

**North Central Health Care
Lincoln Health Care Center
2008 Annual Report**

In 2008 the full implementation of mobile crisis services, hospital alternatives, collaboration with many community partners, and significant training efforts resulted in positive outcomes for county residents with behavioral challenges due to dementia and developmental disabilities. Children and adolescents with mental health and substance abuse crises, and their families, were served in the community to the greatest extent possible, reducing the need for hospital admissions and services at the state mental health institutes. Plans for sustaining the crisis program after the ending of grant funding in July of 2009 were finalized and continuation of the program was incorporated into the 2009 budget. Mobile crisis staff training has focused on collaboration with law enforcement and other community partners to insure the best utilization of available resources and avoid duplication of services.

Involvement with Healthy People Lincoln County focusing on suicide and substance abuse prevention as county health priorities continued throughout the year. Plans were developed for a billboard campaign for suicide prevention to be initiated in 2009 and there were many media and community outreach activities throughout the year, including participation in the Drug-free Communities Coalition, the Social Norms prevention project, Tomahawk Together, Be Healthy Week and health fair, a community roundtable on substance abuse prevention, and suicide prevention training for community members.

In 2008 North Central Health Care began management of the Behavioral Health Unit at Aspirus Hospital in Wausau, with admissions triaged through the NCHC crisis services. This allowed for downsizing the hospital unit at NCHC, which made it possible to receive reimbursement for hospital admissions for adults under medical assistance. The arrangement has also resulted in much closer collaboration and coordination of services between the two facilities to better meet the needs of county residents. Psychiatric hospital services became a regional resource with contracts with more than twenty surrounding counties.

The task force to address services for the elderly with behavioral challenges in Lincoln, Langlade, and Marathon counties which was convened in 2007 continued to meet, with significant success in providing collaborative services for these county residents. A significant recommendation of the task force was that a psychiatric nurse practitioner be available as a consultant for the area nursing homes and this recommendation has been implemented, including consulting services at Pine Crest nursing home.

The Lincoln County Human Services Group and the Lincoln County Long-term Support Committee have been active in gathering and analyzing information regarding the state Family Care initiative and the potential development of an Aging and Disability Resource Center for the county. Mental health services for those enrolled in Family Care in other counties has proven to be a significant need and will be an integral part of the planning for successful implementation of Family Care in the future.

Overall access to outpatient services for mental health and substance abuse remains within acceptable limits, while psychiatric services continue to be in high demand, with greater waiting times for services. Four of the outpatient therapy staff members were dually certified to provide integrated treatment for mental health and substance abuse, with an additional therapist scheduled to begin in January, 2009, who will also have dual certification.

The Community Support Program has been active in implementing a consumer-focused and recovery and strength-based model to support consumers in achieving their goals for the best quality of life in the community. Consumers have been highly successful in developing peer support networks and becoming involved in conferences and training opportunities to increase their skills.

Staffing

Psychiatrists (0.45 FTE)
 Director/Psychologist (1.0 FTE)
 Nurses (1.8 FTE)
 Social Workers/Licensed Professional Counselors (3.5 FTE)
 Alcohol/Drug Abuse Counselor (1.0 FTE)
 Mobile Crisis Specialist (1.0 FTE)
 Community Support Program Director/Licensed Professional Counselor (1.0 FTE)
 Community Support Program Professionals (2.5 FTE)
 Clerical Support Staff (4.2 FTE)

	2008		
	CLIENTS	UNITS OF SERVICE	
OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH	363	2,054	Hours
LINCOLN CO COMMUNITY SUPPORT	35	5,101	Hours
OUTPATIENT AODA	440	1,780	Hours
CRISIS PROGRAM	114	511	Hours
Total Outpatient	952	9,446	Hours

New Admissions

	2008
Inpatient	133
Merrill AODA	358
Merrill MH	250
Tomahawk AODA	58
Tomahawk MH	35
Mobile Crisis	114
Total	948

Services Provided

Alcohol and other drug abuse counseling
 Alcohol and other drug abuse day treatment program
 Alcohol and other drug abuse hospitalization for detox
 Community Support Program intensive community program for consumers with severe and persistent mental illness
 Co-parenting class for divorcing parents.
 Intoxicated Driver Program assessments and monitoring
 Mental health community outreach for the elderly
 Mental health counseling
 Mobile crisis/crisis stabilization
 Psychiatric day treatment program
 Psychiatric evaluations and medication management
 Psychiatric inpatient hospitalization

Budget

Total 2008 budget for Lincoln Health Care Center:	\$2,446,191
Total 2007 budget for Lincoln Health Care Center	\$ 2,302,291
Total 2008 Lincoln County appropriation for Lincoln Health Care Center:	\$534,736
Total 2007 Lincoln County appropriation for Lincoln Health Care Center	\$ 470,618

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Parsons, Ph.D.
 Director