

CELEBRATING
Seventy Years!
OF EXCELLENCE
1952-2022

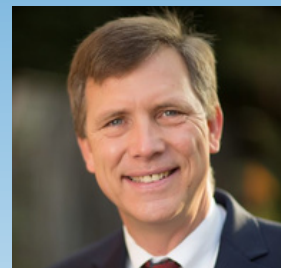


UNC PSYCHIATRY ANNUAL REPORT 2022

CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

“As we emerge from the COVID pandemic, the Center is getting back to what we do best – innovation in the care of those we serve and expansion of best practices across North Carolina.

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



Mindy Asbury, MD, PhD

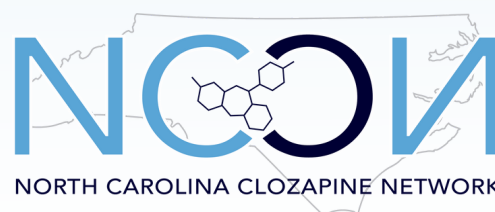
North Carolina Clozapine Network

With an overarching goal of improving patient outcomes, quality of care, and recognizing clozapine as a highly effective, evidence-based treatment that can help vulnerable patients, the UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health set out to create a network of experts - The North Carolina Clozapine Network (NCCN), lead by Director Dr. Mindy Asbury and Co-Director Dr. Fred Jarskog - to establish consultative, educational, and clinical programs.

“The process and progress so far have exceeded my expectations. Within its first full year of operation, we have had requests for clozapine-related consultations from within the UNC system, across the state, and as far away as California. I am thrilled about our clozapine education initiative, which we launched with a goal of increasing clozapine use by dispelling myths, providing practical information, and increasing provider comfort through knowledge acquisition.” - Mindy Asbury, NCCN Director

Several academic, community and group practices throughout North Carolina have committed to receiving monthly case-based and didactic education from NCCN's experts. To date, the most exciting accomplishment has been the establishment of a dedicated clozapine clinic in western North Carolina, in partnership with MAHEC. In western North Carolina, the rates of clozapine prescribing for those eligible are among the lowest in the state.

“I am proud and grateful to all the individuals in the NCCN, and I know we are ready to ride this momentum into 2022-2023.” - Mindy Asbury, NCCN



Growing with New Leadership

- Mindy Asbury, MD, PhD, is appointed as the Director of the North Carolina Clozapine Network. She is also the Medical Director for Wake ACT Team.
- Emily Clark, MSW moved from her position as Wake ACT Team Lead to spearhead a new clinical operations division as the Enhanced Services Clinical Director.
- Ashley Kuhn, MS is the new Team Leader for the CECMH Individual Placement and Support (IPS) supported employment program.
- Fred Jarskog, MD took on the role of Medical Director for the Wake Encompass program. He also leads the North Carolina Psychiatry Research Center.
- Jeff Neer, MSW transitioned from his position as the Wake ACT Substance Abuse Specialist to Team Leader.



Mindy Asbury



Emily Clark



Ashley Kuhn



Fred Jarskog



Jeff Neer



From Falstaff to Whitaker Mill

As anyone knows moving to a new location can be a major ordeal, especially when you are moving an entire clinic, several major programs and a research facility. However, for the Center's Wake County team based in Raleigh, they only had one thing to say- Challenge Accepted!

In February of 2022, the Team said farewell to its home of ten years on Falstaff Road and traveled the five miles to 401 East Whitaker Mill Road. That's right THE Whitaker Mill. The beautifully historic Classical Revival building that has been a symbol of social services development in Raleigh for the past 100 years.

"We are fortunate to relocate all of our Wake County operations this year to the county owned historic Whitaker Mill building. A huge thank you to Wake County GSA staff for making this possible for us. This location will provide better access and coordination of services for our Wake County clients." - Thava Mahadevan, CECMH Director of Operations.

The UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health Wake County programs include: The Wake STEP clinic, catering to individuals dealing with schizophrenia and other severe mental illnesses; Wake Encompass, a first episode psychosis program for adolescents and young adults; Wake ACT, a support program for individuals transitioning from a mental care facility to independent living; the North Carolina Clozapine Network, dedicated to promoting the effective treatment of clozapine for those with schizophrenia and the North Carolina Psychiatric Research Center, a dedicated research facility with the goal of improving recovery for people living with serious mental illness.

The Pavilion: Bridging Independent Living and Recovery Care

In 2015, a conversation between two people dedicated to serving the community would lead to a revolutionary idea in North Carolina. Affordable housing for at-risk individuals struggling with mental illness. This idea would become the Tiny Homes Village, a planned 15 home community on the property of the Center's Farm at Penny Lane Recovery Complex.

Six years later, Rebecca Sorensen's (community Development Consultant) and Thava Mahadevan's (CECMH Director of Operations) idea would become a reality with the construction of the community's first building - the Tiny Homes Pavilion.

The open-air structure was designed to be used as a communal gathering place for residents of the Tiny Homes Village and clients and employees of the UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health. Already the Pavilion has been utilized as



a COVID-safe location for Center recovery classes such as Brushes with Life, a creative arts program promoting creative thinking and expression and Horticultural Therapy, a program using gardening and cultivation to assist with anxiety and physical wellness.

The Pavilion was designed and constructed by architecture students at the North Carolina State College of Design. It was deliberately built between the under-construction Tiny Homes Village site and the Farm at Penny Lane Garden as a way to bridge the two locations. The Farm and CECMH will provide recovery and mental health care to the individuals living in the Village.