



PATHWAYS TO PROMISE

Interfaith Ministries and Mental Illness

Volume 18, # 1

August 2014



The Affordable Care Act & Mental Health

Craig Rennebohm, Pathways to Promise Senior Advisor

Dear Friends & Colleagues,

For almost 30 years I have summarized our justice, public witness, advocacy work in mental health ministry with these words:

We seek a readily accessible and effective community mental health system.

Our calling is not simply to care for the individuals, who have been left out or left behind without service. Our calling is not only to support individuals and families in the course of healing and recovery. We are called to help create a health care system that educates the community about the brain, our emotional life, thoughts, behavior and human relationships. We are called to help create a health care system that begins working at the first signs of concern, provides early and assertive treatment, and matches the severity and persistence of illness with unceasing tenacity. We are called to help create communities of care which value maximum wholeness for every person – physical wellness, healthy self, supportive connections with others, and a meaningful life rooted in faith, hope and love.

Far from seeing our streets filled with homeless souls struggling with overwhelming experiences; far from filling our jails and prisons with persons needing treatment; far from waiting for the next tragedy of a completed suicide, or a confrontation with police - we need the same thoughtful, well-funded, state of the art approach to mental health that we are committed to developing for heart care, cancer, diabetes or other health issues.

For much of human history we have treated people with severe and persistent emotional, cognitive and behavioral illness by quarantining persons away from the rest of the population. 2000 years ago cemeteries were home for the most ill persons. Until the 1960's prison like state hospitals held individuals for an average stay of 25 years.

The Community Mental Health Act of 1963 envisioned a nationwide system of mental health care, with a community mental health center for every 250,000 Americans. Each center was to have an outreach, education, prevention team, an out-patient and long term care program, an on-site in-patient unit and a 24/7 crisis and emergency response service. No more than 25% of the centers envisioned were ever built; few had the full range of intended care.

The only such facility in King County where I live was closed and demolished more than five years ago. In a county of 2 million people, the community mental health system would now have at least 8 full service mental health centers, each serving a clearly defined area of Seattle and the surrounding communities. None exist. What we have is a patch work of

Continued ►



Please note our
new contact
information below.

Pathways to Promise
PO Box 28886
St. Louis, MO 63123
info@pathways2promise.org
www.pathways2promise.org
314-810-2234

The Affordable Care Act & Mental Health from page 1.

a few outreach workers, an inadequate number of publically funded and private insurance based out-patient services, an insufficient stock of affordable, supported housing, a handful of inpatient psychiatric units, one crisis center and one emergency room with a dedicated mental health section, an expensive involuntary treatment program, an underfunded jail mental health service, and a small specialized court, diversion and parole/probation program. There is also a local VA hospital and out-patient program with a priority for serving veterans with service related mental health issues.

Over almost fifty years the various mental health programs, including substance use treatment have undergone periodic changes, reorganization and attempts at service and system integration. The implementation of the Affordable Care Act is a new opportunity to create a readily accessible and effective community mental health system.

The first step in the new system is enrolling every individual in an insurance plan and establishing each person, especially youth and young adults in a “medical home,” with a primary care provider. The front line clinic and office staff – receptionists, nurses, physician’s assistants, family practice doctors, internists – will increasingly be a key entry point into mental health care and treatment. Especially for individuals with a mental health concern, a local, neighborhood or community medical home provides ready non-stigmatized access both to an immediate assessment and the beginning of treatment.

Mental health issues can be cared for at the front line, medical home level, as part of a person’s primary, well-being care. An individual’s medical home is part of a larger system of specialty and hospital care. Specialty mental health services and in-patient care do need to be readily available within the larger Accountable Care Organization. Just as a primary care doctor refers a person for follow up with a cardiac specialist and hospitalization as needed, individuals facing a mental health crisis or severe and persistent condition are referred for the appropriate follow up care.

To complement primary, specialty and hospital levels of service, we will need to provide a coordinated network of supported housing, education, employment and spiritual care. A collaboration of public housing and community service departments, non-profit organizations, business and faith communities have a role to play in providing the community support framework necessary to full recovery and maximum well-being.

