

Fighting opioids

Montgomery County Recovery Center named Center of Excellence in Pa.

RHD's Montgomery County Recovery Center has been named a Center of Excellence by Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and the Department of Human Services (DHS), allowing the Center to offer more and better treatment to Pennsylvanians with opioid-related substance use disorders.

"RHD has long been at the forefront of innovative, person-centered programs for people in addiction recovery and we're thrilled to see this program recognized for its excellence of service and dedication to people," RHD CEO Dyann Roth said. "As part of our plans for the Center of Excellence, the Montgomery County Recovery Center will double its capacity, but it will always retain our commitment to the whole person as MCRC works to help more people on their journey of recovery."

"This would not be possible without the tireless efforts of our amazing staff, led by director Marie McCartney. They make hope and recovery possible. Their work can feel overwhelming and at times thankless, but what they're doing is changing lives and saving lives every single day."

See story, page 7



Center of Excellence: Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf speaks at a press conference at RHD's Montgomery County Recovery Center with Montgomery County Commissioner Valerie Arkoosh (L) and RHD CEO Dyann Roth (R).



THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NONPROFIT RESOURCES FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

WHO WE ARE: Resources for Human Development is a national human services nonprofit founded in 1970 that specializes in creating innovative, quality services that support people of all abilities wherever the need exists. In partnership with government and those we serve, RHD builds better communities through more than 160 caring and effective programs in 15 states.

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RHD expands to South Dakota

RHD expanded into its 15th state with the opening of a new program in South Dakota.

"We're very excited, and very honored, for the opportunity to bring RHD's caring, person-centered approach to human services to South Dakota," RHD CEO Dyann Roth said. "In South Dakota, we'll continue RHD's mission to empower our clients as they build the highest level of independence possible."

"We're proud that our long history of individualized, quality service continues to result in growth and expansion for RHD, enabling us to serve more people."

RHD South Dakota delivers person-centered case management services to people with intellectual disabilities. In South Dakota's conflict-free case management system, individuals have a choice of case management providers. At RHD, case managers work collaboratively with individuals to ensure they have equal opportunities and receive the services and supports they desire in the community of their choice.

RHD case managers maintain connection with the people they serve through home and community visits, or in any setting that makes sense to the individual. RHD supports people as they work to be active, full members of their community.

On the RHD website, at www.rhd.org/southdakota, you can view an interactive map of case managers and the areas they serve, as well as personal bios introducing RHD case managers to their communities.

"RHD case managers will work with the individual's team, and the surrounding community, to advocate for services and funding to meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities — as well as providing individuals with information about advocating for themselves," RHD South Dakota director KD Munson said. "Our goal is to provide the highest quality service by listening to the people supported and the people who know them best. We strive to promote a culture of inclusion and individualized supports."

RHD now supports 59 programs serving people with intellectual disabilities in 13 states.

To find out more, please visit: www.rhd.org/southdakota

ACT IN THE HUI

RHD'S ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT TEAMS PROMOTE RECOVERY AND INDEPENDENCE FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES PG. 2

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MyRHD is published quarterly, mailed to supporters, donors and government officials. It is meant to inform about RHD's activities, innovations and successes in the more than 160 human-services programs it operates throughout the country. If you wish to unsubscribe to MyRHD, please email info@rhd.org or write us at the address above.

How you can help

More than 50,000 people each year gain the support and encouragement they need to build better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities through RHD's many human-services programs. Their milestones and successes, large and small, are made possible through the generosity of people like you.

Your support helps provide the resources people of all abilities need as they work to build better lives for themselves, their families and their communities. You can help support caring, effective and innovative programs that emphasize the person in the service, with a belief that each human being, no matter what their challenges, should be treated with dignity and respect. You can help give people the opportunity to develop to their full potential, improving the quality of life and creating brighter futures for all RHD clients.

Please use the enclosed envelope to send a check or visit us at www.rhd.org to donate online.

RHD ACT teams promote recovery, independence in the community



Kenneth Kauffman | photos

In the ACT: Darren Harvey, Team Leader at RHD Delaware ACT, works with ACT client Kenneth on medication management, one of the many services offered by ACT teams to support people with mental health challenges. Below, from left: Harvey and Case Managers Abraham Cheluget, Sherri Goldsmith, and Edith Banning meet to discuss their clients' needs and plan their supports with psychiatrist Dr. Eusebio Hernandez (on screen).

