

Beacon Light and Dickinson to Provide Peer Services

For many people diagnosed with mental illness, their disorder becomes a burden that they alone carry, one that many struggle with their entire lives. For some, their recovery is a lengthy battle riddled with difficulties that impair their ability to complete tasks that most people would consider routine.

Directors of Beacon Light Behavioral Health Systems and Dickinson Mental Health Center announced yesterday that they would begin providing additional adult mental health services through a collaborative venture. Peer Support Services will be provided in McKean, Potter, Elk, Cameron, Warren, and Forest counties through a plan submitted jointly by the agencies.

Peer Support is a recovery based program through which adults diagnosed with serious mental illness, provide assistance and guidance to others with mental illness to help them actively engage in their own treatment. The service includes such tasks as identifying and accessing community resources, developing wellness plans, and seeking out additional supports to further clients in their recovery. The program is intended to inspire hope in individuals that recovery is not only possible but achievable.

Currently, several prospective peer specialists are completing certification training in order to be considered eligible for employment, among them, a young woman who has lived with Schizophrenia for most of her adult life.

“This program gives me an opportunity to give back. My experiences will enable me to help others to reach their goals.” said one program participant and prospective Peer Specialist.

The two agencies have the backing of Community Care Behavioral Health; the state’s regional managed care provider, and local support from the 6 counties included in the program’s service area.

“The collaboration of our two agencies represents the beginning of a new chapter in how we provide services to those who need them in our region.” said Richard Seager, President and CEO of Beacon Light.

“Given both agencies’ regional presence and Dickinson’s existing Peer Support program, this collaborative expansion will allow us to reach more people living with severe mental illness that could benefit from the program.”, said Jack Goga, CEO of Dickinson.

As a first step in the development of the new program, the two agencies have been actively recruiting persons who meet the criteria to provide the service. Approximately 15 jobs will be added across the region. Those who would like more information on the program, or who might be interested in becoming a peer specialist may contact Beacon Light at 814-362-6565 or Dickinson at 814-772-2005.

If you have questions regarding the content of this release, please contact:

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