Finally let me suggest that there is a particular role for public health entities in a readily accessible and effective community mental health system. Public health departments take a broad and systematic view of health care to insure that all populations and especially the most difficult to serve are appropriately cared for. Because the lack of care for persons with mental health concerns has a significant public impact and cost, I suggest that public health departments be responsible for assisting with outreach, crisis and commitment responsibilities of the mental health care system. The aim is not to dump the most difficult to serve persons out of the health care system, but to build a collaboration that insures appropriate care for all.

I share this overview as a contribution to dialogue, as health care in our country enters a new era, and welcome your thoughts and comments.



If your faith community welcomes and offers support to congregants with mental illnesses and their families—whether through a support group, mental health ministry or other services—please register in the Interfaith Network on Mental Illness’s online directory of organizations operating at the intersection of faith/spirituality and mental health at www.inmi.us/fwconn.html

INMI

Interfaith Network on Mental Illness

Overview of the Chicago “Creating Hope” Conference

Pathways to Promise hosted a national conference on January 15, 2014 in Chicago, IL. The conference theme was “Creating Hope: The Power of Faith Communities in Mental Health Recovery.” The interfaith conference was attended by 150 people, including a good number of people from the Chicago area. The conference presented various ways that faith communities and people engaged in mental health recovery can work together to educate their communities about mental illness and equip them to develop supportive, caring responses. People from diverse faith traditions who have experienced the journey toward recovery shared their stories, and panelists from a variety of faith communities described ways they have developed the types of relationships and community practices that facilitate recovery. Featured speakers at the conference included Nanette Larson and Craig Rennebohm.

Robert Skrocki, conference chair, noted that the conference attendees appreciated the variety of speakers, the concrete examples on ways to build relationships and supportive networks, and the examples panelists presented on best community practices. Attendees heard from 11 panelists. “The conference included a rich fare of speakers and practical information,” said Robert Skrocki. After the conference, Pathways to Promise board members met for the annual board meeting.

Featured from left to right are Jim Zahneiser, Craig Rennebohm and Robert Skrocki, and Nanette Larson. Check out Pathways Midwest facebook page for conference



Supporting Faith Leaders AJ French, CRSS

Clergy members are not immune to depression or suicide. If anything, clergy members are an under-represented population in terms of traditional mental health outreach. To be supportive of our Faith Leaders, we must first understand the unique position they are in. They are public figures serving with a spotlight on them at almost all times. Scrutiny occurs among members of their own faith body, as well as the local community. While membership bodies often deeply love and desire to care for their Faith Leaders, sometimes well meaning actions necessitate an obligatory response and are not as supportive as we might intend. So how can we support our clergy in a manner that is truly helpful? The following links have proactive approaches and tangible ways to support optimal mental health for Pastors and can be applied to all faith leaders.

[How Churches Can Prevent Pastors' Suicide](#)

[Connecting Through Support Groups](#)

[C.A.R.E.S: Churches Affirming, Restoring, Empowering, Sustaining](#)

Condolences for the Kinschner Family

Bob Dell, Former Executive Director of Pathways to Promise

Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your hearts.



*In Loving Memory
Bonnie and Bill Kinschner
Pathways Regional Consultancy Training
May 2013*

Pathways mourns the loss of two dear friends, Bill and Bonnie Kinschner. Bonnie had died in January after a long battle with cancer. Bill, had recently gone to Romania to continue the work he and Bonnie had begun with Missio Link International and Deborah House; he suffered a heart attack and died there.

As Craig Rennebohm noted: "We are so saddened by the news of Bill's death. Two such wonderful souls in so short a time. So many of us have been welcomed into Bonnie and Bill's life with generosity and warmth, invited to share in their inexhaustible faith, creative hope and great love. Bill and Bonnie have been extraordinary friends to us, so graciously supportive. I'm grateful for their presence among us".

Besides being great supporters of the work of Pathways to Promise, Both Bill and Bonnie spread their commitment widely including NAMI FaithNet, and, to serve those living with a mental illness and their families, their own family foundation, One Mind Mental Illness Ministry. Bonnie and Bill reached near and far to help people even to Romania where they worked with Missio Link International and Deborah House. A Memorial Service for Bill and Bonnie was held May 10th at Hope Lutheran Church, Toledo, Ohio.

