope and recovery from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Sept. 17 at the Hoffman Auditorium on the University of Saint Joseph campus at 1678 Asylum Ave., West Hartford.

Mental health advocate Jessie Close will be the featured speaker, discussing how people are beginning to change the way they talk and think about mental illness. An ambassador for Bring Change 2 Mind, a not-for-profit organization founded by Jessie’s sister, actress Glenn Close, Jessie fights stigma and misunderstanding to create a clearer picture of mental disorders. Her own struggle with bipolar disorder and alcoholism provides the backbone to a courageous story and an enlightened perspective on the state of mental health in America.

This forum will be moderated by Senior Vice President of the Behavioral Health Network, Patricia Rehmer, and will include other panelists with lived experiences like Jessie. There will be an opportunity to meet Jessie as well as a book signing from 8-8:30 p.m.

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5) is the recent revision to the DSM-IV-TR, the American Psychiatric Association’s (APA) classification and diagnostic manual in use since 2000. Serving as a universal authority for psychiatric diagnosis, treatment recommendations and payment by health care providers are often determined by DSM classifications. DSM-5 uses a more quantitative approach and definable thresholds on a continuum, eliminating the prior multiaxial system. Another distinct feature of DSM-5 is ensuring greater harmony with the International Classifications of Diseases (ICD) System. The DSM-5 has significant importance not only for psychiatrists but also for primary care physicians, where most patients first present when experiencing psychiatric symptoms.

Many HHC behavioral health staff attended a four-hour training on DSM-5 in April 2015 with Greg J. Neimeyer, PhD, University of Florida, titled “Understanding the DSM-5: Key Diagnostic Developments Every Practitioner Needs to Know”. The DSM-5 video/audio is now ready for those who missed the presentation, or simply want a review.

The DSM-5 Training site is on the BHN SharePoint portal (https://mybhn.hhchealth.org). It can also be accessed from the HHC Enterprise Portal (https://myhhc.hhchealth.org/) > HHC Partners > All BHN affiliates.

Everyone has “read-only” access to the site. Additional important instructions and training documents (including the entire presentation slide set) are available on the left navigation panel of the site under “DSM-5 Training Documentation.” There is also a site link in the BHN SharePoint navigation bar.

The online presentation is additionally approved for CMEs for physicians only: instructions and post-test are included in the training documentation. This presentation is not approved for CEUs.
Dr. Schwartz takes part in panel on mental health and violence

Harold I. Schwartz, MD, psychiatrist-in-chief at the Institute of Living, took part in a panel discussion on the connection between mental health and violence as part of a Behavioral Health Summit hosted by Aetna last month.

Dr. Schwartz spoke about the low percentage of those suffering from mental illness who actually engage in violence — just slightly over 4 percent of the total population — while also expressing the need to provide effective treatment for subgroups of the mentally ill who are at higher risk of violent behavior.

Dr. Schwartz followed up on the discussion with an interview on Aetna’s internal communications television channel, encouraging early intervention through innovative programs such as Mental Health First Aid and early psychosis treatment. Watch Dr. Schwartz’s interview here at www.https://news.aetna.com/mentally-ill-more-often-target-than-perpetrator-of-violent-crime/

Larcen invited to be part of national mental health initiative

Hartford HealthCare Senior Vice President and BHN President Stephen W. Larcen, Ph.D, was invited to take part in a roundtable discussion on the state of mental health in Connecticut and across the country hosted by U.S. Sen. Christopher Murphy, D-Conn, on Friday, Aug. 7, in Middletown.

Larcen was among leading mental health experts who were asked to take part in the discussion with Murphy, who earlier in the week introduced a comprehensive bipartisan bill in the Senate designed to overhaul and improve the country’s mental health services and infrastructure.

In the months and weeks leading up the bill’s introduction, numerous other members of the BHN leadership team took part in discussions with Murphy and his team about the state of mental health in Connecticut, including BHN Vice President of Operations James O’Dea, PhD, MBA; Institute of Living Psychiatrist-in-Chief Harold I. Schwartz, MD; Natchaug Medical Director Deborah Weidner, MD; and Rushford Medical Director J. Craig Allen, MD. Larcen and Schwartz also visited Murphy and his staff in Washington, D.C., to further consult on the legislation before it was introduced.

Connecticut Special Olympians take home medals

Connecticut athletes took home several medals from the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles last month.

- Chuck Yenkner, of Glastonbury, won gold and silver medals in track and field.
- Selina Derungs, from Simsbury, took home gold, silver and bronze medals in swimming.
- And the team of Christine Post, from Groton, and Lisa Thomasco, from Mystic, took silver in unified golf.

I’ve only had three jobs in my entire life, including this one, and I’ve enjoyed all of them. I’ve been waitressing for years, and it’s always been something I enjoyed.

