



## NCCMHC HOSTS ITS 46TH ANNUAL MEETING!

**February 22, 2010 @ 12:00pm**

**The Atlantic Beach Club  
53 Purgatory Road, Middletown**

Check our website for further details @ [www.nccmhc.org](http://www.nccmhc.org)

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### ALLETTA MORRIS MCBEAN CHARITABLE TRUST GOES TO THE MALL!



Thompson Human Services Mall  
39 Broadway

The Newport Partnership for Families, a collaborative group of agencies and businesses serving children and families in the City of Newport, opened the Human Services Mall at Thompson Middle School in September 1990. The teen-friendly "Mall" is suite of offices where students can go during the school day. Instead of hanging out and shopping though, Thompson students meet with NCCMHC employees Johanna Kilroy and Barbara Chase to resolve emotional or behavioral issues. Ms. Kilroy, the Human Services Mall Coordinator, and Ms. Chase, the

Student Services Assistant, use their skills to help students so they can return to class ready to focus on their academic work. As fiscal agent and employer of record for the Newport Partnership for Families since 1999, NCCMHC has always worked with the Partnership to ensure the success and continuity of the Human Services Mall.

For the past two years, problem areas that interfere with student learning were identified by the Mall staff, their NCCMHC clinical supervisor and a Newport Partnership for Families oversight group. The specific interventions developed for these problem areas produced measurable outcomes of success in the 2008-2009 academic year.

1. Incoming fifth and sixth graders identified as "at-risk" for poor adjustment and seventh or eighth graders who had been retained receive summertime outreach and social skills groups during the school year. In the 2008-2009 academic year, 31 of 35 sixth graders (89%), and 11 of 15 seventh or eighth graders (74%) who received outreach home visits passed to the next grade.
2. HSM staff work with the school Administrators, Deans, teachers and other building staff to effectively manage minor disruptive incidents rather than refer these incidents to the Deans. In the 2008-2009 academic year, referrals to the Mall increased by 123 over the previous year and referrals to the Deans decreased by 136 over the previous year.
3. HSM staff help students manage interpersonal conflicts during the school day through mediation sessions. In the 2008-2009 academic year, 48 of 49 (98%) students referred for mediation sessions completed the school day.
4. HSM staff provide crisis intervention to students experiencing emotional distress during the school day. In the 2008-2009 academic year, 50 of 51 (98%) students referred for crisis intervention sessions completed the school day.
5. Five unexcused absences are the threshold for being considered "pre-truant" and at risk for ongoing unexcused absences. Outreach and counseling are done with these students. In the 2008-2009 academic year, 15 of 26 (65%) students identified as pre-truant were able to improve their attendance and avoid referral to Truancy Court.
6. At 15 unexcused absences, a student is considered truant and is referred to Truancy Court at Thompson Middle School and the School Attendance Officer. Some students also receive some additional supports from the Human Services Mall. In the 2008-2009 academic year, 21 students were identified as truant, but none showed significant changes in absences or tardiness as a result of interventions. The Human Services Mall staff will continue to work with the Truancy Court and the School Attendance Officer to find ways to successfully engage these students.

Originally funded for several years by a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation, since 1995 the principal funding source for the Human Services Mall has been Newport Hospital. In recent years, the Newport Partnership has collaborated with the Hospital to find ways to diversify the funding base for the Mall.

NCCMHC submitted an application for funding to the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust in July, 2009. At its October 3, 2009, meeting the Trustees of the Trust approved a grant of \$20,000 to support the operation of the Human Services Mall for the 2009-2010 academic year.



L to R: Barbara Chase, Student Services Assistant and  
Johanna Kilroy, Human Services Mall Coordinator

No stranger to supporting organizations in Newport, the Trust has a mission that reflects its familiarity with and commitment to the community:

*"In determining which organization or organizations shall receive payments of income or principal from the Trust, the Trustees shall give special attention to organizations whose charitable activities are focused on the City of Newport, Rhode Island, and Aquidneck Island, Rhode Island, and are designed to enhance the quality of life in and to perpetuate the history of the City of Newport and Aquidneck Island."*

The Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust and Trustee Noreen Stoner Drexel also provided financial support for the rebuilding of Thompson Middle School in 2000-2002. A plaque outside of the centrally located Human Services Mall suite of offices reflects the generosity of Mrs. Drexel and the McBean Trust. The Newport County Chamber of Commerce recognized the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust with the *Outstanding Community Achievement Award* at its annual meeting on November 20, 2009. NCCMHC, a Chamber member, had staff in attendance to salute the McBean Trust and their generosity to the community.