Abraham Cheluget knocks on Charles' door, and Charles welcomes him in. They sit in the living room, having an easy conversation about the challenges of keeping up the apartment, how Charles is doing, and what he needs. "I'd like to see a psychiatrist," Charles says, and Cheluget makes a note and confirms that he'll schedule an appointment as soon as possible. The next topic is work, and Cheluget mentions a local retail store is hiring; it's work Charles thinks he can do and would like to try. Cheluget talks through this idea with Charles, and sets about helping Charles complete an online application.

Charles lives independently and manages his mental health challenges with support from RHD Delaware Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team. This visit is an example of how RHD ACT teams support people living in the community — in just a few moments, in a comfort of his own home, Charles has talked through his goals, worked on some life skills, managed his daily medication and gained support in finding employment.

"Charles deserves the chance to live in his community, like everybody else," said Cheluget, an RHD Delaware ACT case manager.

RHD supports 11 ACT programs across the country, which provide recovery-focused, multidisciplinary, intensive support for people in recovery from serious mental illness. Through regular in-home visits and coordinated assistance, RHD ACT brings together counselors, psychiatrists, registered nurses, case managers and vocational specialists to help individuals maintain employment and social relationships, live independently and manage their health. RHD ACT programs work to ensure a recovery-oriented system of care is available and prepared to carry out a full range of treatment functions wherever and whenever needed.

RHD ACT teams have a 95 percent housing retention rate, and routinely post a hospitalization rate of only 6 percent — about half the national average.

"It's important to work with people and see them in their environment, because you see so much more and get a better picture," said Laura Marvel, co-director of RHD Delaware ACT. "Our ability to go to them puts people at ease; if we can make things comfortable for the person we're supporting, they're likely to be more open. We support and encourage independence — we don't want to do things for people, but help them gain the capacity to do things for themselves.

"We really work on life skills. Healthy eating, healthy relationships, personal hygiene, everything that it takes to keep people living in the community."

At RHD ACT in Delaware, that has involved embracing telepsychiatry. With Dr. Shelley Sellinger and Insight, one of the nation's leading telepsychiatry providers, RHD's ACT teams in

Delaware developed a telepsychiatry program that is the first program of its kind in the nation. Dr. Sellinger provides 32 hours of scheduled telepsychiatry services per week to RHD's Dover program from her home office in New York. In-home sessions on an iPad work in conjunction with office visits where a telepsychiatrist is also a part of the care team.

"We were trying to be creative in working through a real shortage of available psychiatry providers," Marvel said. "It was a challenge for us to get people regular care. With telepsychiatry, if we can't get people in, we can take an iPad and go to them. We can use technology to make sure people get the support they need."



Marvel and Dr. Sellinger presented the program in a peer-reviewed session at the American Telemedicine Association Annual Conference. The results have been excellent.

"I'll admit it was weird at first, talking to a TV screen," said David, an ACT client. "But it's been very good. I've had no problems at all — if you need to talk to somebody, they're there for you. This program has been very good. They are good people. They meet your needs; they ask you what you're looking to accomplish and they help you meet your goals. All you've got to do is let them know."

ACT teams create support and treatment in a community setting, working to enable individuals with mental illness to live in their community to the fullest extent and to achieve recovery — at a far lower cost to the community than repeated extended hospital stays.

"RHD wraps services and supports around the individual, and responds quickly in times of crisis to help the participant remain in their community, and not return to an institutional setting," said Gina Hiler, RHD Midwest Regional Director, who oversees two ACT teams in Iowa. "The participant is always the central and driving force of the services and supports we deliver each day. We support each participant in building their life in their chosen community; a life defined by the participant and supported by each member of RHD's staff."



Graduation Day: Howard McNeil, Director of RHD's La Casa, speaks at the program's graduation ceremony, where participants who had completed the program and attained their own housing were honored. Below, Tyrone holds up the keys to his new apartment at La Casa's graduation ceremony and says: "I felt like I made it."

Tyrone gripped the keys to his apartment tightly in his right hand. RHD's La Casa was holding its first graduation ceremony, and at La Casa, graduating means young men are leaving the program and getting their own housing. For Tyrone, it was all about the keys in his hand.

