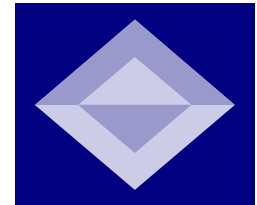


A communication periodical for our clients, staff & the community at large

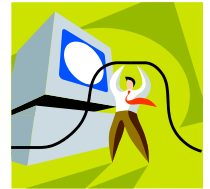
# The Chronicle

A Paterson Counseling Center Newsletter



## Technology Update

Well if you look back on where we were from a technology standpoint a few years ago, we have certainly come a long way.



Whether it's the automated tracking of medication dispensation via our AMS rollout which was spear headed by Steve Kuhn or the recent implementation of a new e-mail platform for the staff. PCC is making tremendous strides from a technology perspective.

"Finding ways to become more efficient and effective as a treatment service provider is really what are all about" according to Robert J Alexander, Executive Director of PCC.

"We are raising the bar by finding ways to transform the way we interact with the community and each other that fosters the sharing of lessons learned and outcomes with staff and the community at large", he asserts.

According to Yvette Washington, HR Administrator, "our employees

## Open House A Success

Paterson Counseling Center opens its doors during Open House and invites the community to come in and participate in workshops aimed at fostering partnerships between service providers and local citizens.

Topics of discussions range from preventative measures aimed at keeping our children away from drugs to a discussion on the best approach to getting more people into treatment. Many of the participants are often passionate when it comes to ensuring that the community at large is engaged in fighting against what some described as the single most important problem in the community.

Every single participant took the additional time at the end of the event to provide feedback on our overall progress relative to last year via our online survey kiosks placed throughout the clinic. Many participants still feel that substance abuse remains a major issue in their respective neighborhoods.

Many participants expressed a desire for more political support via funding for treatment services and prevention efforts. Overall, there was a general sense that PCC was not only enhancing the look and feel of the clinic but was stepping up by providing new services to the community at large.

Many stakeholders also expressed the need for early intervention in the schools as more of a long term solution for turning the tide on addiction within the community.

Many participants want to see more funding for services and an active embracement by political establishment. Positive comments were made about the newly redesigned websites and newsletters and stakeholders welcomed the opportunity to share feedback.

Overall stakeholders indicated a high degree of satisfaction with the progress of the center to date.

A comparative analysis of feedback from the community reveals continued satisfaction with the overall direction of the center and highlights the need for continued community outreach going forwards. Much thanks to all who participated in making the event a

### Special points of interest:

- PCC launches new benefits portal for staff
- PCC staff enjoy use of new e-mail platform
- Community open house a success
- CARF readiness assessments continues
- PCC launches new eLearning training portal pilot

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Staff Acknowledgements

## Technology Update (cont)

have stepped up to the challenge and are acquiring the requisite skill-sets to ensure that we maximize the benefits of emerging technology.”

“The launch of our new benefits portal and the pilot of our eLearning tool are excellent examples of how we are pushing the bar higher in terms of the expectations of staff from a career development perspective”, she asserts.

Clearly PCC is moving forward with the pursuit of state of the art tools that will ultimately improve the level of service that we provide our clients and stakeholders. Stay tuned for future updates on technology enhancements at PCC.

## Tell Your Teens To Say No

Teens who do not use alcohol, cigarettes, and other drugs are less likely to use them as adults. Efforts to prevent teen substance abuse should begin early in a child's life with drug education, encouragement of healthy behaviors, and good family communication. While teens are more likely to use alcohol or drugs if their parent does, parental attitudes towards substance use also influence teen behavior. Believing that parents will allow drug use increases the likelihood that the teen will try alcohol, cigarettes, or other drugs.

Having positive self-esteem, supportive family relationships, and positive role models and learning communication and problem-solving skills all help teens gain confidence to make good choices.

By age 9 your child will have established an attitude toward substance use. Therefore, start early in helping your child develop the skills needed to avoid substance abuse.

A positive reinforcement of sobriety can be the steps you take to prevent others from succumbing to the effects of addiction and abuse. Start the dialogue today.

