

Oakleaves

ISSUE 2007

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 1

AN OAKLAWN PUBLICATION FOR PROFESSIONALS

Adolescent group home opening soon

by Daniel Peck, M.S.W., LCSW

Oaklawn's new adolescent group home will open in late April, 2007. An open house is set for Thursday, April 19, 3:30–5:30 p.m., with a brief dedication ceremony at 5:15. The new building is located at 2524 Oakland Avenue, on the same campus as Oaklawn's outpatient facility in Elkhart. All readers of *Oakleaves* are invited to attend.

The first of its kind in Elkhart County, the coed adolescent group home will have 10 beds. In addition to giving teens a step-down from the residential program, the group home will accept direct referrals from area juvenile courts and schools. The group home programming will be centered on developing skills needed to reintegrate youth back into their home communities or to live independently.

With the addition of the adolescent group home, Oaklawn will offer a seamless continuum of intensive services including inpatient, PRTF/lock secured residential, open residential with on-grounds schooling, adolescent group home, and therapeutic foster care.

In recent years, Oaklawn Child & Adolescent Intensive Services has realized the effects of limitations in its continuum of care for severely emotionally troubled youth. The lack of available group homes in Elkhart County, combined with a marked increase in the need for group home services in recent years, has resulted in restricted outcomes for clients who are successfully leaving Oaklawn intensive residential programs. These are the facts:

- During the past two years, 36 percent of all clients successfully leaving Oaklawn's Residential Services have gone to a group home setting.
- Of clients discharged to other group home programs, the average length of stay in Oaklawn's intensive residential programs was approximately two months longer than those not going to group home, due to long wait lists resulting from not enough local group home beds available.
- 90 percent were youth from Elkhart & St. Joseph counties.
- Because group home services have not been available in Elkhart County,

adolescents were being sent out of county, further away from families, support systems, local schools, and employment opportunities.

The mission of the adolescent group home is to provide comprehensive, 24-hour mental health and addictions services to children and adolescents with severe psychiatric, emotional, and/or behavioral issues, who require the structure and supervision of a therapeutic, group home environment. The goal of the adolescent group home program is to assist seriously troubled youth with improving their psychological, behavioral, and social functioning to a level that no longer requires the supervision, structure, and guidance that is provided in a 24-hour, group home setting.

Youth that will be appropriate to receive services in the adolescent group home include male and female youth who:

- are between the ages of 13 and 18 years of age at the time of admission.

(See Group Home, continued on page 2)



OAKLAWN
Toward Health and Wholeness

**Ground breaking for
adult group home**

2

For Your Information
News/updates

**Oaklawn education
events**

3

**Professionals at
Oaklawn**

Who you need to
know in working with
Oaklawn staff.

4



(Group Home, continued from page 1)

- able to cognitively and socially participate in individual, family, and group therapy modalities.
- able to function in a public school setting.
- have been identified as having a Full Scale IQ of at least 70 (unless approved by the Medical Director);
- have successfully completed a more restrictive residential setting, or not responded to less restrictive services such as outpatient, partial hospital, or in-home services, or have failed previous out-of-home placements.
- possess a clearly identified discharge and/or permanency plan with an emphasis on self-sufficiency or independent living.
- require 24-hour supervision and structure due to the presence of one or more of the following:
 - presence of one or more psychiatric condition/DSM diagnosis;
 - history of unsafe/unmanageable behaviors including, but not limited to



This photo taken in late March shows the progress on Oaklawn's adolescent group home on Oakland Avenue in Elkhart. The facility will house 10 severely emotionally troubled youth.

agitation, defiance, verbal/physical aggression, sexualized behaviors, property damage, runaway, self-harm, and homicidal/suicidal intentions or actions;

- victim of neglect and/or physical, sexual, or emotional abuse;
- history of substance abuse or chemical dependency.

