

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

CENTER UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2017

THE COUNSELING CENTER OFFERS TELEPSYCHIATRY

Telepsychiatry is the delivery of psychiatric assessment and care through telecommunications technology, typically videoconferencing. It helps meet patients' needs for convenient and readily-accessible behavioral health services. There is a robust evidence base that indicates telepsychiatry leads to improved outcomes and higher patient satisfaction ratings.

The Counseling Center is pleased to announce that it now offers telepsychiatry services in Holmes County. This was made possible through a grant the Mental Health and Recovery Board received through the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation.

Launched recently, two of our psychiatric services providers, Vera Astreika, M.D. and Katelyn Stenger, CNP, are scheduling telepsychiatry appointments. While the initial assessment appointment is required to be face-to-face and is offered in the Wooster office, follow up appointments can be scheduled in the Millersburg office. Nurse Roxanne Jones, who assisted with scheduling, said patients were enthusiastic about telepsychiatry. Several cited the cost of gas, or, for the Amish, the cost of a driver, to be a barrier to services in Wooster. Plans are underway to expand the services.



Candice Shell
Guardianship Specialist

NEW GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM OFFERED

The Counseling Center is now providing guardianship services, thanks to funding from the Mental Health and Recovery Board. **Candice Shell, M.A.** serves as the Guardianship Specialist. As such, she acts as a court-designated guardian to adults with severe psychiatric impairment who have been found incompetent by the local probate court, who are also receiving treatment at the Counseling Center and who have no family members or others who could serve in this capacity.

She currently has been appointed guardian for one patient, with an additional four pending.

As guardian, Candice works on the patient's behalf to assure that the patient is living in the least restrictive environment, receiving appropriate medical and psychiatric care, and accessing all appropriate benefit programs. She also coordinates with the patient's case manager and communicates regularly with the court regarding the patient's status.