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EXPERIENCE

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
RUTGERS HEALTH: UNIVERSITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE
Piscataway, New Jersey

November 2016 to Present

Vice President of Ambulatory Services

Responsible for clinical and administrative operations for state-wide ambulatory system of care.
Spearheaded transition to federally designated Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC).
Expanded services for Substance Use Disorders including opening of ASAM Level I Ambulatory Withdrawal Management program.
Developed new lines of business including Intensive Outpatient level of care.
Successfully negotiated contract between Department of Correction and Department of Health to develop state-wide Intensive Treatment Recovery Support (IRTS) program which provides pre and post-release Peer Navigator services to incarcerated individuals to support successful community re-entry

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH MEDICAL CENTER
COMMUNITY CARE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ORGANIZATION
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

October 2012 to October 2016

Regional Director

Responsible for multi-level evaluation of business opportunities in New Jersey and execution of business plan.
Conducted over 175 meetings to date with stakeholders including providers, trade agencies, government representatives, legislators, family members and individuals served by the Behavioral Health system in NJ in order to understand the behavioral health landscape, develop an informed response to pending Request for Proposals and help inform the internal strategic planning process.
Successful in establishing relationships with stakeholders and improving organization's brand recognition and reputation within the state. Organization has become a resource to trade associations, providers and legislators on issues including managed care readiness and behavioral health/physical health integration.
Lead contact for all consultants; project manager for pending insurance licensure application. Responsible for all public relations in region.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH MEDICAL CENTER
WESTERN PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE AND CLINIC
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

September 2007 to June 2012

Clinical Administrator Comprehensive Recovery Services

Responsible for clinical and administrative operations of largest service line within Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic (WPIC).
Led department-wide efforts in preparing for and negotiating impact of closure of Mayview State Hospital on department and organization; instrumental in rapid program development necessary to care for individuals in the community.
Provided clinical supervision to service line leadership, overseeing ambulatory programs that include Outpatient Mental Health Clinics, Intensive Outpatient Program, Psychiatric and Social Rehabilitation, Blended and Administrative Case Management, Community Treatment Teams, Mobile Medication Program and Long Term Structured Residences.
Responsible for 250 clinical and support staff.
Managed \$15 million budget. Developed and monitored fiscal plan of each program to include budget development, monitoring of expenditures, revenue benchmarks and productivity.
Established and monitored best practice standards within the service delivery system, including recovery oriented practices.
Participant in multiple committees dedicated to compliance with JCAHO standards.
Participant in community planning through liaisons with County, State, regional and local providers. Represent WPIC/UPMC through various professional organizations, committees and groups. Successful in brokering new relationships.
Reorganized structure of Community Treatment teams including salary structure, organizational design while keeping with the fidelity of the Assertive Community Treatment model.
Initiated programs bridging research protocols and clinical practice; Metabolic Syndrome Monitoring, Cognitive Enhancement Therapy.
Responsible for clinical and administrative operations of continuum of services for homeless individuals including outreach, transitional and permanent supportive housing, Safe Haven, and Shelter Plus Care programs.
Managed federal grants through HUD and SAMHSA exceeding \$5 million annual budget.
Initiated business plan for supportive employment projects with consumer run businesses in food service and housekeeping.

SAINT MARY'S HOSPITAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
Amsterdam, NY

June 1987 to June 2007

Director of Addiction Services

January 2002 to June 2007

Coordinated comprehensive service delivery system covering two counties including detoxification, inpatient rehabilitation, outpatient clinic, day rehabilitation, methadone maintenance, primary care/behavioral health, and employee assistance programs (24 contracts, 6000 covered lives).

Developed a methadone treatment program, unique in its integration with established clinic services and considered a pilot project for New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS).

Successfully integrated harm reduction model and Addiction Medicine into abstinence based service delivery system.

Managed all budget related activities, human resources and supervision of management team for department.

