

### **Mission**

To instill hope, inspire change, and build community

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### **Penn Foundation Joins St. Luke's University Health Network**

July 1, 2021 marked a historic day for Penn Foundation as we joined St. Luke's University Health Network. We are excited to come together with St. Luke's in mission and service to ensure our community continues to have access to high-quality behavioral healthcare. St. Luke's shares our community-based mission; values our history, expertise, and contributions to the fields of mental health and addiction treatment; and is committed to ensuring that these vital services remain accessible within an integrated system of wellness. We firmly believe that by joining St. Luke's, we will ultimately preserve our not-for-profit mission and create extraordinary opportunities for our future. This partnership, which combines 210 years of award-winning healthcare experience, creates one of the largest fully-integrated networks of mental health and addiction services in eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. As we move ahead, St. Luke's Penn Foundation (SLPF) will still need our community's support to thrive. As always, your donations will continue to support SLPF's 25 mental health and substance use disorder programs. Please continue to partner with us to instill hope, inspire change, and build community.



### **Gibson George, MD Appointed As Medical Director**

Gibson George, MD, has been appointed Medical Director at Penn Foundation. He has served as interim Medical Director since April 2020 and has worked at Penn Foundation for more than six years. "Penn Foundation cares deeply about the quality of care we provide, and I am dedicated to continuing this high standard while also working to enhance the client experience. To do this, it is important that I listen to what clients need so I can put a plan in place that will result in higher client satisfaction and better engagement," says Dr. George.

### **St. Luke's Penn Foundation Receives Grant to Support Expanded Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment Services**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded a \$3.9 million grant to St. Luke's Penn Foundation. This two year, federally-funded grant allows St. Luke's Penn Foundation to implement the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) model for care delivery, which ensures access to 24/7/365 crisis care, care coordination with hospitals, law enforcement and schools and access to high-quality services, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to help stop the overdose crisis, among other capabilities. St. Luke's Penn Foundation applied for this funding to implement new initiatives and programming that will increase team-based care, improve successful transitions of care, and reduce inpatient admissions.

### **Penn Foundation Launches Telehealth Outpatient Detox Program**

We began offering an outpatient detox program via telehealth, specifically targeting individuals seeking inpatient treatment for their substance use but who were positive for COVID-19, which would exclude them from communal living. This program is performed under the medical supervision of a team of psychiatrists and certified nurse practitioners who use a series of medical protocols tailored to the client's individual circumstances and medical conditions. The program is monitored 24/7 by an experienced team of licensed nurses to ensure the client's safety and comfortability. Although this program was originally offered only to clients who tested positive for COVID, it has expanded to serve a variety of individuals.



### **Peer Support Team Members Receive Awards**

The Bucks County Professional Development Network recognized Peer Specialists Chris Meholic with the "Best Team Player" award and Walter Wright with the "Above and Beyond" award. They received these awards in acknowledgment of their outstanding work supporting Penn Foundation service participants and fellow team members. Additionally, Trish Nye, Director of Peer Support Services, and her supervisor, Jane Straw, Associate Director of Mental Health Rehabilitation Services, received an award from Magellan for "Creativity in Virtual Service Delivery." This award recognized the department's ability to pivot to a virtual format and use online platforms to maximize participation in activities designed to help individuals manage the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.