NCCMHC and the Newport Partnership for Families are grateful for the support of the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust. Continued funding support through the Newport Hospital and charitable organizations like the McBean Charitable Trust will enable the Mall to continue its mission of providing social supports to enhance the academic success of the students.

**Chris Reidy**  
OES Administrator

## RI Consumer System of Care Pilot Started December, 2009



L to R: Michael Gunning, Assistant CSS Administrator;  
Susan Boudreau, CSS Administrator; and  
Heather Locke, Assistant CSS Administrator

NCCMHC agreed with The RI Department MHRH to begin implementation of the new Levels of Care Model for its Community Support Services consumers as of December, 2009. This is a very challenging and ambitious undertaking as it involves over 470 clients and 60 staff. We are

looking forward to this exciting new arrangement

Susan Boudreau, Administrator of Community Support Services, together with her leadership group, consisting of Assistant Administrators Heather Locke and Michael Gunning, and Program Coordinators Anna Kettner, Keri Areia, and Tom Kelly have started the work of converting to the new model. Francis Paranzino, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, stated that our goal is to make changes in the service structure and service delivery that allows improved access to care and enhanced integration of services so that consumers are able to obtain better outcomes for themselves. He went to say that, by getting the services they want and need in a more timely and efficient way without having to change programs or change assignments of psychiatrists or case managers, consumer needs are more efficiently met.

A key aspect of the levels of care model is an assessment of each client that identifies his or her level of need for services as highest, high or low and then matches the services to be received to meet the need. Also, the team that a client is assigned to will have the capacity to provide more or different services as needs or level of intensity changes so that there will not be a need for the client to be re-assigned to a different team.

We are in the process of re-configuring the staff and clients from our Mobile Treatment Team, our RIACT II team, our Phoenix One Day Treatment and Case Management Program along with the Anita Jackson House and the Freedom Apartment Program into a three team model that meets the goals and requirements of the Levels of Care model. Letters were received from Craig Stenning acknowledging our participation in the pilot as we join with many of the other behavioral health provider organizations around Rhode Island with the pilot.

*Francis Paranzino  
VP & COO*

## NCCMHC ACTIVATES

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM

On a Tuesday in late October, three NCCMHC staff provided support services to students and staff at the St. Philomena School in



L to R: Tess Roney, Nurse; Denise Walters, Therapist;  
Chris Reidy, OES Administrator

Portsmouth, a private Catholic school of 482 students. The Response Team was activated in response to the sudden death of a 12 year old 7<sup>th</sup> grade student. Ultimately it was learned that the student, a healthy young girl, died from medical complications caused by H1N1 influenza. Denise Walters, LCSW, Children's Treatment Services Clinician, Tess Roney, RN, Emergency Services Nurse Clinician, and Chris Reidy, LICSW, Outpatient and Emergency Services Administrator, spent most of the day at the school providing direct counseling services to students, as well as consultation to staff at school. Other supports available to students included a priest from Portsmouth Abbey, two staff from Tiverton High School and the St. Philomena Guidance Counselor Cynthia Roach.

The news of their classmate's death was received by students with a mixture of shock, disbelief, anxiety and sorrow. For many students, it was their first experience with any death; for almost all, it was the first time they had coped with the death of a peer and friend. In addition to coping with their own feelings of grief, many faculty and staff had not had the experience of managing a classroom or a school program during a period of crisis.

NCCMHC staff provided consultation and education to staff about expectable reactions to sudden death and strategies to help each other and the students. Group and individual counseling services were provided throughout the day to students, mostly classmates and friends in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Education about how people respond emotionally to a crisis and grief stages was provided to the students and they were encouraged to talk about their feelings. The team members and the teachers helped the students to begin to support each other and make plans for how to deal with their feelings and reach out to offer their thoughts and support to the girl's family. The faculty, staff and students were able to come together during the day and throughout the week as a caring and compassionate community to support and comfort each other.