— Jessica Quintiliano, Inpatient Psychiatric Unit, HOCC

When I was in the Air Force I was assigned to the food detail for a few months, and it was very boring and redundant. I transferred out as soon as I could.

— David Wall, Rushford Gas station attendant.

— Kellie Thompson, RN, Natchaug child and adolescent unit
The IOL Family Resource Center (FRC) holds regular support groups. 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. For additional information on these support groups, please contact the FRC at 860-545-7665 or 860-545-1888. The upcoming IOL FRC Support Group schedule is as follows:

- **Youth Psychosis Family Support Group.** Aug. 7, Aug. 21, Sept. 4, Sept. 18 (First and third Friday of each month), 4:15 – 5:15 p.m. For parents with youth up to age 18 who have psychotic symptoms such as: hallucinations, delusions, paranoia, disorganized thoughts and behavior or are diagnosed with Schizophrenia and other related disorders. Join us to receive support, guidance and education on how to cope with and help your young person.

- **Alcoholics Anonymous.** Aug. 11, 18, 25 (Every Tuesday), 2-3 p.m. Join us for coffee and a one-hour topic discussion. To learn more, contact the AA General Service Office at 212-870-3400 or P.O. Box 459, New York, NY 10163

- **Social Support Group — LGBTQ Issues (Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Questioning).** Aug. 12, Aug. 26, Sept. 9, Sept. 23 (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.

- **Bipolar: An Introduction To The Disorder.** Aug. 18, Oct. 6, Dec. 15, 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.

- **Support Group For Families Dealing With Major Mental Illness.** Aug. 20, Sept. 3, Sept. 17 (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 individuals who have schizophrenia, bipolar or other related disorders. Share your success and struggles. Learn to care for yourself while you are caring for others.

- **Sibling Support Group.** Aug. 20, Sept. 3, Sept. 17 (First and third Thursday)

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**Seeking donations for the upcoming 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 12, 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 in the IOL Assessment Center, located in the lower level of the Donnelly Building.

**Donation deadline: Monday, August 10 by 4:30 PM**

For more information, contact Anne Marie Gorman in the Assessment Center at AnneMarie.Gorman@hhchealth.org or call 860-545-7200.
Family Resource Center Support Groups (continued)

• Dementia Support/Educational Group Meeting. Sept. 1 (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 through this journey. Let’s work together, help each other and exchange ideas. Space is limited — reservations are required by calling 860-545-7665.

Mental Health First Aid classes set through September

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) classes will be offered by the BHN through the month of September. Classes are open to the general public at a cost of $50 per person and to HHC employees at a discounted rate of $20 per person.

MHFA and YMHFA are interactive training courses designed to give members of the public the key skills required to help an individual who may be experiencing signs of crisis that are related to a mental health disorder such as depression, panic-anxiety disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder. All classes will be held at the Institute of Living, Hartford Room, Second Floor Commons Building, 200 Retreat Avenue, Hartford, and are scheduled as shown above. For more information or to register, please contact patriciac.graham@hhchealth.org.

Class schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Aug. 22</td>
<td>MHFA</td>
<td>8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Aug. 29</td>
<td>Youth MHFA</td>
<td>8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Sept. 8</td>
<td>Youth MHFA</td>
<td>8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Sept. 11</td>
<td>MHFA</td>
<td>8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Sept. 19</td>
<td>MHFA</td>
<td>8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Sept. 26</td>
<td>Youth MHFA</td>
<td>8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.</td>
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Positive Parenting classes begin Sept. 28

Natchaug Hospital is pleased to offer its free Positive Parenting classes, with the first six-week course starting on Monday, Sept. 28. Classes are held on Monday nights from 6-8 p.m. at Natchaug Hospital, 189 Storrs Road, Mansfield.

The course, led by Joe Freeman, MDiv, LCSW, facilitates discussion amongst parents about behavior challenges and teaches effective, research-based methods of communication and discipline. Participants can expect to see improved self-esteem, cooperation, family atmosphere and parent-child communication. Single parents, grandparents, foster parents and all other caregivers are welcome to attend, and couples are encouraged to attend together.

For more information, visit www.natchaug.org or call Joe Freeman at 860-696-9500.

Natchaug blood drive Sept. 17

Natchaug Hospital will host a blood drive on Thursday, Sept. 17 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Community Room.
Connect to Rushford’s new wellness committee

Hartford HealthCare is establishing a Wellness Council to promote employee health at all of the locations across the system.

Melissa Monroe has been named the chair of the new Wellness Committee at Rushford, which will work to help employees live happier and healthier. The Wellness Committee’s focus is to generate ideas to provide educational opportunities and activities for the Rushford community that are related to health and wellness. The committee will meet once a quarter — that’s only four times a year — so employee participation will be needed to make an impact! The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 16. The location will be announced soon.