A Message From the Editor

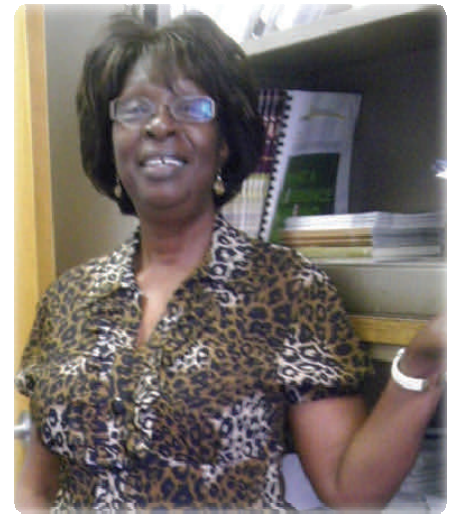
Sular Gordon, Pathways to Promise Associate Director

Hello Members and Friends of Pathways,

I want to wish you a "Good Journey" in 2014 and thank you for your consistent support to Pathways to Promise and the many orders we received for P2P resources. We do appreciate your correspondence and request for the newsletter. Please visit our website www.pathways2promise.org for more information about P2P and what we offer.

I have been able to use some of your testimonies to encourage and uplift others that are going through some of the same things you are. If you have any comments or suggestions for our newsletter, please feel free to email info@pathwaystopromise.org or contact us by phone at 314-810-2234.

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."



*Sular Gordon
Pathways to Promise
Program Associate*

Pathways to Promise

Phone: 314-: 32/4456

Email: Info@Pathways2Promise.org

For a complete description of materials below please visit www.Pathways2Promise.org

Support Pathways by becoming a member

Check one:

Individual \$25

Congregation/Other Groups \$50

Regional Body / Organization Chapter \$150

National Religious Body/Other National Organizations \$500

Honorary/Lifetime Membership - \$500

Additional Contributions to Pathways are welcome and are tax deductible. \$ _____ In honor or memory of _____

Item	Quantity	Cost	Amount	Item	Quantity	Cost	Amount
The Companionship Series by WC Rennebohm Three guidebooks on mental health ministry for clergy, congregational leaders, and laity.		20.00		Pathways Sample Packet includes one each of pamphlets and bulletin inserts below		\$3.00	
#1 Mental Health Ministry The framework for spiritual care		\$7.50		When Mental Illness Strikes in a Family of Faith A pamphlet for families or clergy working Quantity: <input type="checkbox"/> Christian <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Roman Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Version		\$0.20	
#2 The Way of Companionship Five core practices to support healing		\$7.50		Who Has Mental Illness? A pamphlet about mental illness, resources & community outreach. Quantity: <input type="checkbox"/> Christian <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish		\$0.20	
#3 Organizing a Mental Health Ministry Team A step-by-step process		\$7.50		The following BULLETIN INSERTS are available in quantities of 25 only:			
Book: Souls in the Hands of a Tender God by WC Rennebohm		\$15.00		Reaching Out to Someone With Mental Illness		\$3.50	
Book: Caring for the Soul: R'fuat Hanefesh - A Mental Health Resource & Study Guide by RF Address		\$15.00		Mental Illness: Community Outreach		\$3.50	
Book: Advocating for Someone with a Mental Illness by S Nesch		\$13.00		Creating Caring Congregations for People with Mental Illness and Their Families		\$3.50	
Walking Together: A Training Workshop Interactive activities for faith communities supporting people with mental illness		\$15.00		Responding to People with Mental Illness in the Congregation & Community		\$3.50	
Pathways to Partnership (Basic Manual) # of each: <input type="checkbox"/> Christian <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish		\$6.75		Rabbi Who Sinned? Myths and Realities About Mental Illness		\$3.50	
Pathways to Understanding Manual For Instructors & Students		\$20.00		Children and Mental Disorders: Myths & Facts		\$3.50	
Caring Congregations: Observations and Commentary		\$6.75		Putting the Pieces Together: Correcting the Myths of Mental Health and Aging Quantity: <input type="checkbox"/> Christian <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish		\$3.50	
Worship Resources A follow-up to Caring Congregations		\$6.75		NOTE: Minimum \$5 order please. Large orders or orders to Canada may incur additional charges.	TOTAL ENCLOSED		
The Bible As A Resource Materials for sermons and articles		\$6.75					

Name: _____

Faith Group, Congregation or Organization _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ FAX: _____ Email: _____

Comments? _____

Please mail this form with your check or money order (credit cards not accepted) payable to Pathways to:

Pathways To Promise
PO Box 28886
St. Louis, MO 63123
Thank you for your order!