"Getting my own apartment was a milestone in my life," Tyrone said. "The day I got these keys, I felt like I made it."

Tyrone was one of what La Casa Director Howard McNeil called "a growing epidemic of teenagers and emerging young adults who are filtering into the homeless population at an alarming rate." La Casa is Philadelphia's only safe haven for young males experiencing homelessness, and provides housing and services to individuals who for various reasons may have had difficulty accessing services from other homeless programs.

Safe havens like La Casa are an important part of RHD's services for people experiencing homelessness, and figure prominently into the continuum of care. La Casa helps to increase supports around individuals, builds upon and develops safe coping skills, and empowers young men to work toward being productive members of society.

"Many are aging out of the Department of Human Services, foster care, and the juvenile system with nowhere to turn," McNeil said. "Surviving on the streets brings with it elements of violence, exploitation, psychological abuse and other forms of abuse. At La Casa, we've found that just providing the bare necessities plays a significant role in facilitating treatment. Knowing where your next meal will come from, or where you'll sleep at

night, creates opportunities for engagement of additional therapeutic services and supports."

LaQuan, a new participant at La Casa, described it this way: "I've been house-hopping for 13 years. When I came to La Casa was the first time I felt safe."



La Casa serves 10 emerging adults with histories of homelessness, mental health, and/or addiction challenges. La Casa is dedicated to teaching life skills to young adults, building around evidence-based practices that will help them reintegrate back into the community of their choice.

"La Casa is helping me to better myself," said Robert. "They're not simply focusing on my housing, they're focusing on me — me being able to create and sustain a

future, learning life skills and job skills."

Robert had been homeless and on the streets for more than a year, but at La Casa, he's going back to school and has a stable job.

"I've seen nothing but good things here," Robert said. "This is the most professional group of people I've worked with. They relate to me like they're really hearing what I have to say. They don't just see me as a client, they see me as a person."

This year La Casa graduated its first group, supporting eight young men who moved from transitional housing into their own apartments.

"Without La Casa, so many of us would be in jail, be homeless, or worse," said Donell, a former La Casa participant who is now in his own housing.

"The staff helps you get through everything, and keeps you on track," said Kevin, a La Casa participant. "If it can work for me, it can work for anybody."

La Casa utilizes a person-centered, strengths-based approach, and promotes a supportive, safe, and positive home-like environment that focuses on recovery and personal goal attainment.

"We want people to feel at home — until they get to their home," said Nicole Simmons, La Casa Lead Direct Support Professional.

"What makes RHD's La Casa a unique and valuable resource to the community is that we not only provide an alternative to homelessness, but we create opportunities for an at-risk population that otherwise would go underserved," McNeil said.

Haldeman~Grant goes to Washington

Haver, a resident at RHD's Haldeman~Grant program, held the letter inviting him and the program to The White House and said: "Well, this has got to be a mistake. But it wasn't!"

Residents at Haldeman~Grant, a residential program for people with behavioral health challenges who are also medically fragile, got the chance of a lifetime: A tour of the White House this spring, thanks to the efforts of the staff and support from their local congressman.

All RHD programs work to make sure participants are a presence in their communities and engage in activities that enhance their quality of life. Almost on a whim, the staff at Haldeman~Grant decided, one day, to dream pretty big. As Director Dianna Coleman said: "We wanted to come up with something that no one in our program had ever experienced, and that would be meaningful and memorable for both participants and staff. It was our way of saying thank you."

Coleman and Office Manager Marie Boykin discussed their options and decided: "Why not write to the President? Let's take H~G to The White House! We were throwing darts, but we took a chance."

Boykin reached out to their local congressman, Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA13), and began the mountain of

paperwork involved in making a formal request for a White House tour.

"He walked us through it, step by step, and made it easy," Boykin said. "We thought it would be amazing if we could pull it off — it would be an experience people would take with them forever."

While taking the group to Washington seemed like a long shot, the odds were in their favor. When the invitation came, the program had two weeks to organize a trip to D.C. The participants wore their finest outfits, the staff wore newly printed H~G t-shirts, and everyone piled into two rental luxury vans and headed to The White House. ("We sang all the way down there," said Direct Support Professional Davery Burrell). Even the security checkpoints and K-9 lead searches were kind of fun.

