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NEWS

Issue No. 6 The Newsletter of the Postgraduate Center for Mental Health

Residential Snapshot: Crotona Park North Residence

PCMH’s Crotona Park North Residence, set on a quiet street overlooking the expansive green of Crotona Park in the Bronx, opened its doors on May 27, 2014. Walking into the bright, gleaming lobby of the modern brick building, the scent of new construction fills the air, conveying the sense that this is very much a place for new beginnings.



PCMH’s Crotona Park North Residence in the Bronx is home to 50 residents, and overlooks a picturesque expanse of treetops.

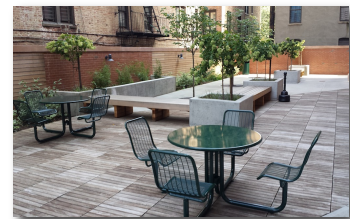
As Linda Taylor, the charming and cheerful program director at Crotona Park North, explains, the residence’s 50 studio apartments are all already occupied. The units are furnished with amenities including large, tiled bathrooms, ample closets, and gleaming appliances, and many of which look out over the park’s canopy of trees. Most residents receive Social Security or other government assistance, and pay 30% of their income toward rent. As a Level 1 residence, Crotona Park’s clients can come and go as they



Program Director Linda Taylor in her office.

please, and are required to meet with their assigned residential counselor—two of whom are on-site daily in the morning and afternoon, and two from 4pm-12am—at least twice a month. Clients are also subject to monthly apartment inspections to make sure they’re keeping them neat and tidy.

A sprawling, enclosed outdoor courtyard, complete with manicured plantings and seating areas, is an oasis for clients and staff alike, and will serve as a warm-weather gathering place, perfect for barbecues and other celebrations, for years to come. In the meantime, with the weather turning cooler, Linda notes that the residents are enjoying activities like walking and yoga groups, and can look forward to the festive group holiday dinners that are fast approaching.



The residence’s enclosed outdoor courtyard is the perfect venue for summer barbecues and other gatherings.

Staff Spotlight: Bill Leonelli

Bill Leonelli, the director of finance at PCMH, draws upon a wealth of experience in his new role, including previous finance positions at Central Nassau Guidance and Counseling Services in Hicksville and the Long Island Head Injury Association.

“I enjoy being in the not-for-profit field—there's an element of gratification that comes from working in this arena that you don't get in any other,” he says.

Bill's field of expertise extends well beyond crunching numbers. In addition to an accounting degree from the New York Institute of Technology, he also holds a degree in culinary arts from the prestigious Culinary Institute of America (CIA) in Hyde Park, NY. While he doesn't cook as much as some might think, he's the family go-to chef during the holidays. “Everyone clears out of the kitchen and it becomes my territory,” he laughs. And Bill's list of accomplishments doesn't end there: he also earned a master's degree in human services leadership from St. Joseph's College in May 2012.

Having joined PCMH in January 2014, Bill is investigating ways to improve and streamline operations at the organization.

“I'm still trying to wrap my head around everything—looking at new accounting software and ways to automate a lot of the accounting functions, which will go a long way toward increasing the efficiencies here,” he says.

A father of three—a martial-arts instructor, an aid for special-needs kids, and a college student—Bill was born in the Bronx but has lived in Long Island for most of his life, and now makes his home in Huntington Station.



Looking Back: The West Side Clinic

Last August, PCMH's West Side Rehabilitation Center closed its doors after nearly 40 years, marking the end of a long and colorful chapter in the organization's history.

Its closing has meant the relocation of the West Side Clinic and three PCMH programs also housed there—Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS), Scatter Site, and Making Healthy Choices.



PCMH's West Side Rehabilitation Center, home to the West Side Clinic, closed its doors this summer after nearly 40 years.

The sprawling building had been gifted to PCMH in 1977 by a grateful former patient of PCMH founder Dr. Lewis R. Wolberg, M.D. It quickly became a central hub of activity for many PCMH clients.

“It was a really unique place, with giant spaces with fireplaces in them. You could go out check out a Gothic theater in between your sessions, or go to the giant gym and fantasize about playing basketball,” recalls Krista King, co-director of the Center for Adult Psychotherapy, which was formed when the West Side Clinic, whose last day of operations was July 31, 2014, merged with the West 23rd Street Clinic. “There had been lots of programs there over the years, so many of our clients had a real attachment to the building. It became a kind of social hub for them. They would come hours early for a 45-minute session, hang out with their friends, socialize, eat something in the cafeteria—they created a life there.”

The Center for Adult Psychotherapy now has nearly 800 clients, having absorbed both clients from the West Side Clinic as well as some PROS clients who were either unwilling or unable to make the trip to the program’s new home in the Bronx, where Scatter Site is also now located.

The transition has been a bittersweet experience for all involved, Krista explains. “Some of the clients love being in a beautiful, more modern building, while others are really sad—they miss having a place to socialize and see all their friends,” she says, noting that the much smaller location means there’s not much room to socialize, as there had been on 36th Street.