Coordinated all Utilization Review/Performance Improvement activities; Division specialist in regulatory compliance.

Leader of department-wide efforts in preparation for JCAHO and OASAS reviews, consistently resulting in highest level of accreditation in all programs.

Community leader on issues related to Behavioral Health; frequent speaker on wellness issues, topics related to addictions.

Behavioral Health Specialist

February 1999 to January 2002

Integral in development of new behavioral health/primary care program – first of its kind in New York's Capital District.

Provided clinical assessments and short term focused therapy to patients in the primary care setting, reducing the patient stigma attached to receiving psychotherapy services.

Provided consultative services to physicians and acted as a liaison between primary care services and psychiatry.

Manager of Inpatient Services

August 1994 to February 1999

Managerial Responsibilities:

Managed and coordinated treatment efforts of interdisciplinary treatment team for 20 bed inpatient rehabilitation unit.

Supervised staff of 25, encompassing inpatient rehabilitation unit, detoxification services and hospital intervention services.

Participated in CQI and incident review activities.

Provided individual, group, family and marital counseling.

Managed care interface for department.

Active role in legislative lobbying, interacting with state legislature and agencies.

Consulting Activities:

Provided utilization review services for alcoholism and mental health claims for union local.

Reviewed medical records and made written recommendations on reimbursement options. Provided clinical consultation to benefits administrator of union.

Clinical Supervisor

June 1987 to August 1994

Provided clinical supervision to professional staff.

MSW consultation to hospital Patient & Family Care Department in accordance with JCAHO regulations.

Instrumental in creation and expansion of alcoholism services to include detoxification services, inpatient rehabilitation unit, outpatient clinic and EAP services.

Designed and coordinated programs for families of alcoholics, including groups for codependents, adolescents, children and adult children of alcoholics.

Facilitated therapeutic groups for adolescents, children (ages 6-12) and adult children of alcoholics.

Conducted in-service training with staff and educational sessions to the community via a lecture series .

SCHENECTADY CENTER FOR PSYCHOTHERAPY & EATING DISORDERS
Schenectady, NY

June 1998 to January 2007
(part-time)

Private Practitioner

Provided individual, family and marital counseling services, with caseload consisting of adults and adolescents.

Addressed range of issues, including life cycle changes, anxiety, depression, chemical dependency, and eating disorders.

Collaborated closely with medical professionals for medication management.

CONIFER PARK
Scotia, NY

November 1986 to May 1987

Case Manager, Adolescent Unit

Member of treatment team providing in-patient services to chemically dependent adolescents.

Conducted bio-psychosocial assessments and developed treatment plans based on defined needs.

Provided individual, group and family counseling.

Acted as liaison between treatment team, patients, family members, school system and outside agencies.

PUBLICATIONS:

Nash, K, Ghinassi, F, Brar, JS, Alam, A, Bohan, MC, Gopalan, K, Carter, A, Chengappa, KNR. The Development and Implementation of an Electronic Health Record Tool for Monitoring Metabolic Syndrome Indices in Patients with Serious Mental Illness. Clinical Schizophrenia and Related Psychoses. In Press. DOI: 10.3371/CSRP.NAGH.112013

EDUCATION

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY
New York, NY
Masters in Social Work
Concentration in Social Work Administration, Policy and Planning

RUSSELL SAGE COLLEGE
Troy, NY
B. A. Psychology

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & ACTIVITIES

Licensed Clinical Social Worker Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (active), State of New York (inactive)
Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor, State of New York, 1988 - 2012
Selected for UPMC Quality Education Series, Karl D. Wolff Jr. Center for Quality, Safety and Innovation
Project: Expanding Metabolic Syndrome Monitoring to Community Based Programs, October, 2011-March, 2012
Presenter at 2006 National Assembly of the Catholic Health Association, Orlando, FL.
Member - Board of Directors, Bridge Center, Schenectady, NY, April 1994 to 1998

Adjunct Professor - Schenectady County Community College, 1990