



Addiction Treatment Services  
Fiscal Year 2021-2022  
Annual Report  
Stairways Behavioral Health

## Updates from the Past Year

\*Both Gage House and the OP programs have continued to remain open and provide quality clinical treatment services to those in need during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

\* The OP clinic has provided services to 615 clients over the past reporting year. The prison D/A program has served 181 clients at the Erie County Prison. We have had 176 successful graduates of these programs this year

\*Gage House has provided services to 175 clients over the past reporting year. 91 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, 2 Clinical Supervisors, One Lead Counselor, One Program Manager, two LPNs, one RN, one part-time Psychiatrist, one CRPNP, one Case Manager, 5 Certified Recovery Specialists, 1 Rehabilitation Specialist, 2 Rehabilitation Techs9 part-times aides. 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

\*Our Partial Hospitalization program is not currently serving clients for several reasons, most notably the challenges in maintaining social distancing and follow COVID safety precautions in a group setting for extended periods. We will be reviewing how to proceed with the PHP program as time goes on.

\*The Intensive Outpatient program now operated 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.

# 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 currently are able to provide telehealth (Zoom) and in-person sessions during the COVID-19 pandemic
- 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
- Following recent ASAM alignment governing treatment practices, therapists now have a smaller caseload to be able to provide more individualized and focused therapy. OP therapist caseload size is 35, IOP therapist caseload size is 15.

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

- Our staff provide withdrawal 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 provide case management and coordination to refer most inmates to residential-based substance abuse treatment centers following their release
- 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 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

## 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 137 clients in the Erie community, with plans to continue hiring staff and expanding programming to be able to reach out to even more people in need

# 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 medication Vivitrol to clients with Opioid Use Disorder and Alcohol Use Disorder diagnoses. More than 150 doses of Vivitrol were provided to clients on-site
- We have several contracts with the Erie County SCA that allow us to provide these medications at no cost to our clients
- Clients who are receiving Methadone or Buprenorphine (Suboxone) via a 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 need 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:

- ▶ “Stairways is an incredible place to come get help”
- ▶ “My therapist has saved my life!”
- ▶ “What a wonderful group of caring staff!”
- ▶ “Gage House is a one-of-a-kind program”
- ▶ “Thanks, thanks, thanks!!!”

# Looking Ahead to the Future (Goals)

- Team members continue to meet to discuss ideas for implementation of an aftercare or alumni association for successful graduates of programming
- 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
- We look to continue expanding both the OP and IOP treatment schedules, paying special attention to family and couples' counseling opportunities
- We have a capital plan for improvements at all of current facilities, which will provide a more pleasant, calming and safe environment for client services
- Agency leaders have demonstrated a commitment to professional development for all staff. All license- or certification eligible staff are in process of receiving required supervision hours, and will prepare/sit for testing within the next two years

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