The goal is to have at least one person from each of Rushford’s locations participate in the committee and then bring the information back to their location. If you are interested in joining or learning more, please contact Melissa directly at melissa.monroe@hhchealth.org.

Reaching out to our communities

Amy DiMauro, LCSW, Rushford’s Director of Adolescent Services and Glastonbury Adult Services, participated in a panel discussion on substance abuse prevention sponsored by the East Haddam Local Prevention Council on July 23.

DiMauro was one of the experts who spoke at the event at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, which drew an audience of parents, adolescents, providers, police, educators and representatives from area prevention agencies.

Kiss your deleted e-mail

Good-bye

Starting August 15, HHC “Deleted Items” e-mail folders will be emptied once a week. The IT Department reminds you to use the “Deleted Items” folder only for e-mails that you don’t want to keep.

If you love an e-mail, move it to a good home.
FOR SALE

TEETER EP — 960 Hang-Up Inversion Table, with upgraded boots and acupressure nodes, folds easily for storage, like new condition, $200. Please call 860-608-5004 after 3 p.m.


FREE

TWO-YEAR-OLD AUSSIE MIX — Zoey is looking for a family of her own. Zoey is an absolute love bug fostering her. If you'd like to hear more about Zoey, please contact Erin at erin.joudrey@hhchealth.org, who is currently fostering her.

WANTED

FALL DECORATIONS — Hay, pitchfork, overalls, wagon, metal wash buckets, etc. Items are needed for a photo backdrop at the Preston Congregational Church Scarecrow Festival in September. Call 860-237-2303 and please leave a message.

ARTISTS — FACES at FAHS (Fine Art and Craft Exhibit and Sale at the Finnish American Heritage Society) is seeking artists and crafters for a Saturday, Oct. 3 event at the Finnish Hall, 76 North Canterbury Rd., Canterbury. Indoor/outdoor spaces, $30 (post-marked on or before Friday, July 31), free admission, handicapped accessible. Call 860-974-2760 or email FACESatFAHS@gmail.com.

 EVENTS

CLASSIC CAR & TRUCK SHOW — Saturday, Aug. 8, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Holy New Martyrs Church, 364 Canterbury Tpke., Norwich. Trophies awarded, admission is one perishable food item to benefit the St. Vincent DePaul soup kitchen, DJ music, vendors, tag sale.

YOGA IN THE PARK SUNSET CLASSES — Beginners, ages 14 years old to adult Session I, Tuesdays, Aug. 11, 18, 25 and Thursdays, Aug. 13, 20, 27. Session II, Tuesdays, Sept. 1, 8, 15 and Thursday, Sept. 3, 10, 17. 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Mohegan Park Lakeside Pavilion, Norwich. Cheryl Hughes will guide the evening practice. Four days is $50 for Norwich residents, $60 for non-residents, drop-ins, $10. Call for more information 860-823-3791.

FREE SAILBOAT RIDE FOR CANCER SURVIVORS — Sunday, Aug. 16 from 3-8 p.m. at Otetah Camping Resort. Live entertainment, hotdog/hamburger, beverage, $10. Proceeds benefit the Jimmy Fund. Call Kendra for tickets 860-822-9977 or 860-608-3820.

FUNDRAISING NIGHT AT CASSIDY HILL — Saturday, Aug. 29, 6 p.m. at 454 Cassidy Hill Road, Coventry, CT. Benefiting Relay for Life of greater Windham. $25 per person, $30 at the door, $40 per couple. Call for tickets 860-456-6797.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL FUNDRAISERS — One pound pecans from Georgia, $12. Sreak-less cloths, $3, no chemicals, just water, reusable, polishes. Proceeds benefit the church. Call 860-822-6595 or 860-908-9797.

PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE — First Leaps Together, Ledyard is a small family-oriented center proudly providing outstanding early education in Ledyard Center. Now Enrolling for openings in our Fall programs, beginning Monday, Aug. 31. Full day and shortened day preschool program options, after school programs, specialized services. Visit firstleapstogether.com and mention this ad and we will apply a $100 discount to your second month’s tuition payment for all new full time September enrollment. Call 860-381-5537 for a tour.

LEE MEMORIAL CHURCH FUNDRAISERS — One pound pecans from Georgia, $12. Sreak-less cloths, $3, no chemicals, just water, reusable, polishes. Proceeds benefit the church. Call 860-822-6595 or 860-908-9797.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL — Accepting registrations for the 2015-2016 school year. 10 School Hill Road, Baltic, full day pre-kindergarten for children who will be 3 and 4 years of age by December, grades K-8 available. Call 860-822-6141 or email sistermarypatrick@gmail.com.