

RICCMHO Members:

**Community Counseling
Center, Inc.**

**East Bay Mental Health
Center, Inc.**

The Kent Center

**Mental Health Services of
Cranston, Johnston, and
Northwestern Rhode
Island, Inc.**

**Newport County
Community Mental
Health Center, Inc.**

**NRI Community
Services, Inc.**

The Providence Center

**Riverwood Mental
Health Services, Inc.**

**South Shore Mental
Health Center, Inc.**

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

May 3rd heralded the kick-off of May is Mental Health Month. If you would like more information or a copy of the calendar, which details the many events scheduled, you may contact the Mental Health Association of Rhode Island at (401) 726-2285.

RICCMHO CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Rhode Island Council of Community Mental Health Organizations (RICCMHO) will mark its 25th Anniversary on October 13, 2004, at 12:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, RI. This celebratory event will look back at the expansion of Rhode Island's community mental health organizations (CMHOs) and look forward to the challenges facing our system. Look for details in the near future.



NATIONAL RECOGNITION AWARD PRESENTED TO RICCMHO MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS AND THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, RETARDATION AND HOSPITALS



Representatives from the Rhode Island DMHRH and members of the Rhode Island Council of Community Mental Health Organizations in New Orleans, with NCCBH Board Chair, Dale Klatzker.

RICCMHO is pleased to announce that its member organizations and the Rhode Island Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals (DMHRH), Division of Behavioral Healthcare Services were presented the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare (NCCBH) 2004 *Community Crisis Response Award of Excellence*. The Award was presented at the NCCBH Annual Training Conference on March 1, 2004, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In the hours and days immediately following the most tragic fire in Rhode Island's history at The Station nightclub in West Warwick on February 20, 2003, DMHRH, partnering with the CMHOs, became responsible for: providing a compassionate response to the waiting families; accompanying families on visits to the site and at community services and vigils; and, serving as a member of the three-person death notification team along with Department of Health representatives and clergy. The CMHOs and DMHRH provided services at the Family Resource Center and at other community locations. By May, 2003, over 1600 hours of service had been provided. Ongoing services include outreach and intervention, public education as well as outreach and training for providers and first responders. *See Training News (page 3) for details on training programs organized by RICCMHO.*

RICCMHO WELCOMES OUR NEW COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

We are pleased to announce that Joan Beauchemin has recently joined the RICCMHO staff in the role of Community Organizer. Joan was most recently Executive Director of NonProfit Resources of Southern New England. Joan brings to RICCMHO a wealth of experience within the nonprofit sector and the Rhode Island community. We look forward to working with Joan in enhancing our mental health advocacy efforts.

STATE HOUSE NEWS

By Elizabeth V. Earls, President/CEO, RICCMHO

"SECRETARIAT" CREATED FOR HUMAN SERVICES

In one of his first steps toward implementation of the numerous recommendations contained in his recently released Fiscal Fitness Report, the Governor has issued an Executive Order, creating the Office of Health and Human Services. The Office is a five-agency human services "Secretariat" charged with planning and developing legislation for the Departments of Human Services; Health; Elderly Affairs; Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals; and Children, Youth and Families.

After reviewing the full Fiscal Fitness Report, the Council communicated its initial questions and comments to the Governor, specifically addressing those changes that will impact on the management and delivery of behavioral health services to Rhode Islanders in need. We ask that:

- As the Administration works to increase efficiencies across government, that it not lose sight of the needs of persons with psychiatric disabilities.
- The plan to remove from the respective State Departments the responsibility for budget and financial management does not in fact strip the agency's ability to truly design and implement high quality, accessible services.

Under the Executive Order, Jane Haywood, Managing Director of the Office of Health and Human Services, will pull together a team of State employees to help her develop the Secretariat plan, which is due by 9/1/04. The legislation to enact it would be introduced in the 2005 session.

THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED FY 2005 BUDGET

We are closely monitoring the FY 2005 state budget proposed by the Governor, which includes severe cuts to mental health and substance abuse treatment funding. These cuts will dramatically curtail access to mental health services for those who need it most. Of particular concern are:

- His proposal to reduce reimbursement for Mobile Treatment Team (MTT) services. This cut would eliminate almost \$1.8 million in funding, and will have a devastating impact on services. Our member organizations tell us that if this reduction is approved, it will mean a loss of psychiatrists and clinicians, who primarily serve Rhode Islanders in the CMHOs' outpatient programs. It is already difficult for individuals and families to receive timely mental health treatment because of the shortage of services in Rhode Island. With these cuts, more Rhode Islanders will end up in the hospital, or in need of emergency care.
- It will also result in the loss of vital programs, such as the 6th District Court Clinic. This Clinic has screened over 700 individuals each year, and has identified persons with minor offenses who have ended up in court as a result of an untreated mental illness or substance abuse disorder. Early identification and diversion into treatment means less state dollars spent on prisons.

