

Mission

To instill hope, inspire change, and build community

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Penn Foundation Celebrates First Year as Part of St. Luke's University Health Network

On July 1, 2022, Penn Foundation celebrated the one-year anniversary of joining the St. Luke's University Health Network. This was a bold and historic move for Penn Foundation, but one that has proven to be beneficial for our clients, staff, and community. This affiliation has provided tremendous opportunity and has ensured that behavioral healthcare is accessible and available to the communities we serve.

Throughout the last 12 months, we have been working together to carry out our shared vision and to maintain and develop a full continuum of high-quality, integrated, and cost-effective behavioral health and substance use disorder services. Together, we have taken the healthcare we provide to the next level by creatively leveraging our combined strengths to secure funding and expand programs, improve access to services, and recruit and retain staff vital to our ability to keep pace with the increasing demand for treatment.



Penn Foundation President Participates in Roundtable Discussion with U.S. Assistant Secretary of Health Rachel Levine



In April, mental health professionals from St. Luke's, including Penn Foundation president Wayne Mugrauer, had the opportunity to participate in a behavioral health roundtable discussion with U.S. Assistant Secretary of Health Rachel Levine. Their discussion focused on the issues facing the mental health system and, in particular, the national emergency in children's mental health. "The rise in incidences of child and adolescent mental health issues, coupled with recent suicide rates and the escalating numbers of overdose deaths have stunned us all. The magnitude of these issues requires a response unlike anything we or our profession has ever seen," said Wayne. "Our merger with St. Luke's offers us an opportunity to respond in a new way. As part of a large and extraordinarily capable academic health system, we now have all the resources to find new solutions to vexing issues. We are just beginning to experience how our work in bringing together physical medicine and a full continuum of behavioral health services could be a game-changer."

Primary Care Practice Now Accessible on Penn Foundation Campus

In December 2021, St. Luke's opened its Sellersville primary care practice at Penn Foundation, the first such practice to be located on a behavioral health campus. Access is a leading benefit of primary care and behavioral health provider partnerships because individuals with mental illness typically die 10-25 years earlier than the general population and face everyday challenges complicating their ability to implement healthy choices and seek care. By attending to the physical health needs of someone living with a behavioral health challenge, or alternatively, to the behavioral health needs of someone with a physical health issue, a primary care practitioner can provide holistic treatment and care that greatly increases the likelihood of a good health outcome.



Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Expanding in Chester County

Penn Foundation's Chester County ACT team was approached by Community Care Behavioral Health (CCBH) and the Chester County Office of Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities about expanding its services to a full ACT team. This would mean almost doubling the number of individuals served by the team from 64 to 120, requiring additional staff and office space. Recognizing the critical need for this type of program in Chester County, Penn Foundation responded and is preparing to implement the expanded ACT team in late 2022.



Employee Assistance Program Meets Increasing Demand with Expanded Hours and New Office Location

Penn Foundation's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) has been collaborating closely with Occupational Medicine and Sports Medicine to cross-promote services for the benefit the business community. As more companies choose to take advantage the many benefits offered by EAP, the program is experiencing tremendous growth. As a result, the Sellersville office was renovated to accommodate the growing staff and the North Wales office expanded its hours to accommodate the growing demand for services. Additionally, EAP is expanding into the Lehigh Valley and opened a new office in Bethlehem, Northampton County, in September 2022.