



Addiction Treatment Services
2024 Annual Report
Stairways Behavioral Health

Updates from the Past Year

*Major renovation projects have been completed at both the Outpatient D/A Clinic located at 2919 State Street and Gage House at 1813 Holland Street, both in the city of Erie PA. An open house was held on November 10, 2024 in which consumers and community members were able to tour the new spaces

* The OP clinic has provided services to 473 clients over the past reporting year. The prison D/A program has served 232 clients at the Erie County Prison. We have had 196 successful graduates of these programs this year

*Gage House has provided services to 147 clients over the past reporting year. 57 clients were able to successfully complete the program

*We have been able to maintain a full complement of highly skilled staff, including: one Project Director, one Program Director, two Clinical Supervisors, One Lead Counselor, One Program Manager, two LPNs, two RNC, two part-time Psychiatrists, one CRNP, 14 Full time counselors, three part time counselors, one Case Manager, 6 Certified Recovery Specialists, 1 Rehabilitation Specialist, 2 Rehabilitation Techs, and 5 part-times aides. One of our consulting psychiatrists also serves as Addictionologist for the programs. Many of our clinical team members are either currently licensed/certified (CADC/CAADC/LPC/LCSW/Art Therapist) or are receiving supervision towards eligibility of licensure. Four therapist have completed training and are now Certified Trauma Professionals

*The Intensive Outpatient program now operates five days per week, allowing for additional individual and family counseling sessions. Both clients and referral sources report to find benefit in these enhanced services.

*Both Gage House and the OP Clinic have partnered with the Erie County Office of Drug and Alcohol Abuse to secure opioid settlement grant funding for several projects to enhance programming

What We Do (Programming)

At the D/A OP Clinic, we provide two levels of licensed treatment services

- Outpatient (Level 1.0 OP): clients are able to receive up to 9 hours per week of individual, group, family **and/or couples' counseling.**
- Intensive Outpatient (Level 2.1 IOP): clients are able to receive from 9-19 hours per week of therapy services
- We continue to follow state and federal guidelines regarding the use of telehealth (Zoom) and in-person sessions based on client needs and types of services
- We also provide D/A evaluations, assessments and intakes, both at the clinic and in coordination with Behavioral Health and Detox Services at AHN-St Vincent and Millcreek Community Hospital
- The clinic continues to hold a DDAP license for Level 2.5 services (Partial Hospitalization program). We currently do not provide this level of care as we dedicate our staffing and resources to Level 1.0 and 2.1

Within the Erie County Prison (ECP), we are a contracted service provider for the Single County Authority of Erie

- Our staff provide DDAP screenings for any inmate who arrives to the prison either under the influence or with a history of D/A use
- Each inmate who is referred for services will complete an assessment with a team member
- There are gender-specific treatment groups that run for 12 sessions while the client is in the prison
- We now have a Service Coordinator housed within the Prison that is focused on assisting inmates in accessing MAT (Medication Assisted Treatments) in the forms of Vivitrol and Brixadi while incarcerated and coordinating aftercare services as they prepare to transfer back into the community.
- The team works in collaboration with the Stairways Mental Health program that is also housed at ECP

What We Do (Programming)

Gage House

- Gage House is a 15 bed level 3.5 Co-occurring Residential Drug and Alcohol program that serves adults, age 18 and over
- Psychiatric and nursing staff are on-site and provide care and referrals to outside providers as needed
- We serve both males and females, in separate bedroom/sleeping areas
- **Gage House contracts with multiple area SCA's and accepts a variety of commercial insurances**
- Gage House offers MAT in-house and also links with outside providers as needed for the full compliment of options

Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS) Team

- Our CRS workers complete a state-approved training curriculum and are certified by the PCB
- They meet face-to-face with clients in the community, in their homes, at treatment centers and at our offices. They can also provide phone support to clients struggling with their sobriety
- CRS services are unique in that they focus on the shared-experience and peer model of support for those individuals seeking assistance at any point in their recovery journey
- We currently serve over 150 clients in the Erie community, with six members of the CRS teams at this time
- Our CRS staff were the first to provide peer support inside Erie County Prison. One CRS has obtained her CRS-Supervisor certification and one has earned her Forensic CRS designation

What We Do (Programming)

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT Services)

- Our psychiatric and nursing staff manage the MAT program at Gage House, the D/A OP Clinic and the Erie County Prison
- We are able to prescribe both oral naltrexone and the injectable medications Vivitrol, Sublocade and Brixadi to clients with Opioid Use Disorder and Alcohol Use Disorder diagnoses. More than 185 doses of Vivitrol, Sublocade and Brixadi were provided to clients at the outpatient programs and 60 doses at Gage House. We continue to staff and manage the contract with the Erie Office of Drug and Alcohol and the Erie County Prison to provide enhanced MAT services both at the Prison and the Clinic which includes all forms of FDA approved MAT.
- We have several contracts with the Erie County SCA that allow us to provide these medications at no cost to our clients and we work with major commercial and state funded insurance plans as well.
- Additionally, clients who are receiving Methadone or other forms of MAT via an outside federally licensed provider or practitioner are able to participate in therapy services at the OP clinic and Gage House. Weekly and/or monthly contact is maintained with outside providers to ensure client safety and care

CROMISA Project

- CROMISA is a program that is specifically designed to provide support, case management and treatment referrals to dually diagnosed individuals supervised by the PA State Parole Board
- Many of these individuals have long periods of incarceration and needs assistance in community re-integration, socialization and connection to services for housing, employment, insurance and healthcare
- This program is contracted and funded via the Erie County SCA and state and federal grants
- Both the Case Manager and the Recovery Specialist have specialized training and experience in working with forensic populations

Consumer Satisfaction

Clients complete satisfaction surveys regularly throughout their treatment stay, and upon discharge

Some of the comments that we have received over the past year include:

- ▶ “I think the counselors here are great at their jobs and they really help us!”
- ▶ “I picked the right IOP. I love the people here, everyone is supportive”
- ▶ “My sessions and groups at Stairways play a huge part in my recovery”
- ▶ “My CRS is open about her own journey which helps me feel not so alone”
- ▶ “I am always treated as a person, not a diagnosis. I appreciate that”
- ▶ “I recommend this place anytime someone I love needs help”

Looking Ahead to the Future (Goals)

- We seek to build upon our professional relationships with all the local schools and universities by providing internship opportunities, trainings and consultations
- Gage House continues to be a premier residential D/A program in the area and staff are specially qualified and trained to provide care for dually diagnosed populations. Managers seek out training and education to further enhance skill sets and ensure utilization of evidenced-based treatment modalities
- Our Core Trauma team will begin providing in-service training and seminars to both SBH internal programs and outside agencies as part of a collaborative experience for professionals and clients/families that we serve
- We are in the planning stages for Phase Two of renovations at the DA OP Clinic to establish a dedicated MAT/medical services wing, which will further improve client care
- We remain committed to professional development for all staff that are part of Addiction Treatment Services. We actively recruit highly qualified persons interested in making a difference in the behavioral health field.

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