

NEWS

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BEACON LIGHT AWARDED NEW PROGRAM BY COMMUNITY CARE

Beacon Light was recently informed by Community Care Behavioral Health Organization (Community Care) that it was selected as one of only two providers in their twenty-three county North Central provider network to implement a CommonGround™ Decision Support Center. The Decision Support Center approach and CommonGround™ software were developed by Pat Deegan, Ph.D., a nationally known mental health recovery advocate and consumer. Beacon Light plans to open the Decision Support Center in its adult outpatient clinic in Warren in November.

As part of the Decision Support Center, the software program will be implemented for use by consumers and staff to support shared decision making around the use of psychiatric medications. Its use is predicated on the establishment of a peer-run Decision Support Center in the waiting area of the medication clinic. This initiative seeks to support consumer self-determination, increase access to resources and peer support, empower individuals in their use of medication as a tool in the recovery process, and develop truly collaborative relationships between practitioners and consumers.

Services at the Decision Support Center include establishing peer specialist protocols to support a welcoming environment, offering a healthy snack and beverage, assistance in completing a one-page computer generated Health Report for use in the medication

consultation appointment with the psychiatrist or nurse practitioner, access to health-related information via the internet, provision of informal peer support, and support with completing decision aids for helping clients address areas of decisional conflict related to medication use.

All clinic staff, including physicians and the nurse practitioner, several members of the Consumer Advisory Board as well as key peer, case management, mobile medication and psychiatric rehabilitation staff will be trained in the model and will have access to the CommonGound™ software. Two consumers who will be staff for the Decision Support Center will also be trained. Vice President for Clinical and Business Development at Beacon Light, Trish Rosenstein stated, “When we were informed that Beacon Light was awarded the contract, Community Care noted that the active inclusion of consumers in the process was one of the key factors for them in selecting our proposal.”

Beacon Light Behavioral Health Systems is a non-profit Joint Commission Accredited Behavioral Health Agency employing more than 600 people and serving over a thousand adults, children and their families from across northern Pennsylvania annually. The agency offers a continuum of care including emergency shelter care, residential treatment, foster care, BHRS services, MR/DD residential placement, adult day services, outpatient clinics, partial programs; psychiatric rehabilitation, peer support, case management services, mobile medication, school-based behavioral health, and educational services.