"We flew through it; our feet didn't touch the ground," Haver said. "I have a story I can truly feel good about. I don't have to ever wonder what it's like there — I've been there! We saw everything we could see. I could not get over it. It made me feel so good."

"It was really good to see how the participants reacted to it, to see how excited they were," Direct Support Professional Duwan Robinson said. "Everybody just lit up."

"It means everything to have that kind of support from



the staff here, that they do things like that for you," said Janet, a Haldeman~Grant resident. "They respect me here, everybody is nice. I've never been treated this good in any place I've been, ever."

For more on this story, including photos from the trip, please visit: www.rhd.org/haldemangrant

Symbiosis at CCW

RHD artists collaborate with local college students

The artists from RHD's Center for Creative Works wanted to break the rules. In a Haverford College lab class, Haverford students demonstrated how to plate live bacteria in a petri dish. The instructions were to not break the surface. That was against the rules. CCW artists with intellectual disabilities immediately wanted to break the surface. Why not? they kept asking. Why can't we? Let's find out what happens!

"Eventually, we said: Um ... I guess so. I guess you can," Haverford student Lindsey Lopes said.

"That lack of control meant we were terrified the whole time," Haverford student Sarah Waldis said. "We were pushing against the boundaries and rules of the lab space, and in the moment it was really scary. It won't grow the way you want it to, it never works how you want it to. What if nothing works? It really felt like a risk, and of course the results were amazing. We got out of our comfort zone and produced something very incredible."

"It was 3-D and gross and beautiful," Lopes said.

The results, called bio-art, were one of the centerpieces of "Symbiosis: Art, Science, & Community," a public exhibition at Haverford that also featured woodworking and other artwork that came from the collaboration of CCW artists and Haverford College students. Working with a group of students at Haverford College in an extraordinary months-long collaboration, RHD artists with intellectual disabilities found themselves in the unique position of teaching college students what could happen when people step out of their comfort zone, learn from each other, and expand their worlds in new and interesting ways.

"It was truly an adventure for both parties — and our students probably learned a lot more than the artists from CCW," said Haverford Professor Kristin Lindgren.

This unique partnership began in Lindgren's disability studies class, where students wanted to find a local organization they could work with whose philosophy connected with them. Natalie DiFrank, a student in the class, had interned at Center for Creative Works, a unique, creative day service program with a focus on arts and arts-based skill-building, and pitched it to the class. "You've got to come and see it," DiFrank said, so they did.

"It's so full of creativity, such a vibrant space," Lindgren said. "Even before I'd talked with the staff, I thought: Something interesting is happening here."

CCW Director Lori Bartol and Vocational Arts and Education Supervisor Stephanie Petro-McClellan immediately agreed to a partnership that would see Haverford students working with artists at the studio, as well as CCW artists spending time on the Haverford campus.

"That was the big thing, for me," Petro-McClellan said. "Most of the time, it's people from the community coming here to volunteer. But our artists got a lot out of being on the campus with the students."

"I loved going to college," said Mary, a CCW artist. "I loved the students — they're my friends."

Haverford student Maggie Heffernan said: "We weren't seeking the traditional volunteer experience of 'us helping them.' We wanted a partnership, and that's what it was. We got to know the artists, we formed relationships with them."

"It was very much a collaborative experience," said Haverford student Courtney Carter. "I feel very lucky to have stumbled upon this. This partnership struck me on levels beyond academic — personal, emotional, stretching my mind."

The CCW artists took to their college experience with enthusiasm. Haverford swag from the bookstore was in high demand, and they ate in the cafeteria with the rest of the students each day.

"You could see our artists gain a sense of ownership," Bartol said. "They felt like they belonged there, that they weren't different. They blended in, and became part of the community, which is what we strive for."

The way the CCW artists constantly pushed the students to look at things in a different way, had an impact.

"The students developed an ability to go outside their comfort zone — both in terms of art making and in terms of spending time with people with intellectual disabilities," Lindgren said. "When the students spent time at CCW, they came to see the artists there not as a 'population,' but as individuals."

"We really felt like we were all in this together," Lopes said.

