

PROJECT SERVE

Topic: Mental Health Needs

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

Discussion Session SUMMARY

Peggy Salamon, Recorder

Michelle Henry, Assistant Administrator:

Centre County Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities/Early Intervention-Drug & Alcohol Program receives funding from state government to serve serious mental illness for persons who are eligible for medical assistance (low income). CCMH identifies, evaluates, treats and refers adults and children with mental illness, behavioral health needs or emotional disorders. They have a \$4 million budget for programs and services, most of which are contracted out to 20 providers. The office is located in the old Corning Building, 3500 East College Avenue.

Cindy Pasquinelli, Executive Director:

Strawberry Fields, Inc., a private non-profit agency, provides residential and community-based support services for individuals with developmental disabilities. SFI supports LifeLink in the public schools for children with special needs and the Early Intervention Program for children birth – to age three and their families. SFI operates three or four residential rehabilitation programs for adults in State College and Bellefonte. It also facilitates a monthly parent support group for parents whose children are receiving children's case management services.

Cindy Pasquinelli made a suggestion for Faith UCC that we might consider "adopting" a group home, such as the new home in Bellefonte, providing education, cooking skills, gardening instruction, upkeep, and include those who live in the house in our Thanksgiving dinner or other group events. She suggested we could become their 'family'.

Cindy Pasquinelli said 'it takes a village to care for the mentally ill.' I say, "Indeed! Moreover it takes more than a village, it takes a state and a nation."

David Jeffreys, President of the Centre County Chapter of NAMI:

National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) is the largest non-profit organization dealing with mental illness in the US. It began as a support group for parents of children with mental illness, but now supports families as well as individuals with mental illnesses. They meet monthly and provide treatment information. They keep up with the latest research on mental illness, medication and treatments. Group meetings discuss personal situations, exchange advice and information, and support advocacy efforts at local, state and national levels.