Sinnissippi Centers’ President and CEO Honored With Award

Lifetime Achievement

On December 4, 2012, the Community Behavioral Healthcare Association of Illinois (CBHA) bestowed its Lifetime Achievement Award on Sinnissippi Centers’ President and CEO, Jim Sarver, in recognition of his more than forty-three years of dedicated service to the human services field.

Angie Hampton, outgoing CBHA Board President and CEO of Egyptian Health Department in Southern Illinois, said of Sarver during her introduction at the awards ceremony, "Throughout my years in mental health I have always looked to Sinnissippi Centers to see what they were doing. Every time we thought of starting a new service, we'd check out Sinnissippi to see how they were doing it. Sinnissippi has always been on the cutting edge in the field of behavioral health care and Jim Sarver was a big part of that."

"Jim is a deserving recipient of the CBHA Lifetime Achievement Award," says Larry Prindaville, Sinnissippi Centers' Chief Administrative Officer. "His accomplishments during nearly twenty-five years at Sinnissippi are numerous, resulting in increased access to an array of quality behavioral health care services in the four-county area we serve in northwest Illinois (Carroll, Lee, Ogle, Whiteside)," adds Prindaville.

"In addition, Jim’s participation in community service projects has been significant," says Prindaville. Sarver is a member and past president of the Dixon Rotary Club. He has served on the Dixon Main Street Board of Directors, the Dixon Public Schools Finance/Operations Committee, and the Singer Mental Health Center.

Jim Sarver (above), Sinnissippi Centers President/CEO, will retire sometime in the summer of 2013 following nearly twenty-five years of service to the agency. A national executive search is being conducted (story right) to find the next leader of the agency.

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Jim Sarver

Governing Body. He currently serves as the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Northern Illinois Cancer Treatment Center and serves on the Board of Directors for Heritage Square Nursing Home in Dixon.

Sarver began his human services career in 1970 with the Illinois Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities and worked for the department until 1986. He served as a project director for St. Mary's Square where his affinity for overseeing building projects resulted in the construction of six new homes for the developmentally disabled.

In August 1988, his career path brought him to Sinnissippi Centers as Chief Financial Officer. A short year later he began serving in his current role as President and CEO.

Sarver plans to retire in the summer of 2013 after completing nearly twenty-five years of service to Sinnissippi.

During his leadership, the agency’s growth has been marked by a number of new construction projects including three new office buildings (Mt. Carroll, Sterling and Rochelle). The agency’s Dixon Office also underwent a significant expansion project, completed in 2002.

Sarver was also instrumental in the development and construction of four new residential apartment complexes (one in each county Sinnissippi serves) built exclusively for adults with serious and persistent mental illness.

Sarver’s support of Sinnissippi’s residential program for these individuals earned him NAMI of Illinois’ Most Innovative Mental Health Care executive search firm to conduct a national search (see also story at left) to find the next leader of the agency.

Nearly a quarter century of leadership by an individual leaves a significant mark on an agency. When Sinnissippi Centers' President and CEO Jim Sarver retires in the summer of 2013, he will have served the agency a little over twenty-four years and left a significant legacy.

Perhaps the biggest part of that legacy lies in the newest facilities Sinnissippi has. Four supervised living apartment sites and several new office buildings were constructed, and the Dixon office was expanded, under Sarver’s leadership (see also story at left).

Another part of Sarver's legacy is heading Sinnissippi’s management team as the agency has responded to a continually changing behavioral health care field and remained a viable, quality agency.

For Sarver’s successor, following such a long legacy will present both challenge and opportunity. The opportunity: Guiding an agency into the next twenty-five years that is recognized as being on the cutting edge of providing quality and innovative behavioral health care. The challenge: Keeping the agency on the cutting edge while responding to a constantly changing funding landscape and behavioral health care field.

Sinnissippi’s Board of Directors and management team have been engaged in a planning process for some time in anticipation of Sarver’s imminent retirement.

The Board formed a search committee and they selected an executive search firm to conduct a national search. The Meyers Group, specializes in behavioral health care executive searches and has a demonstrated record of success.