Youth not appropriate for the group home are those who pose considerable risk to resident/staff safety, such as a history of repeated physical assaults against peers and adults; those with a history of chronic fire

setting involving major property damage; and those with a medical condition that exceeds Oaklawn resources/expertise to manage and/or treat, including pregnancy.

We hope that the adolescent group home will provide another resource for our referral sources. For questions about or referrals to the group home, call Amy Pauley, (574) 533-1234, ext. 510.

Dan Peck is vice president of child & adolescent intensive services.

Ground breaking for adult group home



Participating in the March ground breaking for a new adult group home are (from left) Adlai Schrock, Schrock Homes & Oaklawn board member; Laurie Natziger, Oaklawn president; Jim Evans, chair of the Oaklawn board of directors; Susan Stark, Oaklawn Foundation board member; Tom Stark, Major Gifts Chair, Oaklawn Capital Campaign; Tim Yoder, co-chair of the Oaklawn Capital Campaign; Jeri Yoder-Gluck, president of the Oaklawn Foundation Board of Directors; Goshen Mayor Allan Kauffman; Gregg Nussbaum, vice president of adult services at Oaklawn; Dan Kinsey, Oaklawn medical director; Frances Disori, director of the community support program at Oaklawn; and Matthew Lentsch, Oaklawn vice president for advancement. (Photo courtesy of Goshen News.)

On March 5, Oaklawn broke ground for an adult group on the Goshen campus at 330 Lakeview Drive. The new group home will provide a safe, structured, therapeutic environment for residents who are in transition toward independent living. The new building will feature a 24-hour staffed group living program for up to 15 seriously mentally ill adults. It will replace an older facility in Elkhart and increase program capacity by 33 percent. Plans call for the group home to be completed in August. The project is one of three funded through Oaklawn's recent capital campaign.

FYI

Senior Assessment Clinic open for business

Sometimes immediate appointments are needed to determine what services are most appropriate for seniors. Oaklawn's Senior Assessment Clinic is designed primarily for physician referrals and offers weekly clinic time where a board certified geriatric psychiatrist and a clinical social worker can see seniors to assess and evaluate issues and facilitate early intervention. Any assessments or psychiatric evaluations can be sent to the primary care physician. Referrals will be made for follow-up services if needed. To make an appointment for a referral, call Oaklawn's Access Center at (574) 533-1234, ext. 700.

Residential beds

With some recent relicensing as well as the opening of an adolescent group home, Oaklawn's capacity for child and adolescent beds for intensive services has increased. Here is a breakdown that you can "clip and save."

Child/adolescent male unit

- 18 beds

Child/adolescent female unit

- 18 beds

Child/adolescent locked secure/PRTF unit

- 15 beds

Adolescent male sex offenders unit

- 11/12 beds

Young adolescent male sex offenders unit

- 11/12 beds

Adolescent group home (coed)

- 10 beds.

Oaklawn Spring Spectacular

Jim Kelly is the featured speaker for the 8th Annual Oaklawn Spring Spectacular on Friday, May 11, 2007. The event will be held at the Matterhorn Banquet & Conference Center in Elkhart. Jim Kelly was a Hall of Fame Quarterback for the Buffalo Bills who led the team to four consecutive Super Bowls, although the Bills lost all four of them. Kelly devoted much of his post-football life to his son, Hunter, who was diagnosed with Krabbe Leukodystrophy (Krabbe disease) and died on August 5, 2005, at the age of eight. Kelly established an organization, Hunter's Hope, to raise funds to fight the disease.

Individual tickets to the event are \$100 or tables of eight are available for \$800. Oaklawn's Spring Spectacular is an effort to raise funds for Oaklawn's mental health programs as well as to raise awareness about mental illness. If you would like to attend this event, call Oaklawn at (574) 537-2645.

LCSWs & RNs sought

Are you looking for a change of scenery? Perhaps making a move to Elkhart County? Or just wanting to make a career change? Oaklawn has positions open for qualified registered nurses and clinical social workers. We offer a comprehensive benefits package along with a unique work environment. Oaklawn values the expertise from all disciplines and our staff work together in a "team approach" to treatment. For more information, check out Job Opportunities on our web site at www.oaklawn.org or call Becky Jodway in Human Resources at (574) 537-2613.

