

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF EVANSVILLE STATE HOSPITAL

2021 Strategic Plan By Gene Schadler, Superintendent

Amidst the pandemic Evansville State Hospital (ESH) has continued to navigate protocols to manage COVID-19 and continue patient care as we expand our Strategic Plan. Chaos provides the opportunity for growth individually and organizationally. The 2021 Evansville State Hospital Strategic Plan continues to strengthen patient care using continuous improvement concepts in High Reliability. This will include ongoing education, reviewing our data and deferring to those experts who are often our direct line staff. Likewise, the Strategic Plan includes a goal to decrease the admission wait list as we decrease the amount of time people are waiting for admission. With the support of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction, a pilot program was initiated in 2020 to expedite treatment for those who are incarcerated. The Vanderburgh County Jail Restoration Project provides restoration services during the time inmates are waiting for a State Psychiatric Hospital bed. This collaborative effort between the jail, courts and mental health providers is another level of care provided to increase access to mental health care. (Continued on Page 3)

Strategic Goals CY 2020/2021

Goal 1 – Strengthen Patient Care Using High Reliability Concepts

Goal 2 – Completion of Anti-ligature Project

Goal 3—Decrease Admission Wait List

In my research on High Reliability, I have found that staff can and do advance in personal growth with this goal that relates to clinical and operational excellence. Successfully achieving and sustaining improvement relies on all pieces of the puzzle being in place. Some challenges we as staff members face involve speaking up and speaking out with suggestions, communicating effectively and clearly, being open and accepting of changes in processes, resolving conflicts, and continuously learning from mistakes, successes, research, and critical thinking. Our Executive Team is leading with educational trainings, evaluation methods of systemic processes, safety awareness, and recognition of teamwork. It comes down to each individual employee holding the responsibility of striving for zero harm and high reliability.

Kristy Boyer, L.C.S.W.



Evansville State Hospital was recognized as being in the top 10% nationwide on dealing with food, drug, and chemical recalls through the National Recall Alert Center.

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Annual Event Goes to The Arts

By Andrew Lancaster, Rehabilitation Therapist

Coming in March! Evansville State Hospital presents *‘The Art’s: Hosted by Britteny Ross’*. Britteny Ross, a.k.a Britteny Adams Rehabilitation Therapist, loves to paint happy trees. The Rehabilitation Therapy Department will be hosting the annual spring event which will consist of painting, snacks, music, dance, and crafts. Staff from all departments will help patients become the Picasso or Monet they’ve always wanted to be. Masterpieces will be made even from the most inexperienced artist.



Staff from Ascension St. Vincent Evansville are pictured setting up in the Treatment Mall on February 25th for the first day of COVID-19 vaccinations of patients who have consented and fall in the eligible criterion. This was a collaborative effort by community partners including the Indiana Department of Health.

Current Needs:

- Medium sized duffel bags
- Stationery sets
- Gift cards for Sally Beauty (to purchase hair products)
- Cloth ear loop masks

*Contact Community Services at 812-469-6800, ext. 4972 if you can help.