In fact, when the students were in the studio, it was the CCW artists who took on the teaching role. Lopes at one point stared at the blank sheet of paper in front of her, not sure what to do, until a CCW artist named Paige walked over and asked: "What's the matter?" When Lopes said, she just didn't know where to start or what to do, Paige smiled and offered some advice.

"Just start," Paige said. "Do whatever you feel like doing."

Lopes took a deep breath, put brush to paper and joined in.



Photos courtesy: Caleb Eckert



'I don't want to lose anyone'

RHD's dedication to second chances pays off for a Peer Specialist named Kassim, who turned his life around and now works to help other young people on a better path



Dyann Roth, CEO of Resources for Human Development

It starts with a handshake. Kassim Butler walks into a room of young people, some of them cynical and already trying to tune him out, some of them eager to find a new path of their own, and he begins by walking around the room and shaking everyone's hand. He asks their name, repeats it back, looks them in eye. He wants to connect with them. When he tells his story, they listen.

Kassim is a peer specialist at RHD's La Casa, and his extraordinary life story of recovery and redemption allows him to make a special impact on his program — and on everyone he meets. Kassim's success is a example of the value of second chances — something we believe in so strongly at RHD.

After Kassim served five years in federal prison, he began working at RHD as part of an employment program that provided jobs and life skills to people after they'd served their sentences and helped people reintegrate into society. He worked in the facilities department, cleaning the offices in the evening, and went to school to become a Certified Peer Specialist. Now he works at La Casa, helping young men break the cycle of homelessness (see the story on La Casa's services on page 3).

More than that, he regularly visits youth programs around Philadelphia, working with young men and women who've been in various levels of trouble and are looking for guidance to help them on a better path.

"RHD gave me a chance when I needed it," Kassim said. "I got the chance to change my life. I would have taken any job just to get on my feet and get started, and it was hard. In facilities at RHD, I cleaned the bathrooms for 3 years. But it was a chance.

"I went to class to get my certification as a peer specialist, and I went to every class. I chased it down. I worked. Now I have a life I'm proud of, working at RHD. When I was younger, I knew a lot of nobodies. I surrounded myself with lowlives. Now I'm surrounded by somebodies."

Kassim ran the streets and got in so much trouble that when he heard his prison sentence, he said: "I was actually happy it was only five years. Honestly. Five years? I thought I got away with it."

He and his friend Cornell Drummond talk openly and honestly about the choices they made as young men and where those choices led them. For both, it was prison; for Cornell, it was a gunshot that left him in a wheelchair.

They've both managed to turn their lives around, and they'll be featured in an upcoming documentary titled Men of Understanding. Kassim's long-term plan is to turn Men of Understanding into its own organization that helps young people understand the importance of education and making the right choices.

At one point Cornell asks Kassim to explain the scar on his forehead, and Kassim shrugs and says: "I got hit with a lock in a sock. That's prison, man. It's rough. I got in a lot of altercations, and I nearly died when I got into an altercation with a lifer. I found out what the difference is when you're dealing with a lifer — someone who literally has nothing to lose.

"Jail is an awful place. It's worse than you can imagine.



Men of Understanding: Kassim Butler is a peer specialist at RHD's La Casa. With support from RHD, Kassim got a second chance in life, and now works to help other young people avoid the mistakes that he made in his past. At La Casa, Philadelphia's only safe haven for young men experiencing homelessness, Kassim helps young men like Dior (bottom, at right) break the cycle of homelessness and become productive members of society.

It's survival of the fittest — and I walked in young and arrogant and thinking I was tough. I found out the hard way that you're never tough enough. You make one mistake and it costs you everything. One mistake and that's it."

RHD is committed to using Certified Peer Specialists like Kassim in our programs. Peer counseling services are particularly effective at making the personal connection needed to form therapeutic alliances with individuals who have been hard to reach.

"He's been a great asset to La Casa," said Director Howard McNeil. "The guys really take to him, they relate to him. They speak the same language."

Kassim wants to take his message to as many people as he can.

"I learned a valuable lesson," Kassim said. "I came home, and I changed my life around. I'm dedicating my life to making sure other people don't make the same mistakes. I look at them, and man, I can't even describe what I see. It's all in front of them. I want them all to hear this, and change their lives, just get something that clicks for them.

