

Connections

The Newsletter of the Connections Program

A Partnership between the Health District of Northern Larimer County and the Larimer Center for Mental Health

Connections 2008 Annual Report

Submitted by: Dee Colombini, LPC
Program Coordinator, Connections



As you may know, Connections is a partnership comprised of the Health District of Northern Larimer County and Larimer Center for Mental Health. Our mission is to improve our community's mental health status by helping residents access mental health and substance abuse services.

We offer information, referral and assistance for mental health and substance abuse services. Our On-Call Mental Health Specialists are available for walk-in appointments Monday through Friday 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. We are available for telephone calls Monday through Friday 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. There is no fee for the services mentioned above. Services are available to persons residing in Northern Larimer County.

Connections provides other services on a very limited basis to include assessment, brief therapy, care coordination, consumer advocacy, short term therapy, and Stepping Stones Skills group. Additionally, we provide off-site services at the Larimer County Detention Center and the Poudre School District. Note that there may be fees for some of these services. The goal of these services is to serve as a bridge as we connect clients to long term services.

We are involved with a number of community agencies and actively partner with Crossroads Safe House Home Program, TEAM Fort Collins, and the CARE Team (formally known as the Mental Health Disaster Response Team).

The Connections Annual Report outlines some statistical information regarding the Connections program, the Pro Bono program, and other services provided to the community. Following are the highlights of the Connections 2008 Annual Report:

The total number of services provided by Connections was 11,300; the total number of individuals served was 3,657.

The number of staff referrals made (which includes referrals to Larimer Center for Mental Health, private providers and other agencies) was 5,652; there were 56,654 hits for mental health providers and agencies made on Healthinfosource.com.

There were 6,573 direct client services provided, this includes assessment, crisis intervention, brief intervention therapy, care coordination, consumer advocacy services and self screening.

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We encourage you to submit short articles (50-500 words) on therapeutic approaches, mental health topics, case studies, or therapeutic book/movie reviews, etc., & will publish them as space allows. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

Connections

Dee Colombini, Mental Health Services
Program Coordinator for
Health District of Northern Larimer County
dcolombini@healthdistrict.org

Candace Mattos, Program Coordinator
and
Adult Services Director of
Larimer Center for Mental Health
Candace.Mattos@larimercenter.org

Mental Health Specialists:

Andrea Atherton
andrea.atherton@larimercenter.org

Joan Cmar
jcmar@healthdistrict.org

Ann Cope
acope@healthdistrict.org

Anne Marie Cronin
Anne.Cronin@larimercenter.org

Bonnie Inscho
Bonnie.Inscho@larimercenter.org

Susan Jacobs
Susan.jacobs@larimercenter.org

Stacy Overton
soverton@healthdistrict.org

Stefan Price
sprice@healthdistrict.org

Patti Marqui-Hilker
Consumer Advocate
pmarquihilker@healthdistrict.org

Admin. Phone: 970-494-4370

Fax: 970-494-4303

Direct Services: 970-221-5551

Web: www.mentalhealthconnections.org

To view Connections Newsletter and the
Professional Bulletin Board online:
www.healthdistrict.org/connections

Connections is published 6 times/year. The purpose of *Connections* is to offer information on current therapy groups and services in the community; provide updates on services available through the Connections Program; and offer a place where information on community happenings of interest to mental health and human services providers can be shared.

Submissions are welcome. E-mail them to Carrie Husted at chusted@healthdistrict.org by the following deadlines:

NEXT EDITION: Sept / Oct 2009
Article Deadline: August 15, 2009

Submissions printed in *Connections* do not necessarily reflect the views of the Connections Program. Our editorial staff do not check the credentials of individuals wishing to submit groups or other listings. If you have concerns regarding credentials or other issues, please contact the group leader or author of the article directly. Thank you.

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Pro Bono Program:

- * The Connections staff matched 457 consumers to Pro Bono providers; of those, 74% followed through with the referral.
- * The percentage of clients reporting having been helped by the Pro Bono counseling was 100%.
- * The percentage of clients satisfied with the Pro Bono counseling was 98%.
- * There were 91 volunteer providers on our Pro Bono Network; in 2008 they provided 2,260 sessions; the average number of sessions per provider was 25.
- * The total amount paid out to Contracted Pro Bono providers was \$26,660.
- * The percentage of Pro Bono providers satisfied with the Pro Bono program is 93%.

Low-Cost Psychiatric Services:

- * There were 98 clients referred to the Pro Bono Psychiatric Specialty program.
- * There were 309 low-cost psychiatric sessions provided to consumers.

If you would like a copy of this report and answers to the Frequently Asked Questions and concerns that were raised on the satisfaction survey completed by providers, please contact Carrie Husted by email at chusted@healthdistrict.org or by phone at (970) 494-4370.

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221-5551

525 W. Oak Street, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

a partnership of the Health District and Larimer Center for Mental Health

Resources for the Community

Group Supervision

This is an ongoing group providing supervision for people who need hours for licensure. Space is limited. This group meets two times per month for an hour each time.

The cost is \$35.00 per session. The location is in Old Town, Fort Collins. There are two facilitators: Rachel Isenberg, LCSW, ACSW and Maggie Tibbitts, LCSW.

If you are interested in participating in this group, please call Rachel at (970) 490-6851 or Maggie at (970) 988-4173.



2009 Summer Education Series II

All sessions are open to those grieving the death of a loved one or any one providing support to bereaved persons. Those interested may attend any or all of the sessions.

When: July 21 through August 11, 2009

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. (Tuesdays)

Schedule:

July 21 - Exploring Loss thru Art Therapy

July 28 - Loss and Writing: How Words Can Help

August 4 - Moments of Hope: Meditation During Grief

August 11 - Soothing Sounds: The Healing Powers of Music

Cost: No fees required. No registration required. Donations are welcome.

Location: Pathways Hospice
205 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins

For more information please call (970) 663-3500

Summer Memorial Service

"Memory is a way of holding onto things you love, the things you are, the things you never want to lose." - From the television show *The Wonder Years*.



Pathways for Grief and Loss will hold the Summer Memorial Service on Monday, July 13, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. Location is 305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins. There is no fee and registration is not required.

For more information please call (970) 663-3500.

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Fort Collins, Colorado 80521



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