NCCMHC maintains a trained Behavioral Health Disaster Response Team of over 30 members ready to provide education, counseling, consultation, and, most of all, a "compassionate presence" when tragedy strikes in our communities. Over the years, the NCCMHC Team has provided rapid response, outreach and counseling support services to individuals, families, and schools after such events as the deaths of students or teachers, displacement disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, the EgyptAir crash, and the Station night club fire.

*Chris Reidy  
OES Administrator*

## NCCMHC Wins van Beuren Grant for Playground

Principally through the efforts of two dedicated Board members, Sheila Cory and Barbara Audino, and with some technical assistance from staff, NCCMHC was successful in receiving a \$41,100 grant from the van Beuren Charitable Foundation to install a playground and make some office accommodations at our 26 Valley Road, Middletown site to help our clients in the Early Childhood Day Treatment program. ECDDT was established to provide much-needed services to children between the ages of two and six who exhibit severe behavioral problems and who are at-risk of hospitalization.

Both Ms. Cory and Mrs. Audino met with staff over a period of several weeks to obtain the necessary information to develop the proposal. In addition, they met with representatives of the van Beuren Charitable Foundation for guidance in the application process. As a result, a proposal was submitted that met the necessary criteria.



L to R: Barbara Audino and Sheila Cory  
NCCMHC Board Members

The grant provides for the purchase of playground equipment and for some modifications in the indoor location of the ECDDT program. The new funds will allow for a new configuration of the program and for the installation of child-size and appropriate bathroom facilities.

It is really a remarkable accomplishment. ECDDT clients and their families as well as ECDDT staff are delighted to receive the money to make such enhancements to the program. They also send their profound appreciation to Ms. Cory and Mrs. Audino for their help in making all of this happen.

J. Clement Cicilline, M.S.  
President & CEO



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



J. Clement Cicilline, M.S.  
President & CEO

The recent snowstorms reminded me of the good old-fashioned winters that we always heard other generations tell us about. I suppose, too, I should admit to having experienced some of these myself. In my youth I remember snow forts that seemed to linger for weeks, with the cache of snow balls turning to ice balls when we got there after school.



A winter wonderland outside my window at 127 Johnny Cake Hill Road after the December, 2009, storm.

So this weather stuff is really an allegorical statement about the challenges that people in need are facing this winter. Whether it's heat or healthcare, food or housing, a job or a relationship, those of us in the trenches know that this is a very tough time to be down and out.

I expect that the philosophers out there will tell us that this will pass, that things will improve. After all, how much worse can it get?

Well, I am signing onto this philosophy. I think that our situation has to improve. But, we know that there will be a lot of soul-searching going on—a lot of resistance—a lot of kicking and screaming. So, before I join the 'progressive' movement, I want to put a word in for 'kicking and screaming.'

It's easy enough to say that things have to change, but I want to be sure that the change is for the better. In mental health circles, we have built a system of services and programs that work. We have been improving the quality of life for mentally ill individuals and have been saving the citizens of Rhode Island a ton of money as an alternative to hospitalization for over 40 years.

So, that is why it's justifiable to resist the quick fix, to resist the movement to simply reduce spending. Yes, I am sure that a lot of policy makers have heard this story many times and they, in turn, say we simply don't get it.

But, what's missing, of course, is the problem that with less money goes less service which, in turn, compromises the stability of the system and the stability of those clients drawing from that system. There is a real risk when you downsize these vital services.

Yes, I want to get on the band wagon to progress and I wanted to be counted as one who supports a better way—a more efficient way to do things. But, I ask how many people want to see their doctor skip a step or two in surgery? Yeah, sure, I may seem a wee bit cynical. But, let's be sure that we are doing the right thing when we change. The alternative could be disastrous for people and even the budget. The old saying about not throwing the baby out with the bathwater applies here.



A preview of next year's Holiday card.

