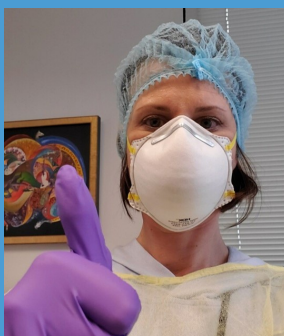




2021
Annual
REPORT



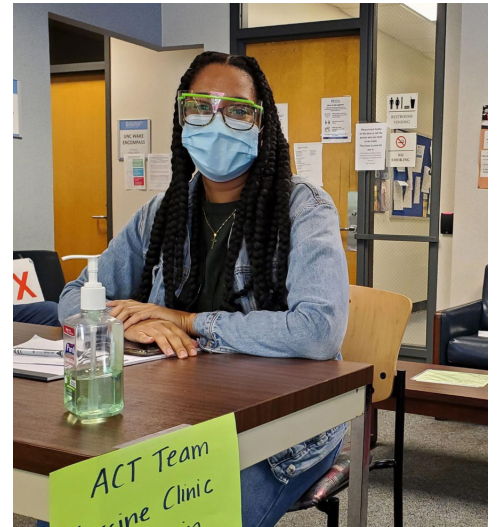
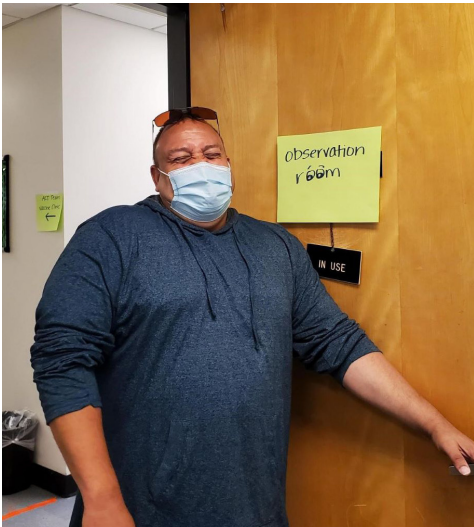
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Psychiatry



CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

“After more than a year of creatively adapting to the COVID pandemic, we look forward to more normal times to focus on what the Center does best – innovative solutions and better care for the patients and communities we serve.”

Dr. John Gilmore | Director, Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health



UNC Mental Health Center supporting Covid-19 vaccinations among the most vulnerable.

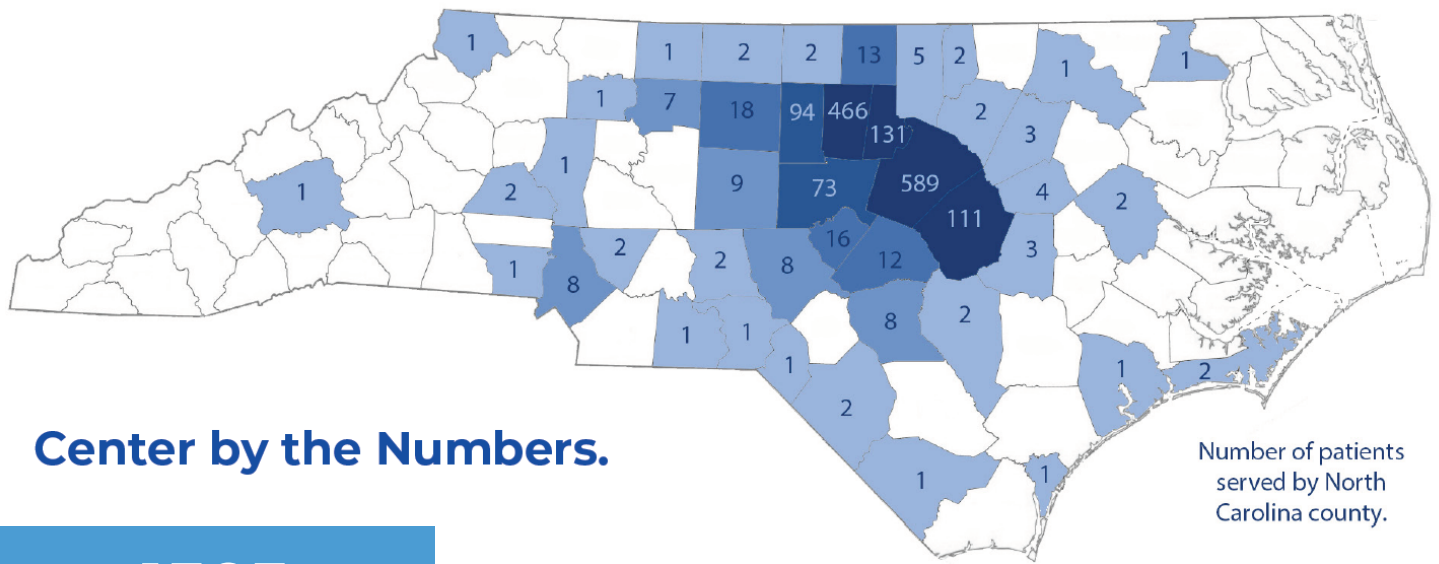
The Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health is taking an assertive, multipronged approach to make certain that its patients get a fair shot at getting their shot. The CECMH's vaccination team, led by Austin Hall, MD, has the goal of a rate of vaccination in its severely mentally ill population of around 1600 individuals that exceeds the rate for the general public in North Carolina.