"They say if you reach one person, you've done good. But I want everybody. I don't want to lose anyone."

Kassim shows what can happen when you give people a chance. People you might never expect anything from are capable of extraordinary things if you can offer them opportunity. At RHD, we believe in that. And when you support our work at RHD, you support that belief in people's ability to turn their lives around. At RHD, we believe in second chances.

RHD IN THE NEWS: CHANGING LIVES, MAKING HEADLINES

For more on these stories and other news about RHD's innovative programs around the country serving people of all abilities, please visit the media center at www.rhd.org.

RHD's Susan Hunt, Owen Camuso honored as EBP Champions

RHD's Susan Hunt and Owen Camuso were honored as Evidence Based Practice Champions by the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services at the Evidence-Based Practice and Innovation Center Open House.

Camuso was honored for his work with RHD's FaSST/Connections, which helps people experiencing homelessness move from shelters to self-sufficiency through strength-based case management. Dr. Hunt was honored for her work in implementing Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) in residential programs supporting people in mental health recovery. Dr. Hunt worked for the last four years to create training for staff and an implementation plan for DBT in residential settings.

Zach Costello of RHD's Coordinated Homeless Outreach Center recognized as a Champion for Change at Montgomery County homeless summit

Zachary Costello, Outreach Coordinator at RHD's Coordinated Homeless Outreach Center, was honored with a Champion for Change Award at the 2016 Montgomery County Your Way Home Summit.

As a member of the street outreach team, Zach travels around the entire county to meet with people where they are located and uses humor to establish rapport. He treats people experiencing homelessness with dignity and respect. He cares deeply about the individuals served and has an understanding of the larger social issues that contribute to their situations, which help them to stop blaming themselves. Zach quietly keeps an eye on people experiencing homelessness and intervenes for their safety whether they know it or not.

Lincoln Financial Foundation helps give homeless youth a second chance with generous gift to RHD's La Casa, Philly's only youth safe haven

Homeless youth in Philadelphia will have a chance at a better and brighter future thanks to a generous gift from the Lincoln Financial Foundation to La Casa, the city's only safe haven for young men who are experiencing homelessness and mental health challenges.

The Lincoln Financial Foundation's gift of \$17,500 will help La Casa expand case management services to support young men as they attain housing, complete their education and gain employment. Too many young men, while motivated to break the cycle of homelessness, lack the life skills to sustain housing and/or employment. La Casa is dedicated to teaching young adults life skills, building around evidence-based practices that help them reintegrate into the community of their choice.

"Lincoln Financial Foundation is happy to support La Casa's important work with homeless and LGBT youth," said Susan Segal, the Foundation's Philadelphia program officer. "There are currently too few services for this vulnerable population; La Casa provides a much-needed resource and pathway to stable adulthood."

Rickey, artist at RHD's Imagine That! studio for people with intellectual disabilities, featured in Kansas City's 2016 Art in the Loop Project

Rickey, an artist at RHD's Imagine That! in Kansas City, is one of the featured artists in the 2016 Art in the Loop project. The 2016 Art in the Loop Project: Connect, a curated outdoor exhibition staged in partnership with the City of Kansas City, Missouri, features 25 temporary artworks and performances in local parks and at stops along Kansas City's new streetcar route.

Rickey's art and designs are reminiscent of patterns found in tapestries. Using mostly inks on paper, he creates dynamic compositions sometimes drawing connections to his interests in tattoos, biker culture, and Native American design. He shows a strong attention to positive and negative space, color interaction, and color theory. Rickey is prolific in making his drawings, and since his arrival at Imagine That! in 2012, he has made hundreds of designs and has shown work in multiple venues throughout the Kansas City area.

The project "Intersections" investigates the qualities between the colorful geometric drawings by Rickey and the cool, rigid palette of the cityscape. The bright and eccentric colors in the vinyl images placed on the Streetcar Shelter will create a bold focal point against the grays and dark silhouettes of the surrounding area.

RHD's Imagine That! is an innovative and creative arts studio for adults with developmental disabilities located in the Crossroads Arts District. Imagine That! provides individuals who participate with the tools and materials to create art and the supports to define themselves as artists. The studio's clients are supported by a team of trained artists that strive to integrate the studio into the larger art community locally, nationally, and internationally.