Oaklawn education events

Oaklawn is committed to providing education events for professionals and the general public and to collaborating with other community agencies. Information about education events can also be found on our web site at www.oaklawn.org.

Senior Seminar: Dementia & Depression in Older Adults

Speakers: Gary Seltman, M.D. & Timothy McFadden, M.D.

When: Thursday, April 19, 2007, 8:00–11:15 a.m.

Where: Oaklawn, 330 Lakeview Drive, Goshen, IN

Cost: No charge, but limited to first 200 respondents.

RSVP by April 13 to (574) 537-2680 or info@oaklawn.org

CEUs: 2.0

Who should attend: This seminar is designed for professionals who work with seniors in a variety of settings, including medical offices, nursing homes, pastors, mental health practices, etc.

Description: Dr. Seltman, a board certified geriatric psychiatrist, will talk about the diagnosis, management & treatment of seniors with dementia. Dr. McFadden, a psychiatrist who works with seniors, will speak on the symptoms of depression in older adults as well as current treatments. There will be time for questions and answers. Breakfast is included.

Sponsored by: Oaklawn

For more information: Call (574) 537-2680 or email info@oaklawn.org

Utilizing System of Care Principles in Work with Elkhart County

Families

Speakers: Knute Rotto, ACSW, CEO of Choices, Inc. and staff of the Technical Assistance Center for Systems of Care and Evidence Based Practices for Children and Families

When: Friday, May 18, 2007, 7:45 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Where: Bread & Chocolate Conference Center, 1401 Lincolnway East, Goshen, IN

Cost: No charge, but RSVP required to (574) 537-2680 or info@oaklawn.org. **Respond by May 11** with name, agency and phone number.

CEUs: 4.5

Description: This seminar is designed for professionals working with families and will feature discussions on systems of care, child & family teams, and identifying family strengths for crisis planning.

Sponsored by: Elkhart County Community Wraparound

For more information: Call Rachel Voth Schrag at (574) 533-1234, ext. 248.

The professionals at Oaklawn



Michele Babin



Wendy Johnson



Don Minter



Pat Mitchell



Bev Schroeder

Michele Babin, M.D., has joined Oaklawn as a psychiatrist working with adults who have a long-term mental illness. Her office is located at 2600 Oakland Avenue, Elkhart. She received her medical degree from Indiana University School of Medicine and completed residency in psychiatry at Maine Medical Center in Portland. She is certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

Wendy Johnson, M.S.W., is a social worker with residential professional services at 330 Lakeview Drive, Goshen. She holds a master of social work degree from Indiana University South Bend.

Don Minter, M.D., is a physician liaison. A retired family physician, Dr. Minter meets with area physicians to provide information about Oaklawn's services for seniors.

Pat Mitchell, B.A., is the team leader of Employment Opportunities Unlimited, Oaklawn's supported employment program for those with long-term mental illness. She holds a bachelor's degree from Bethel College, Mishawaka.

Bev Schroeder, M.S.W., LCSW, has been named team leader for Oaklawn's new adolescent group home in Elkhart, which will open in late April. A licensed clinical social worker, she has been with Oaklawn two years.

Oakleaves is published three times a year and is designed to address timely mental health and addictions clinical issues as well as inform professionals of Oaklawn's services and educational events.

Send changes of address, letters, and requests for free subscriptions to:

Gloria Miller Holub, editor, *Oakleaves*
P.O. Box 809 • Goshen, IN 46527 • Phone: (574) 537-2680
E-mail: info@oaklawn.org • Web site: www.oaklawn.org

Laurie Neumann Nafziger, president • Daniel L. Kinsey, M.D., medical director



OAKLAWN

Toward Health and Wholeness

P.O. Box 809
330 Lakeview Drive
Goshen, Indiana 46527

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OAKLAWN