The comparably small spaces at 23rd Street have also caused some growing pains from a square-footage perspective. “It’s kind of like having a big house versus a studio apartment—you fill it with stuff,” Krista says. “Now we look like a bunch of hoarders over here!”

She notes that the many clients who loved the 36th Street building aren’t the only ones who are adjusting to its closing. “It’s largely been a parallel process: everything the clients are going through, the therapists who worked there are also going through,” says Krista.

Program Update: PROS and Scatter Site

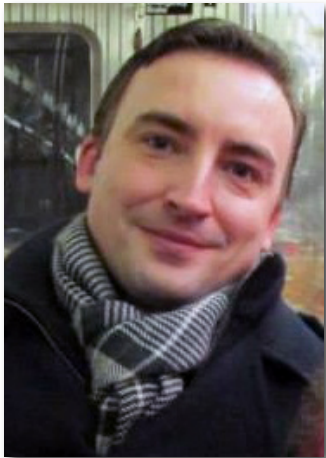
The closing of the West Side Rehabilitation Center has also meant the relocation of PCMH’s PROS and Scatter Site programs, which in mid-September reopened at 1775 Grand Concourse in the Bronx, in the old Bell Atlantic Telephone building. About 45% of consumers who attended the PROS program at West 36th Street—some 95 people—now attend the program at its new location. Other participants transitioned to other PROS programs, many in Brooklyn, while another 11 have gone to the Adult Center for Psychotherapy at West 23rd Street.

“There were mixed emotions, as there tends to be with change in general,” says Mon MacIntyre, director of the PROS program at PCMH. “But considering how big of a move it was, it went pretty smoothly.”

Mon notes that while the new PROS space is smaller, it's more accessible to consumers because the program's 14-person, multi-disciplinary staff is now all on the same floor. Scatter Site has administrative offices at the new location, where case managers can come to do paperwork and sometimes see clients. PROS will move to the other side of the floor at its new address in December or January.

"We're in the process of building the PROS program to offer consumers more personalized attention and enhanced services," says MacIntyre. One example is the new computer room, which has 8 newer computers for participants' use, as compared to 3 old computers at the West Side building.

New Faces at PCMH



Konstantin Detchkov, Intake Coordinator

Joined PCMH: April 2014

Konstantin Detchkov is the intake coordinator for the residential division of PCMH. He received his MSW from Fordham University and obtained his LMSW in 2013. He previously worked for Federation Employment & Guidance Service (FEGS) as an assessment case manager. In his current position, Konstantin is responsible for screening potential clients' applications for housing with PCMH and recommending appropriate clients to one of the more than 1,000 beds in PCMH's residential program.

Dorin Djura, Field Coordinator

Joined PCMH: April 2014

Dorin Djura is a field coordinator at PCMH. He previously worked for the Salvation Army and as a site supervisor at a Manhattan Alternate Learning Center, where he provided individual, group, and crisis management interventions to ensure students' mental health and wellbeing, and developed treatment plans for students exceeding 30 days of superintendent suspension. He earned both his BA in sociology and his MSW from Stony Brook University.





Leeann Grant, Housing Coordinator

Joined PCMH: February 2014

Leeann Grant is the new housing coordinator for PCMH's intake department. Having formally worked for Cornell Medical College, Catholic Charities, and the Association for Rehabilitative Case Management & Housing (ACMH), she received her bachelor's degree from Manhattanville College and her master's degree from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Nudrat Khan, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

Joined PCMH: August 2014

Nudrat Khan is a new psychiatric nurse practitioner at the Center for Adult Psychotherapy clinic, where she is responsible for performing psychiatric evaluations, medication management, and providing psychotherapeutic interventions for clients. Nudrat brings with her several years of experience in inpatient psychiatry at Payne Whitney Manhattan at NY Presbyterian Hospital, which has provided her with excellent clinical judgment and skills. She is passionate about working with vulnerable populations, and believes in a holistic approach to treatment planning. Nudrat earned her BSN at Pace University and her MSN at Hunter College.



Linda V. Padmore, Program Director

Joined PCMH: June 2014



Linda V. Padmore is the program director at PCMH's Grand Concourse Residence, where she oversees all social, clinical, and building operations. Linda brings over twenty years of experience in a variety of human services responsibilities to her role. She earned a B.A. in business administration from the College of New Rochelle, and received an MSW from Hunter College School of Social Work. Before joining PCMH, Linda's work consisted of helping formerly homeless adults to make the adjustment to independent living.

Charina Zaragoza, Quality Improvement Coordinator

Joined PCMH: September 2014

Charina Zaragoza is the new quality improvement coordinator at PCMH. She comes to PCMH from another non-profit organization where she provided clinical services clients with substance-abuse issues. Charina holds a master's degree in mental health counseling from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and is a licensed mental health counselor in the state of New York.