**Middletown High School Students  
Volunteer To Help with Holiday Campaign**



Middletown High School students and NCCMHC staff spent the afternoon of December 16<sup>th</sup> assembling 1200+ letters to raise funds for NCCMHC.

On December 16, 2009, NCCMHC welcomed seven Middletown High School students who had volunteered to help with our Holiday Fundraising Campaign. Coordinated through the Dean of Students, Colleen Larson, these students arrived at our 127 Johnny Cake Hill Road site after their school day had ended. They were set up in our Board Room where they stuffed and labeled over 1200 envelopes.

The solicitation mailing was a letter telling residents of Newport County about the NCCMHC Early Childhood Day Treatment Program and the growing success of its Pet Assisted Therapy treatment.

When David Kelly, NCCMHC Fundraising Chair, thanked the students for their assistance, he encouraged them to read the letter and to understand how their volunteering was helping those in their community who needed the services offered by NCCMHC. It was the experience of this staff member to see an enlightenment in the students as they read how Iko and NCCMHC staff were helping these at-risk children and when they realized they were also helping these children and their families.

As CEO J. Clement Cicilline said in his thank you to Ms. Larson, “When students become involved, I believe that their lives are enriched because they come to realize the importance of knowing and understanding the needs of others.”

The clients, staff and Board of Directors want to thank these student volunteers for making a difference: Abigail Clark, Bethany Martin, Christine Young, Emily Evans, Isabella Evans, Mykaila Migliori and Taylor Viradamo. These students perhaps gave the most valuable gift of the holiday season and all seasons—their time.

We look forward to continued collaboration with the students in our community and likewise, offer our services to schools and organizations throughout Newport County.

Melissa Seifert  
Executive Assistant



ECDT was recognized as a “Program of Excellence” by the RI Council of Community Mental Health Organizations  
November 19, 2009



*L to R: Francis ‘Butch’ Paranzino, COO & VP;  
Gary Cournoyer, CIS Administrator; and  
J. Clement ‘Bud’ Cicilline, President & CEO*

Early Childhood Day Treatment Program (ECDT) is an intense day treatment experience for “at risk” children between ages two and six who have severe mental health and behavioral problems that range from emotional withdrawal to impulsive acting out. The children are in a therapeutic milieu for the entire day and parent/guardians are expected to participate. Goals of the program include social skill development, appropriate behavioral functioning at mealtimes, nutritional meals, hygiene skills, and self-regulating behaviors. Individual, family, and group counseling as well as psychiatric assessment, medication monitoring, and liaison with pediatricians are integral elements of the clinical program. Typically, children will be in the program for up to three or four months, with a special focus on adjusting to a regular routine in family and community settings. As a result of this early intervention program, more serious problems are less likely to develop and disrupt their lives. In turn, these children and their families have received much-needed support and direction that will help them in the years ahead.

Also featured at the **RICCMHO 30th Anniversary Celebration** was client artwork.

Below are pieces submitted by NCCMHC clients.



*From left to right: “Yellow Mums” by Lovanda Romanelli,  
Sculptures “Lady In Blue” and “Empress” by Nina Pfanstiehl  
and “Castle Hill” by Sheila Cory.*

## Deanna J. Casey—Board Member Profile



Deanna J. Casey brings to the Board of Directors a wealth of professional experience and a wide range of community service. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY and a Master of Science degree in Management from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. She also did additional graduate study at the University of Chicago, University of Rhode Island, Manhattanville College and Providence College.

All that academic preparation has led to a number of employment experiences for Deanna. She was a Systems Analyst for Texas Instruments, followed by being Senior Director of Management Information Systems and later Assistant Vice President for Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. After that, Deanna was Owner and President of Conheeny Management, Ltd. She would later become an Investment Representative for Edward Jones Investments. Deanna went on to become Operations Manager for the Fort Adams Trust. More recently, she was employed as Director of Sales and Marketing for Greenvale Vineyards.

Born and raised in Newport, the daughter of Jean and Tom “Boo” Conheeny, Deanna graduated from Rogers High School where she excelled as a student. And, notwithstanding a rather full and rigorous educational and employment career, she has been also a entirely devoted mother,

raising two sons: Nial, a patent attorney who now works as a spinal biomedical engineer in San Diego and Brendan who is a Lieutenant in the US Navy, stationed in Philadelphia.