COMMUNITY PROVIDER INDEX

In our first newsletter, we told you about Article 27, which passed in our state budget last year. Article 27 establishes a Commission to develop a Community Provider Index that will identify the real costs to health and human service providers in serving Rhode Island's most vulnerable citizens. This Commission is just beginning its work to develop a funding methodology that will bring financial stability to our health and human services system. Stay tuned to this very important issue, as we will be updating you throughout the next few months about how you can help ensure that the State provides fair funding for these critical services.

PROFILE: CHARLES E. MAYNARD

Charles E. Maynard – the man who played an instrumental role in creating Rhode Island’s nationally recognized community mental health system - has announced plans to retire in June, after 36 years in the forefront of mental health care. Charley serves on the boards of directors of About Families, Family Life Center, The Rhode Island Council of Community Mental Health Organizations, and Whitmarsh House. He is also a member of the State Housing Appeals Board. He is known locally and nationally for innovation in behavioral health program development. He has served as a member and chairman of the Mental Health Corporations of America, Community Treatment Affiliates, and the Rhode Island Coalition for Mental Health. He has also served as a regional representative on the Board of Directors of the National Council of Community Mental Health Centers (now known as the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare) and is a member of the Board of the American College of Mental Health.

A Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW), Charley received his Master’s Degree from the Columbia University School of Social Work. He has been a lecturer at the University of Rhode Island’s Department of Sociology and Anthropology and an instructor at Rhode Island College School of Social Work.



Maynard, founder and CEO of The Providence Center, was hired by the City of Providence in 1968 to facilitate a \$50,000 grant to open a clinic that would treat adults and children with mental and emotional illnesses. His first office was a room in the Biltmore Hotel. Now, 36 years later, under Charley’s leadership, that clinic has evolved into a mental health organization that employs more than 500 people and annually serves more than 9,000 adults, teens and children throughout the State from four major service centers.

Charley opened the doors of the facility that was then called the Providence Mental Health Center in January 1969. He and three other mental health professionals on staff served 67 families in the first six weeks; within a year, the clinical staff was treating 240 people. In the 1970’s, Charley’s agency was among those that worked with the State Department of MHRH to provide community-based treatment for individuals who had been released from state institutions. The program, which linked former patients with community agencies, set Rhode Island apart from other states, which did not provide such support for deinstitutionalized patients. In the 1980’s, Charley developed the Employee Assistance Program to provide confidential, professional help to mainstream health care participants who were facing mental health and substance abuse issues.

A native Rhode Islander, Charley and his wife, Vicky, reside in East Greenwich. They have three children and three grandchildren. His absence from the Rhode Island’s mental health care scene will be deeply felt and his legacy will endure for decades to come.

TRAINING NEWS

Following the devastating fire that swept through The Station nightclub, killing 100 people and burning 200 others, the federal office of Emergency and Disaster Relief of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) made an award to the State to help our community systems respond to the impact of this tragedy. The award recipient, DMHRH, subcontracted with RICCMHO to design, develop, conduct and evaluate a number of training events that would respond to the anticipated behavioral health needs of our community.

In October, representatives from the Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors, an organization that offers programs, services and resource information to burn survivors and those who care for them, presented the day-long workshop, *Helping Burn Survivors and Their Families to Heal and Recover: Psychosocial Aspects of Burn Injuries*.

Trauma: The Mind/Body Connection was presented over two full-days in December. This workshop was designed to offer providers an exploration and understanding of psychological and physiological reactions to serious trauma and information on a range of clinical intervention models. (Continued on page 4)



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The Rhode Island Council of Community Mental Health Organizations is a non-profit association of the State's community mental health organizations.

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Training News (continued from page 3)

Two half-day programs were presented later in December. The first, *Considerations in Planning for the First Anniversary of the Station fire: Addressing the Needs of Survivors, Families, and the Community at Large*, was designed for community leaders and volunteers who would be planning or participating in memorial events. Brian W. Flynn, Ed.D., an internationally recognized expert on the psychosocial aspects of large-scale emergencies and disasters, spoke on the purpose of remembrance events and memorial sites, understanding symbols and rituals, and the needs of families, survivors and others related to this anniversary. Lisa C. Patton, Ph.D., Director, SAMHSA Disaster Technical Assistance Center (DTAC) presented the second half-day workshop, *Responding to the First Anniversary of The Station Fire: A Workshop for Behavioral Healthcare Providers*. Dr. Patton explored reactions to trauma, risk factors for prolonged traumatic reactions or strong anniversary reactions, as well as issues specific to RI fire survivors and family members of victims.

The final activity made possible through this award will be a comprehensive peer support training program for public safety personnel which is being planned for presentation over five full-days in May, 2004. This program will prepare teams of peer supporters, specially trained officers, who will provide support and assistance to colleagues during times of personal and professional crisis.

One Rhode Island Platform

The Poverty Institute at Rhode Island College School of Social Work has developed the One Rhode Island platform, which promotes economic security for all Rhode Islanders. RICCMHO supports this platform. Learn more about One Rhode Island by visiting the Poverty Institute's website at www.povertyinstitute.org and clicking on the One Rhode Island link which details the platform and also suggests ways in which individuals may show support. You may also contact the Poverty Institute at (401) 456-8512 for further information.