

Connection

The newsletter of Integrated Services

Spring 2010



Greetings

These are interesting and challenging times, to say the least. As always, our response to new challenges is to recommit to existing partnerships and to remain open to new collaborative opportunities. We are fortunate to be able to look forward to many new endeavors in the coming months.

Recently, much of my time has been spent exploring opportunities for integrative primary care associated with recent healthcare and related reforms. If everything goes as planned, we will soon enter into an agreement with behavioral health providers statewide for the Ohio Electronic Health Record (HER) Collaborative. These are certainly exciting times.

Remember to enjoy the blossom of spring as we look forward to the long expanse of summer months.

Regards,



Kevin Gillespie
Executive Director

Stay Connected

The easiest way to communicate with any Integrated Services staff is to start with the Athens office. Please feel free to give us a call or email. We will put you in touch with the appropriate person.

Stephen Poling
spoling@integratedservice.org
740-594-6807

In this Issue

Page 1: Greetings

Page 2: Changes Afoot

Page 3: Home-Based Mission

Changes Afoot

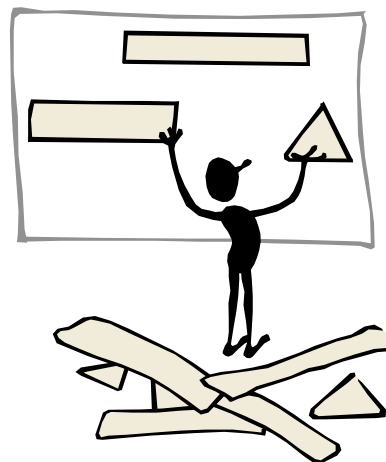
by Kim Dement, Associate Executive Director, Youth & Family Services

There are many new and exciting things happening at Integrated Services! I always say, “there is nothing new but change in this company.” We do have an innovative leadership team that is always looking to the horizon to keep us fresh and open for improvement. Recently, we emerged into the world of homelessness and affordable housing in Athens County. Working in partnership with Hocking/Athens/Perry Community Action (HAPCAP), we are implementing the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP). This has allowed us to become part of a collaborative solution for consumer’s who are homeless or at risk due to current circumstances.

Terri Gillespie, the new Program Director for Perry, Hocking, Athens, and Meigs Counties, has several new employees working with HPRP and providing home-based supportive services throughout the region. Agreements with the Meigs County Juvenile Court, Meigs County Job & Family Services and Athens Metropolitan Housing have strengthened our collaborative network. So far, we have been fortunate to find dedicated helping professionals to meet new demands for services and supports.

Also, Integrated Services has entered into an agreement with Sojourners Care Network to provide therapeutic services within their regional system-of-care. Chris Smitley is managing this endeavor with Martha Greer. New helping professionals have joined the Ross County team to provide home-based services under the direction of Lindsey Palmer. Both Ken Murray, Program Director in Jackson County, and Maureen Keller, Program Director in Vinton County, added capacity in their counties, as well.

We will continue to carefully add as needs demand and in close collaboration with community partners. The trick is to find just the right mix of services to meet needs within a challenging financial environment. Be sure to stay tuned!



Home-Based Mission

*by Lindsey Palmer, Program Director,
Ross County*

The mission of our agency is *to provide an array of services that supports the integration of behavioral health and rehabilitation services across systems. To foster a service that is family-centered, community-based, and culturally competent.* When working in a home-based setting there is a great responsibility to the provider. Being in someone's home requires overall respect for human life and the many differences encountered during our work. The provider sets aside personal values and biases that might hold them back in forming a relationship with a family in need. Home-based means delving deep into the problems with the family and helping them find a way out of the crisis. This takes us into the schools, courts, cluster wrap-around, etc. The providers spend a lot of time with a family and can at times feel almost a part of the family. Home-based work allows the freedom to meet people where they live in a real sense without the stifling walls of a clinic.

The other important mission of home-based work is to find that perfect balance between being a therapeutic provider and being a friend. Every intervention should connect the treatment plan. One of the most important qualities of a home-based worker is the ability to move the family to a place of self sufficiency. Staying clear of enmeshment and the fostering of dependence in our families is vital to families' success. We don't do them any favors when we add to the list of people that they can't function without. Ask yourself two questions to determine

if you have a balance: Is this intervention moving them toward their goal? Can they maintain this goal when treatment is complete? The perfect closure to a home-based case is during the last week of treatment where the family calls to tell you about a crisis that occurred and how they were able to handle things without help. If this scenario occurs, you know you have arrived! Always remember the mission of what we do is to help our families reach self sufficiency in their lives. Will there ever be a crisis again? Absolutely! The true question is how they will handle that next crisis without intervention.