Mental health providers are often the most trusted source of health recommendations for this vulnerable group. In the Covid-19 pandemic, that trust has been more important than ever. The severely mentally ill are among the most high-risk groups for serious complications and death from Covid-19. They also are more susceptible to online and media health misinformation.

Early after approval of the first Covid-19 vaccine, the Center began planning how it would support vaccine uptake in a population that, in a typical year, is only

half as likely to get a flu shot compared to the general public. There is no one barrier to vaccination for the seriously mentally ill. Socioeconomic vulnerabilities, skepticism of the health system, fragmented care, and vaccine misinformation all play a role. Therefore, the Center's approach has been multifaceted. It has included advocating for reserved appointments for these individuals at vaccine clinics, on-site vaccination events at our Center locations, and the development of messaging for clinicians to use around vaccine hesitancy tailored to the needs of this population. Additionally, robust data-tracking and analytics, to identify opportunities for improvement, have supported the project throughout.

As of late April 2021, 46% of Center patients had received at least one vaccine dose, just about 1% behind the rate of the general public in North Carolina. The Center vaccine team's efforts will continue through the summer and likely beyond.



Center by the Numbers.

1787
PATIENTS SERVED

43
COUNTIES SERVED

20
SPECIALIZED
PROGRAMS

85
TEAM MEMBERS

INSTITUTE FOR BEST PRACTICES

8790 INDIVIDUALS TRAINED

78 TRAINING SESSIONS

8 STATES WITH ACTIVE IPS/ACT TEAMS

FARM AT PENNY LANE

2,968 LBS OF FARM-TO-HOME PRODUCE PACKS

71 GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

62 VIRTUAL PROGRAM PATIENTS SERVED

PROGRAM

19,272 TOTAL PATIENT VISITS

15,333 TELEHEALTH VISITS

3,939 IN-PERSON VISITS

Congratulations!

Elizabeth "Beth" Rossi, accepted into the 2021 Advanced Leader Academy

Thava Mahadevan, named 2020 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar

Josh Morgan, SAS National Director of Behavioral Health and Whole Person Care, California, first CECMH Advisory Board At Large Member

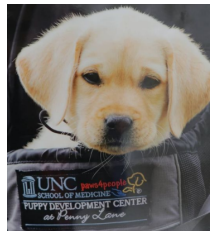
The Power of Partnership.

A primary pillar for the Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health is to be a national leader in mental health care through the use of best practices. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is a branch of the US Department of Health and Human Services who has recognized the Center as being such a leader. With their financial assistance two of our programs have been able to expand nationally.

In March 2020, The Institute for Best Practices was able to launch weekly meetings for ACT providers across the US and Canada with the SAMHSA funded Northwest Mental Health Technology Transfer Center. They now have 1500 registered providers, and a new ACT website forum.

Additionally, SAMHSA partnered with HomeLink in early 2021 to fund the Treatment of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Network (TIEH), lead by Thava Mahadevan. The network brings together over 20 TIEH entities across the US to research and implement new ways of assisting homeless individuals.

Providing Care for Four Legged Family.



The UNC Paws program is all about helping individuals with mental health issues through the use of animal companionship. However, sometimes those individuals can not afford to properly take care of their new furry family members because of poor funding or homelessness. This is why the Center has partnered with the University of Tennessee to provide veterinary support to struggling families.

AlignCare is the National OneHealth healthcare system, designed to increase access to veterinary care for pets and leverage community resources to keep families and their pets healthy and together. The program pays for the majority of the veterinary bill services, including prescription medicine and prescription food.

The mission of the Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health is to treat the "whole person" be they human or animal.