DMH e*News

December 10, 2015

LACDMH Re-Opens Westside UCC

By Kathleen Piché, Public Affairs Director

On Monday, December 7, 2015, Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony of the 24/7 Westside Mental Health Urgent Care Center (UCC) in Los Angeles (11444 West Washington Boulevard).

Funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), the brand-new, 4,800 square-feet Westside Mental Health UCC will serve nearly 5,900 people annually in the surrounding community. Staffed by 36 employees of Exodus Recovery, Inc., the UCC will provide crisis stabilization services, including medication evaluation and management, mental health assessment, crisis intervention and discharge planning.

Robin Kay, Ph.D., LACDMH Acting Director, served as Master of Ceremonies. “The mental health UCC serves as an important continuum of care component, providing 24/7 access to stabilization services to those in an emotional crisis. The goal is to prevent unnecessary hospitalization, stabilize people in the community and link to needed services,” she said.

Visitors will receive services needed for stabilization of urgent healthcare needs. All clients will receive linkage to ongoing services prior to discharge.

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Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District, spoke about the need for providing valuable mental health services to the community, and the need for UCC's throughout LA County. Mental health Urgent Care Centers have proven cost effective in avoiding inpatient hospitalization and in freeing-up law enforcement resources.

Luana Murphy, MBA, President/CEO Exodus Recovery, Inc., noted the original Westside UCC opened on December 28, 2006, and was a test for all mental health UCCs to come. It has proven so successful that Exodus now provides the same service in multiple California counties. Seventy-five percent of those visiting the Mental Health UCCs are stabilized within twenty-four hours and returned to the community.

Kita Curry, Ph.D., CEO, Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center, spoke about the courage and commitment it takes to make meaningful programs like the Mental Health UCCs possible.

From left to right: Sebastian Ridley-Thomas, Jo Helen Graham, Robin Kay, Mark Ridley-Thomas, Luana Murphy, Mitch Katz, Kita Curry, Larry Gasco, Herman DeBose.

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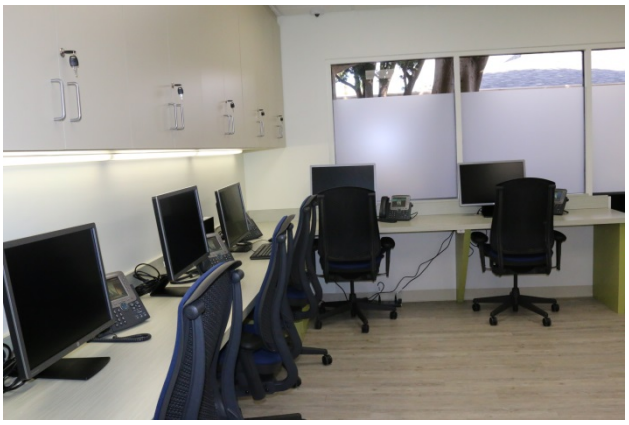
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