



Addiction Treatment Services
Fiscal Year 2022-2023
Annual Report
Stairways Behavioral Health

Updates from the Past Year

*Both Gage House and the OP programs have continued to remain open and provide treatment services to adults in Erie and surrounding counties

* The OP clinic has provided services to 478 clients over the past reporting year. The prison D/A program has served 190 clients at the Erie County Prison. We have had 151 successful graduates of these programs this year

*Gage House has provided services to 152 clients over the past reporting year. 53 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, two part-time Psychiatrist, one CRNP, one Case Manager, 5 Certified Recovery Specialists, 1 Rehabilitation Specialist, 2 Rehabilitation Techs, and 9 part-times aides. One of our psychiatrists has passed his exams to be certified as an Addictionologist. 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

*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 2.1 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 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 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 Suboxone/Sublocade 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 five members of the CRS teams at this time

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 130 doses of Vivitrol were provided to clients on-site. We are coordinating an enhanced MAT program both at the Prison and the Clinic which will include Suboxone and Sublocade MAT
- We have several contracts with the Erie County SCA that allow us to provide these medications at no cost to our clients
- Additionally, clients who are receiving Methadone or Buprenorphine (Suboxone) 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 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:

- ▶ “I have learned so much from this great group of people”
- ▶ “My therapists treats me with true respect”
- ▶ “I will always come to Stairways if I need help”
- ▶ “SBH has inspired me to take the training to become a peer specialist myself”
- ▶ “The entire staff at Gage House are first-class people!”
- ▶ “Come here if you need support and guidance in your recovery”

Looking Ahead to the Future (Goals)

- We continue to expand services within the Erie County Prison, with our CRS programs and through partnerships with the SCA, CCBH and the Regional Recovery Hub. For the first time ever, our peer staff will begin working with inmates during their incarceration at the Erie County Prison
- 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 have held our initial organizational meetings for our Core Trauma team, and will continue to connect our therapists and staff to specialized trainings related to this important issue closely tied to substance abuse treatment
- We anticipate completion of our major renovation project at the Outpatient campus and continue to upgrade all facilities to ensure a quality treatment milieu
- 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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