The Meyers Group is currently in the search process. Interested candidates can go online at Sinnissippi Centers’ website. Click on employment and then available positions for more information.

"Together creating the highest level of care, empowering people of all ages to find joy and hope.”

Respect ¤ Integrity ¤ Compassion ¤ Humor ¤ Collaboration ¤ Acceptance ¤ Quality
Rain and Cold Couldn’t Dampen Spirits of Celebration Attendees

Wellness & Recovery

No matter how good the preparations are for a wonderful event, there are just some elements you can’t control, like the weather. Luckily, a chilly, rainy day didn’t seem to dampen the spirits of anyone attending Sinnissippi Centers’ Annual Wellness and Recovery Celebration held September 13, 2012, at Sinnissippi Centers’ Dixon Office. The event is held rain or shine, and this time it was all rain and no shine.

“150 individuals in recovery from an alcohol or other drug use disorder, a mental illness, and those seeking wellness from other behavioral health care issues were in attendance,” says Jason Brown, Wellness and Recovery Celebration co-coordinator. “Everyone had a great time enjoying the Recovery Olympics and other games, information booths, the cookout, our special guest speakers, the prizes, music, and other activities,” adds Brown.

“Many thanks to everyone who helped make the event a success, including our community partners: The Boy Scouts, Immanuel Lutheran Church, KSB Community Wellness, the Lee County Health Department, and the Community That Cares Project.”

Planning for the 2013 celebration is already underway with a new date and location and a nationally known keynote speaker.

William Cope Moyers, son of Bill Moyers of PBS fame and renowned in his own right as an expert in the field of addiction and recovery, will present the keynote address at the 2013 Wellness and Recovery Celebration. William C. Moyers is also an award winning journalist having worked for CNN, Newsday and other newspapers around the country. He continues to write a nationally syndicated column on addiction related issues. Moyers authored his memoir called “Broken”, which is a New York Times best seller.

Normally held in September at Sinnissippi Centers’ Dixon office, the next annual Wellness and Recovery Celebration will be held August 8, 2013, at Sauk Valley Community College, located on Illinois Route 2 between Dixon and Sterling. Plans are to have both outdoor and indoor activities as part of the Wellness and Recovery Celebration with the keynote address from William C. Moyers to be held in the Mathis Theatre.

More details on the Wellness and Recovery Celebration will be revealed as the date of the event draws nearer. For more information on William C. Moyers, please visit www.gbpspeakers.com.

The Doctor is In

There are a couple of new faces at Sinnissippi Centers’ Dixon office, but they are not Sinnissippi staff members. Dr. Stanislaw Rewerski and Kim Perino, R.N., of KSB Medical Group began providing health care services to Sinnissippi clients on October 23, 2012.

Dr. Rewerski utilizes office space to treat patients inside Sinnissippi Centers’ Dixon office location, 325 Illinois Route 2.

"Services are provided wholly through and by KSB Medical Group as a convenience to Sinnissippi Centers’ clients," says Natalie Andrews, Sinnissippi’s Director of Addictions Services.

"Many clients who have a substance use disorder or a mental illness, or both, also have co-occurring medical issues. We are pleased to have KSB providing primary health care services on site for Sinnissippi clients."

Dr. R. Rewerski currently keeps office hours at Sinnissippi Centers’ Dixon office on Tuesday mornings. To receive services on-site at Sinnissippi, individuals need to be active clients of Sinnissippi Centers.
Expressions Art Sale

Art and mental wellness have strong connections that go back to at least the 18th century when art was used as part of formal treatment methods for those with a mental illness. It's still used therapeutically today.

And the idea of that connection was part of the genesis of the Expressions Art Sale and Reception.

The 9th Annual Expressions Art Sale and Reception will take place Tuesday, April 9 through Friday, April 19, 2013, at The Next Picture Show (113 West 1st Street) in Dixon.

"Expressions began partially from that idea of the positive influence artistic expression can have on mental wellness," says Andy Jackson, Expressions Coordinator. "It seemed to be a fitting way to raise funds for the Sinnissippi Foundation which, in turn, helps to increase the mental wellness of Sinnissippi Centers' consumers and others in the communities Sinnissippi Centers serves," adds Jackson.