Then there is still another side to Deanna—the community-oriented woman who believes that she has a responsibility to her community as well as to her family. She is or has been a member as well as an officer in the following organizations: Rotary International, Museum of Newport Irish History, AARP of Rhode Island, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Washington County Adult Learning Center, Gooseberry Beach Inc., Mosaic Club of Newport County, Newport Art Museum, Fort Adams Trust, Rose Island Light-house Foundation, Ballard Park Association, Touro Synagogue Foundation, and the Museum of Fine Arts of St. Petersburg, FL.

We know her as a member (since 2004) and Treasurer of our Board of Directors. She is doing an outstanding job overseeing NCCMHC’s budget and serving on the Executive Committee. Her dedication and insights are most appreciated.

But, wait, there’s more: Deanna loves to ski, bike, jog, and swim as in the Save the Bay Swim from Newport to Jamestown. So why aren’t we surprised that, at this writing, she is recovering from a broken collarbone. Slow down—no way! We heard she was trying out for the US Olympic Bob Sled Team.

**Please make a donation.  
We need your support!**

*A heart-felt thanks to all the individuals and organizations who have graciously given donations to NCCMHC. Without your continued support, NCCMHC would not be able to provide quality care to the community on which so many have now come to depend.*

**NCCMHC is a  
501(c) 3 non-profit  
organization so your  
donation is tax  
deductible.**



Please cut this slip and return with your donation.

I would like to make a donation of:

\$25    \$50    \$75    \$100    Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Donations

Newport County Community Mental Health Center  
127 Johnny Cake Hill Road  
Middletown, RI 02842

**If you prefer, donations can be made using your credit card. We accept the following:**

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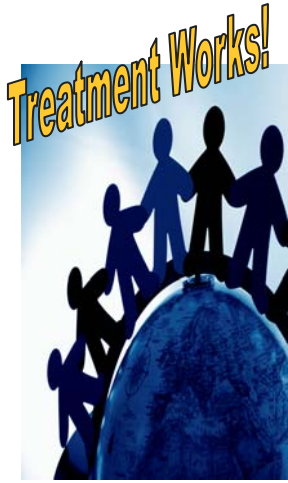




NEWPORT COUNTY  
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127 Johnny Cake Hill Road • Middletown, RI 02842-5674

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February 22, 2010 @ 12:00pm

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Public Welcome!

Check our website for further details @ [www.nccmhc.org](http://www.nccmhc.org)



The Mission of **Newport County Community Mental Health Center, Inc.** is to provide quality, comprehensive, professional mental health services to individuals, to families, and to the community in accordance with regulatory, licensing and ethical standards and in a manner that is culturally sensitive and competent.

The Newport County Community Mental Health Center is licensed by the State of Rhode Island as well as being accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and has been providing services to Newport County since 1964.

**Main Office**

127 Johnny Cake Hill Road  
Middletown, RI 02842  
(401) 846-1213

**Anita Jackson House**

316 Greene Lane  
Middletown, RI 02842  
(401) 848-5588

**Community Support Programs**

65 Valley Road  
Middletown, RI 02842  
(401) 846-6620

**Child, Adolescent & Family Programs**

26 Valley Road  
Middletown, RI 02842  
(401) 848-6363

**Phoenix One Program**

65 Valley Road  
Middletown, RI 02842  
(401) 846-3135

**Freedom Apartments**

1409 West Main Road  
Middletown, RI 02842  
(401) 324-4085

[www.nccmhc.org](http://www.nccmhc.org)

We'll be setting the date soon for the  
NCCMHC 2nd Annual Bike-A-Thon—  
Go to [www.nccmhc.org](http://www.nccmhc.org) to learn more!



Would you be interested in volunteering @  
NCCMHC? Please contact Melissa Seifert @  
[mseifert@nccmhc.org](mailto:mseifert@nccmhc.org) or call 401-846-1213  
X103 to hear how you can help make a  
difference in our community!

