

2008
Developments

Funding awarded for Homeless Safe Haven Residence

Lake Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. (LSBH) is pleased to announce that all funding has been approved for the Safe Haven residence for homeless adults.

LSBH has been awarded funding from the following sources:

- ◀ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care Supportive Housing - \$2,302,266
- ◀ NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance Homeless Housing Assistance Program - \$914,900
- ◀ The John R. Oishei Foundation - \$495,000

The John R. Oishei Foundation's mission is to enhance the quality of life for Buffalo area residents by supporting education, healthcare, scientific research and the cultural, social, civic and other charitable needs of the community. The Foundation was established in 1940 by John R. Oishei, founder of Trico Products Corporation.



A Safe Place for Homeless Adults

Artists rendering of the future Homeless Safe Haven Residence.

LSBH understands the housing service gaps for homeless people with mental illnesses and developed plans for a Safe Haven residence to address this need in Buffalo. The Safe Haven is a nationally-recognized housing model for chronically homeless individuals with mental illnesses. The model has been endorsed by HUD and uses a housing-first approach to help residents secure a safe, decent place to live while they become re-acclimated to residential living. This innovative approach to chronic homelessness has been proven effective in over 100 cities across the country and until now has been unavailable in Buffalo.

Homeless individuals with mental illnesses are often suspicious and distrustful of traditional services and are generally reticent to accept permanent housing. Gradually, as residents develop trusting relationships with staff, they are encouraged to participate in treatment, rehabilitation and vocational services to improve their ability to function successfully in the community. Residents progress at their own rate in the highly-supportive environment. Safe Havens utilizing best practices have a success rate of 85%, a remarkable outcome considering the diverse needs of these individuals.

The Safe Haven will be located at 108 Sycamore Street in Buffalo, NY. This location has close proximity to areas where many homeless people congregate. LSBH purchased a single family home and adjacent property at this location. The residence will be rehabilitated to accommodate 16 individuals with 16 private bedrooms, shared bathrooms, a kitchen, laundry and living areas. 24-hour security will be provided to ensure the safety of the residents and the neighboring community. Partners in the project include Savarino Development and BHNT Architects.

This blend of funding will enable LSBH to rehabilitate the facility and cover the first three years of program operating costs. LSBH sees the opening of the Safe Haven as a major step forward in the community's efforts to end homelessness and improve the quality of life for everyone in Buffalo and Erie County.

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New Adolescent Chemical Dependency Treatment Program

Lake Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. is pleased to announce the implementation of a new outpatient chemical dependency treatment program for teens in Buffalo. LSBH has designed a program to serve adolescents ages 11-17 with drug and/or alcohol use disorders. The program will operate two sites - one on the East Side and another on the West Side of Buffalo. Referrals are expected from the Juvenile Justice System, the Erie County Children and Youth System of Care, community based agencies, parents and other family members. The program is licensed by NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and funded by Erie County Department of Mental Health and OASAS.

Adolescents with alcohol and drug use disorders frequently face many problems, including difficulties in school, family problems, involvement in the criminal justice system, co-occurring emotional problems, and perhaps most significantly, a sense of hopelessness about their futures. Families are likely experiencing significant stress and multiple demands and may find it difficult to participate in traditional treatment with their children. These factors were considered in the development of the treatment program.

LSBH has developed an outpatient alcohol and substance abuse treatment program for adolescents that will include both treatment and community support services to promote recovery from substance abuse, improved individual and family functioning and pro-social involvement in the community. Services will be available in Spanish and English. The following services will be offered by the program:

- ◀ Motivational Enhancement Treatment/Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- ◀ Mental Health Assessment and Linkage for Services
- ◀ Educational Advocacy
- ◀ Case Management for Family and Youth
- ◀ Home-Based Family Counseling
- ◀ Vocational Services
- ◀ Peer Mentoring
- ◀ Aftercare Prevention Services
- ◀ Creative Activities

Collaborating agencies include The Joan A. Male Family Support Center, Erie County Council on the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (ECCPASA) and Buffalo State College Center for Health and Social Research.

Adolescent Chemical Dependency Program

West Side Location Now Open!

951 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14213
818-7195

East Side Location Coming Soon

463 William Street / Towne Garden Plaza
Buffalo, NY 14204

Director: Sandra Mobley-Terry