"Also very fitting is that Sauk Valley Bank continues to support the Sinnissippi Foundation as the cosponsor of Expressions. Sauk Valley Bank has a long history of supporting the arts in the local area, and we are thrilled that they have returned again to support Expressions as cosponsor."

Expressions begins on April 9th at The Next Picture Show when art and silent auction items will be put on display. Art can then be purchased and silent auction items viewed and have bids placed on them from the 9th to the 19th during normal gallery hours; Tuesday through Saturday from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Expressions concludes with the reception Friday, April 19, 2013, at The Next Picture Show from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. The silent auction concludes an hour before the event ends, at 8:00pm.

"It is best to visit the gallery early to be sure you can purchase the art you like", says Jackson. "And at that time you can also get an idea of which silent auction items you would like to place the winning bid on and take home on the night of the 19th."

Returning this year will be an exhibit of photography from clients of the Recovery for Life Program. "The photo exhibit was well received last year and we hope to expand it this year. We also hope to add more consumer art to the exhibit portion of the Expressions in the future."

For more information on Expressions contact Andy Jackson at the Sinnissippi Foundation at 815-284-9380. There will also be information online at www.sinnissippi.com and on the Foundation's Facebook page closer to the event date.

Also closer to the event, art will be available for purchase online at The Next Picture Show’s website: www.thenextpictureshow.com.

The Holidays: Always A Busy Time

The holiday season is a hectic time not only for most individuals, but also for the Sinnissippi Foundation and Sinnissippi Centers' staff. From October through December, the Foundation carried out the annual Holiday Food Basket Project; planning for and distributing over 250 food baskets to Sinnissippi Centers' client families in need during Thanksgiving and Christmas. "We helped nearly 1,000 individuals," says Andy Jackson, coordinator for the Foundation's food basket project. "The weight of all the food is astounding; 7,426 pounds of food items were purchased, stored, packed, and distributed."

"The Food Basket Project has grown by leaps and bounds," adds Jackson. "By comparison, the first year of the project we distributed 87 baskets."

Other holiday activities included Sinnissippi's two holiday parties for clients, the Client Holiday Party and the Recovery for Life Program Holiday Party. Both included a meal, presents, games, and other activities. Both were organized and carried out by staff members and supported by funds from the Sinnissippi Foundation. For some clients, it was the only holiday celebration they had.
Donations
If you would like to make a donation to the Foundation, send your check to the address above. Please specify if you would like to give that donation in honor or memory of a family member or loved one.

Recent Donations
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Susan Armstrong
Jon Berens
Better Living Focus Group
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Ben Boss - Boss Carpet One
Darlene & Dean Butterbaugh
David & Marlene Cain
Beth Nelson Chase
Jim & Elizabeth Collins
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Natalie Marshall
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Bud & Pat Wiener

In Honor of....
...Kay Fisher
Richard J. Prescott

...Larry Prindaville’s 40th Anniversary at Sinnissippi Centers
Jerry & Peggy Carlson

...Jim Sarver
Heritage Square
J. Gregory Langan
Bill & Diane Ritenour

...Whiteside County Medical Society
Michael P. Gerberi, M.D.

In Memory of....
...Clare Albert
Larry & Ann Prindaville
Jim & Inger Sarver
DeAnne & Jeff White
Wendy & Mike Wiersema

...Willard Gieske
Shirley Rees

...Stan Hellenbrand
Jim & Inger Sarver

...Duane Johnson
Larry & Ann Prindaville
Jim & Inger Sarver

...Winnie McFetridge
Hal & Rose Wendler

...Patricia (Arduini) Menchaca
Tony & Arlene Arduini

...Paul Potts
Elizabeth Potts

...Ray & Florence Prindaville
Larry & Ann Prindaville

...W.S. Rybak, M.D.
Dean & Darlene Butterbaugh
John & Marilyn Parks
Larry & Ann Prindaville
Dianne Piper Rybak
Lloyd & Jane Sidwell

...Tim Stewart
Jim & Inger Sarver

...Josephine Walter
Sylvia Montavon