

Community Psychiatry in Western Pennsylvania

The rich tradition of community psychiatry in the City of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania dates back to the Community Mental Health Centers Act of 1963. At that time our department was lead by the late Jack Wolford, MD, one of the icons of community psychiatry in this country. He served as the voice of public psychiatry throughout the latter part of the 20th century.

That tradition continues. The core faculty of the Center has a wealth of experience providing care to diverse populations in a variety of community and public sector settings. Several faculty members have had prominent roles in planning system transformation efforts at the county, state, and federal levels of administration. There are also strong ties to professional and advocacy organizations such as the American Association of Community Psychiatrists and the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Leadership Council

The reduction in the use of segregated and restrictive residential settings has been part of the region's culture for some time, and culminated in the recent closing of the state hospital that has served this region. This closure offers fellows a unique opportunity to participate in planning comprehensive community-based mental health and substance use services. This goal will be accomplished in collaboration with leaders of the Office of Mental Health Services and Substance Abuse Services and several county MHMR programs

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Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic

Center for Public Service Psychiatry

Fellowship in Public Service Psychiatry

2009-2010

The Training Environment

The University of Pittsburgh's Department of Psychiatry offers an extremely rich academic and clinical environment for the Center for Public Service Psychiatry. For more than 40 years, the Department of Psychiatry has been a national leader in the diagnosis, management, and treatment of mental health and addictive disorders.

Over the past 15 years, the Department of Psychiatry and its community partners have contributed to the growth of Public Psychiatry and the vision of a recovery based approach to mental health.

For many years Allegheny County has benefited from innovations in community based behavioral health services. A rich network of both rural and urban providers, together with the Department of Psychiatry, has created nationally recognized services to deliver care to homeless, forensic, and substance using populations.

The region's tradition of consumer provider collaboration has been strengthened in recent years with the establishment of the Allegheny County Coalition for Recovery (ACCR), a grassroots organization of stakeholders in behavioral health services focused on system transformation. ACCR is recognized across the state and the nation and receives substantial credit for the recognition that Allegheny County has received as a national leader in progressive thinking about recovery-oriented care.

Mission and Vision

The mission of the Center is to enhance the development and practice of Public Service Psychiatry by providing leadership, collaboration, education and community based research.

The Center offers an outstanding one year post-residency fellowship in Public Service Psychiatry. Two positions are available each year. The Fellowship will enable the fellows to acquire the skills and knowledge needed to assume positions of leadership in diverse systems of care.

The Center also enhances public service psychiatry education offered to medical students, psychiatry residents, fellows, primary care physicians, and other provider specialties.

The Center fosters partnerships with rural and urban communities throughout the region, the Center strengthens the quality of services and their responsiveness to the community's needs. It emphasizes service development based on public health principles, diversity, and inclusiveness. The Center's work is guided by recommendations from professionals, consumers and family members.

The fellow's advanced training in leadership, collaboration, and system dynamics will equip them to make essential contributions to service administration and behavioral health policy across the nation.

Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh was recently voted "America's most livable city" by *Places Rated Almanac*. It is a city of great vitality and variety. Its renaissance in recent times has made it safe, clean and fun. With a wealth of affordable housing options, it is one of the nation's most diverse architectural communities.

The city is the site of many major corporate headquarters, yet retains its small-town friendliness. Nestled in the Allegheny Mountains at the confluence of three major rivers, the "City of Bridges" abounds in natural beauty with many parks and recreational sites.

Pittsburgh is a place where young professionals can find a lifestyle that best fits their needs. Parks, hiking trails, water sports, microbreweries, restaurants, clubs and quaint stores are within walking or short driving distances.

As a center for culture and the arts, Pittsburgh is second-to-none for a city its size. For sports fans, the city offers the major league thrills of Steelers football, Penguins hockey, and Pirates baseball.

An ethnically rich urban environment, Pittsburgh has held on to its neighborhoods and small communities, offering pleasant surprises everywhere.