

**The Counseling Center of
Wayne & Holmes Counties**
2285 Benden Drive
Wooster, OH 44691

CENTER UPDATE



December, 2015

Program for Transitional Youth and Young Adults

Chris Shaffer, LSW was hired in July of 2014 as the Connections Social Worker to fill an identified service gap between youth and adult services for persons with severe mental illnesses. Historically, the traditional approaches to serving the young adult population have been pigeon-holed in either the adult system or the youth system. From experience, the Counseling Center has found that neither of these approaches has been successful even when the goals for the youth in transition to adulthood have been the same and clearly defined.

The Connections Program helps young adults successfully transition to independence and improve their recovery. Chris Shaffer has over 20 years of experience working with youth and has been trained in TIPS: Transition to Independence Process which is an evidence-supported practice based on published studies that demonstrate improvements in real-life outcomes for youth and young adults with emotional/behavioral difficulties. He is also trained in ENGAGE High Fidelity Wrap Around Services. ENGAGE Wrap Around is a process where the strengths, culture and challenges of a youth and their family are identified and a plan is developed that provides both formal and informal supports to assist the youth and their family to have safety, stability, and success.

Young persons with behavioral health issues transitioning into adulthood are extremely fortunate to have Mr. Shaffer as their advocate with families, service providers, employers and the court system.

Mission Statement Update

At its November meeting, the Board of Directors voted to update the mission statement and change “mental health” to “behavioral health”. The new mission statement is: “To make a difference in the lives of those who seek our care, and to promote positive behavioral health in the communities which we serve”. This change reflects a more inclusive, holistic approach to the care we provide, and avoids the stigma associated with the term “mental health” .



Boy Scouts Provide Service

Boy Scouts from Troop 68 helped prepare for spring. On November 21, six scouts volunteered to plant bulbs on the new apartment grounds for a total of 10 volunteer hours. They planted 200 crocus and daffodil bulbs that the residents will enjoy in the spring. After their work was done, they were treated to snacks.

Thank you Troop 68!