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

APRIL 18-24

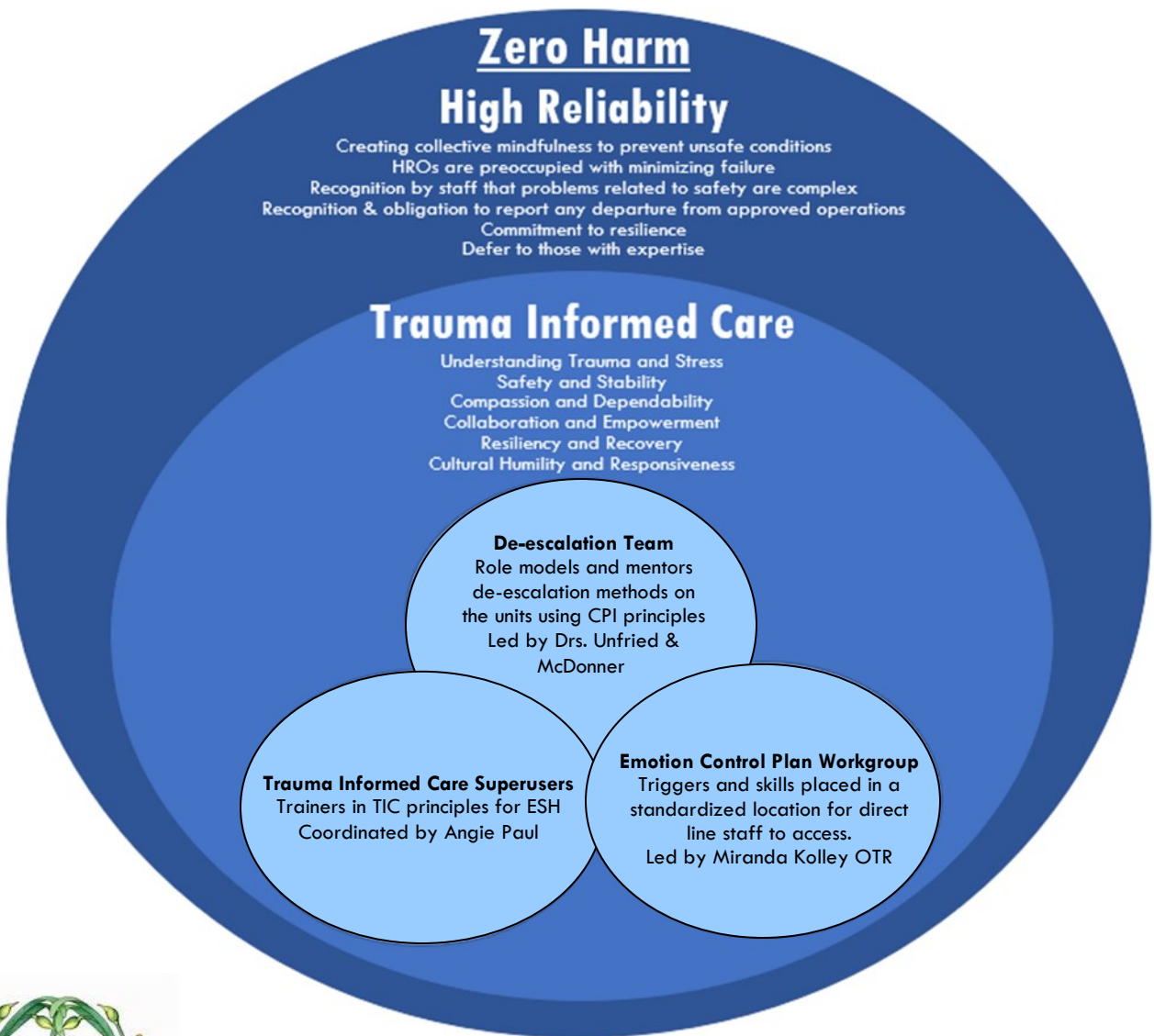
Thank you for your good deeds and well wishes! We miss seeing your smiling faces!



A volunteer survey will be going out this spring; your feedback is greatly appreciated.

2021 Strategic Plan (Continued)

Although High Reliability addresses processes for the entire system, the concepts of Trauma Informed Care (SAMSHA) helps us to keep the concepts of understanding a person’s history and the effect on their psychiatric symptoms as we work compassionately and collaboratively with them towards recovery. For the past seven years, ESH has been integrating a Trauma Informed environment. To help facilitate this ongoing work, ESH has initiated several projects to build on our understanding and skills as we continue supporting our patients and one another. Just as self-care is a work in progress for all of us, so too is the organizational efforts with being a Trauma Informed facility.



If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.

Anne Bradstreet

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

COMMUNITY CONNECTION is published every other month for friends of Evansville State Hospital. News items are welcome and should be submitted to the Community Services Office.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.IN.GOV

March is Disability Awareness Month

The month of March is devoted to bringing awareness of the inclusion of people with disabilities and how these courageous individuals mesh and thrive in our communities. Patients at ESH have been helped by Vocational Rehabilitation, assisting with work placement. The Blind Association has hired several of our patients for work. Patients have been able to volunteer and help at local churches and the Salvation Army's food pantry. Persons with disabilities can achieve their dreams and live "normal" lives with acceptance and support. Connecting and being a vital part of community promotes recovery and overall wellness.

Welcome New Employees

Nursing Service:

Chelsey Baxter

Jessie Bruce

Kelsie Cutchin

Lindsey Glenn

Sarah Johnson

Kol Lamb

Christopher Litherland

Gordon McNeill

Shanon Meyer

Shanda Ross

KatieLynn Stout

Housekeeping:

Crystal Williams

Substance Abuse:

Katelyn Buzzard

Physical Plant:

Terry Zarazee



Goodbye

Douglas Hayes, Information Services

Linda Hutton, Housekeeping

Jamie Taylor, Continuum of Care

Stephen Mathis, Physical Plant

Eli Todich, Physical Plant

Gina Cook, Nursing Service

Tammy Woods, Nursing Service