



Upcoming Events

Holiday Party for Clients,
Residents & Tenants



Thursday, December 5, 2019
5:30 – 8:00 pm
Kohler Banquet Center –
Lincoln Room
4572 Presidential Way
Kettering, Ohio

For tickets please contact
Kathy Nickell at knickell@
placesinc.org or 937-461-4300.



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De-Stigmatizing Mental Illness



Each year, PLACES provides behavioral healthcare to nearly 300 adults, about two-thirds of whom are homeless. The majority have been diagnosed with a serious and persistent brain health disorder. In this issue, we take a close look at stigmas about those disorders and what is being done to create a more open-minded environment.

By Roy Craig, Executive Director, and Brian Wlodarczyk, Clinical Services Director

One of the most intransigent barriers to mental health treatment is stigma: direct or indirect discrimination simply because a person has a health condition that, through no personal fault of their own, impacts their mood, thinking and behavior. While people diagnosed with most illnesses are not treated this way (think cancer or diabetes), why do we stigmatize those with brain health disorders?

The world finds ways to discount, discredit and disgrace the mentally ill at many levels: systemic, social and personal. One of the first places to look is how federal and state laws fund treatment of people diagnosed with these brain disorders. There are major funding differences between physical and behavioral health diseases in the Medicaid and Medicare systems, in many healthcare insurance plans, and in various state laws and regulations that guide disparate funding. Further evidence is found in

What Is a Brain Health Disorder?

A condition that impacts someone's mood, thinking or behavior, often leading to their having difficulty in one, or all, of the major life areas (i.e., social, physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual). Examples include anxiety disorders (e.g., post-traumatic stress disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorders); mood disorders (e.g., depression, bi-polar disorder); schizophrenic disorders; and substance use disorders.

areas such as inpatient rehabilitation stays. Just as for many other illnesses, sometimes a hospital stay is indicated to help alleviate symptoms and treat the condition. As former Congressman Pat Kennedy said in *USA Today*, "Mental health is a separate but unequal system." He added, "We have a wasteland of people who have died and been disabled because of inadequate care."

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