

MARK G. STRINGER



EDUCATION, CERTIFICATION, AND LICENSURE

MA Counseling, Northeast Missouri State University, Kirksville, MO (1990)
BA Psychology (Magna cum laude), Westminster College, Fulton, MO (1978)
LPC Missouri Licensed Professional Counselor #CS 001748
NCC NBCC National Certified Counselor #26183

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DIVISION DIRECTOR 2007-Present

For the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in the Missouri Department of Mental Health from 2007-2009, then for the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) from 2009 to present. Responsible for a state agency with a combined budget of \$760 million and 3,950 staff. My division operates seven psychiatric hospitals and manages 623 contracts with community agencies that provide clinical programs and support services for people with serious mental illness or substance use disorders. We work with schools and community coalitions to prevent substance abuse and promote mental health. DBH operates the Substance Abuse Traffic Offender Program and provides counseling for people with compulsive gambling disorders and their families. DBH also operates the sexually violent predator program. The Division and its contracted community providers served over 147,000 people in FY 2014.

Major accomplishments:

- Integrated the Divisions of Alcohol and Drug Abuse and Comprehensive Psychiatric Services into one operating division that is modern, efficient, and promotes integrated care.
- With Dr. Joe Parks, managed the award winning Disease Management 3700 and Health Homes projects. In 2014, expanded the DM project to include people with substance use disorders.
- Successfully implemented the Governor's *Strengthening Missouri's Mental Health System* initiatives, including the Emergency Room Enhancement and Community Mental Health Liaison projects.
- Grew Mental Health First Aid in the state and nationally. With support from Governor Nixon and assistance from the Missouri Institute of Mental Health, over 21,000 Missourians have been trained.
- First in the country to make medication assisted treatment (MAT) for substance use disorders available throughout the publicly funded system.
- Successfully privatized two state-operated psychiatric facilities.
- Worked with the Division of Developmental Disabilities to transfer its forensic program from Marshall Habilitation Center to Fulton State Hospital.
- Collaborated with the Department of Corrections (DOC) since 2002 to reduce offender re-entry. Implemented a novel program to initiate MAT prior to release for offenders being released from the St. Louis City jail and two DOC prisons.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

2001-2006

Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in the Missouri Department of Mental Health. Also served as Interim Department Deputy Director from July 2006 through January 2007.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

1996-2000

Horizon Mental Health Management (HMHM) Inc., the largest psychiatric services contract management company in the U.S., headquartered in Lewisville, Texas. As HMHM's Director of Geropsychiatric Services for Moberly Regional Medical Center in Moberly, Missouri, was responsible for the successful operation of a Joint Commission accredited inpatient geropsychiatric unit and an outpatient partial hospitalization program. Supervised a multidisciplinary staff of 20, including a psychiatrist, social workers, counselors, and registered nurses. Regional nominee for Horizon's Program Director of the Year award in 1997, and my program was nominated for the Customer Service Award for 1998.

PROGRAM SPECIALIST II

1994-1996

Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. As a Treatment Specialist, served as a member of a self-directed team of professionals responsible for assuring quality and consistency in the delivery of substance abuse treatment services in the State of Missouri. From November 1994 through March 1995, was given a special assignment by the Division Director to serve as Interim Executive Director of a troubled human services agency in Kansas City with a \$2.9 million budget and a variety of mental health and substance use disorder services.

DIRECTOR OF OUTPATIENT SERVICES

1992-1994

KOMC Laughlin Pavilion, the former psychiatric facility of the (then) Kirksville Osteopathic Medical Center complex. Director of outpatient mental health services primarily for children, including psychotherapy, psychological testing, and information and referral services. Also served as Director of the hospital's Intake Department. Earned hospital's 1993 "Manager of the Year" award.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

1989-1991

Recovery Centers of America/New Beginnings at (then) Kirksville Osteopathic Medical Center. Director of a 14-bed adolescent dual-diagnosis treatment unit. Earned company award for outstanding performance as a new program director.

TREATMENT COORDINATOR

1988-1989

Recovery Centers of America/New Beginnings at Laughlin Pavilion. Supervisor of a multidisciplinary clinical staff and services for a 22-bed adult treatment program for people with substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders.

CHIEF THERAPIST

1984-1987

Comprehensive Care Corporation/CareUnit, Kirksville, MO. Supervised clinical staff and services in an award-winning inpatient substance abuse program and an intensive outpatient program.

AWARDS

Ramstad-Kennedy Award, Recovery Month Planning Partners – June 2014

Outstanding Leadership Award, University of Central MO/Community Partners for Reentry and Recovery – September 2013

Melanie Davis Courage Award, St. Louis Drug Court – August 2013

Award of Appreciation, National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors – July 2012

NASADAD Leadership Award, National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors – June, 2011

National Treatment Network Champion Award – June, 2011

Missouri Public Service Award, National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse – December, 2008

ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHP), 2009 – present.

National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD), 2007 – present. Have served as President of the Board of Directors since 2012.

Missouri Drug Courts Coordinating Commission, 2007 – present.

PUBLICATIONS

Extended-release naltrexone for alcohol and opioid problems in Missouri parolees and probationers, co-authored with Paul Crits-Christoph and Christie Lundy et. al., in Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment (in press).

Preliminary evaluation of extended-release naltrexone in Michigan and Missouri drug courts, co-authored with Michael Finigan and Joseph Parks et. al., in Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment, Vol. 41(3) (June 2011), pp. 288-93.

Advancing performance measures for use of medications in substance abuse treatment, co-authored with Cindy Parks Thomas et. al., in Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment Vol. 40(1) (Oct. 2010), pp. 35-43.

Book review of *Substance Abuse Services: A Guide to Planning and Management*, in Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment, Vol. 10 (May 1993), pp. 329-330.

Book review of *Drinking and Driving: Advances in Research and Prevention*, in Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment, Vol. 10 (January 1993), pp. 409-410.

Marketing Counseling Services: Guidelines for Training and Practice, co-authored with Dr. L. Gilchrist, in Counselor Education and Supervision, Vol. 31(3) (March 1992), pp. 154-162.

TEACHING

Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (1990-1994): Department of Psychiatry Guest Lecturer in GENERAL PSYCHIATRY course and guest lecturer in continuing medical education programs.

Northeast Missouri State University (1989, 1990): Adjunct Faculty/Instructor, CRIMINOLOGY, Justice Systems Department, Division of Social Science.

Northeast Missouri State University (1988): Instructor, GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY, Department of Psychology, Division of Social Science.