Brandon Forrest Frederick | photo

Montgomery County Recovery Center named a Center of Excellence



Kenneth Kauffman | photo

Center of Excellence: Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf graciously took a moment at the press conference announcing RHD's Montgomery County Recovery Center becoming a Center of Excellence as part of Pennsylvania's expansion of addiction recovery treatment to take a photo with the MCRC staff.

RHD welcomed Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf to the RHD Montgomery County Recovery Center, as Gov. Wolf and the Department of Human Services officially named MCRC a "Center of Excellence." Becoming a Center of Excellence as part of Pennsylvania's expansion of addiction recovery treatment will allow MCRC to offer more and better treatment to Pennsylvanians with opioid-related substance use disorder. MCRC was one of 20 Centers of Excellence opened by DHS this year.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to implement a holistic approach to service, and enhance MCRC's commitment to care for the whole person," Montgomery County Recovery Center director Marie McCartney said. "This award from DHS will double the capacity of our program, expanding the essential services we offer to people in our community who are in dire need of support.

"For 44 years, MCRC staff have supported Pennsylvanians from all socio-economic levels in their journey of recovery. We do this work in partnership with Montgomery County DBH, Probation and Parole, Drug Court, Magellan and a community of dedicated advocates and treatment providers throughout Pennsylvania."

RHD founded the center as the Montgomery County Methadone Center in 1972. In response to being named a Center of Excellence, the name of the program is changing to the Montgomery County Recovery Center to better reflect a commitment to the whole person and how the center will help more people on their journey of recovery.

MCRC supports more than 300 individuals each day, with an experienced team in place that provides treatment in conjunction with counseling and supportive services, and has a well-established Continuous Quality Improvement protocol, with a committee that includes professionals and consumer advocates.

The population served at MCRC includes people with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders, and the program also provides specialized treatment for pregnant/postpartum women.

"We are honored to join a community of providers fighting the national opioid epidemic," said Linda Donovan-Magdamo, Executive Vice President of RHD's Pennsylvania Behavioral Health & Housing Division. "RHD's Montgomery County Recovery Center is committed to participating actively in the learning network collaborative that arises out of this initiative. We're thrilled to see MCRC recognized for its excellence of service and dedication to the people of Pennsylvania."

Centers of Excellence help ensure that people with opioid-related substance use disorders rapidly connect to treatment, stay in treatment to receive follow-up care, and are supported within their community. Care management teams coordinate care and provide transitions to new parts of the treatment process.

"We received 116 applications from across the state, and of those we awarded (Centers of Excellence recognition) to the 20 best — and one of them is right here," said DHS Secretary Ted Dallas, who praised the Center's work and toured the facility.

Rather than just treating the addiction, Montgomery County Recovery Center and other Centers of Excellence will treat the entire person through team-based treatment, with the explicit goal of integrating behavioral health and primary care and, when necessary, evidence-based medication assisted treatment. MCRC has an experienced team in place that provides counseling and supportive services, and has a well-established Continuous Quality Improvement protocol, with a committee that includes professionals and consumer advocates.

The Center also offers HIV/AIDS testing and counseling and TB testing for all participants. MCRC staff regularly coordinates Medication Assisted Treatment with primary healthcare providers, and the program maintains working relationships with a variety of other Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health Treatment providers.

Care packages



RHD DeFuniak Springs visited local police and sheriff's offices to provide "survival kits for law enforcement officers" and thank them for all they do. Among the items in the packages were Hershey's Kisses ("To show our love for you") and gum ("To help everyone stick together"). RHD clients with intellectual disabilities signed each bag.

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2 RHD's ACT Teams support mental health recovery and independence

About Resources for Human Development

A national human services nonprofit founded in 1970, Resources for Human Development serves tens of thousands of people of all abilities every year with caring, effective and innovative programs addressing intellectual and developmental disabilities, behavioral health, homelessness, addiction recovery and more. In partnership with local governments and those we serve, RHD builds better lives, families and communities.



3 RHD's La Casa tackles youth homelessness as Philly's only safe haven

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4 RHD's Center for Creative Works engages in collaboration with Haverford College



7 Governor Wolf, DHS declare RHD's MCRC a Center of Excellence

