

June 2023

“Stand Up for Mental Health” Brings Community Together

May 5 marked CrossWinds’ first-ever Stand Up for Mental Health event. Hosted at the Granada Theatre in Emporia, the event was headlined by actor and comedian Kevin Farley and brought in over 400 attendees. Ticket sales, event sponsorships, night-of donations, and proceeds from silent auction items combined for a net total of more than \$60,000 in programmatic aid for the agency, with more coming in each week.

Before the show, the evening provided an opportunity to update the agency’s donors and local advocates on progress and recognize several individuals for their

positive impact throughout the last year. Tyler and Melanie Curtis took home the Advocate of the Year award for their contributions to CrossWinds’ ongoing capital campaign while Paula Sauder received the Donor of the Year award. Ramish Patel of Emporia’s Econo Lodge was awarded Community Partner of the Year for his dedication to providing needy clients with accessible housing.

“This event was just a great way to bring our community and advocates together for a night of fun in support of an important cause,” said Development Director Lucas

Moody. “A lot of hard work, planning, and volunteerism went into making it a reality, so I want to give a huge thanks to all our staff and sponsors for the roles they all played in making the night a success. We’re going to take the input we received from the night and hopefully make this a regular thing for the community moving forward.”



Did You Know? Individuals who collect Supplemental Security Income & Social Security Disability Insurance can still work!

The term evidence-based supported employment is synonymous with the term Individual Placement and Support (IPS). For many people with a mental illness, employment is part of their recovery.

FACT: The majority of people with severe mental illness want to work. Studies indicate that approximately 2 out of every 3 people with mental illness are interested in competitive employment, but only 1 in 10 are currently employed.

FACT: As an evidence-based practice, supported employment is nearly three times more effective than other vocational approaches in helping people with mental illness to work competitively. Collaboration between mental health and vocational rehabilitation is an effective implementation strategy.

FACT: People who obtain competitive employment through supported employment services have increased income, improved self-esteem, improved quality of life, reduced symptoms, and reduced mental health utilization. They remain competitively employed for years.

These facts are the reason Crosswinds' IPS/Supported Employment and Education Services are vital in the recovery of our consumers. For more information, email Wendi Soendker at wsoendker@crosswindks.org.



CCBHC Update

As we shared last quarter, CrossWinds is well on its way to becoming a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic. I'm now happy to announce that we have received provisional certification effective July 1! CrossWinds is currently in the midst of completing a community needs assessment to explore needs and gaps in services and resources for our communities to inform our future decisions. We continue to examine ways to bolster existing programs and initiate new services that will be required for full certification. Our staff have dedicated time to serving on committees, reviewing the policies and procedures of our agency, to ensure we comply with all CCBHC criteria and provide our services

in the most effective manner possible. With provisional certification comes a much-needed change in the way CrossWinds is reimbursed for services paid for by Medicaid. This new payment system is a key component of the CCBHC model's ability to revolutionize mental healthcare as we know it. It reimburses our agency in a way that covers the true cost of providing services to clients and allows us to expand services for all clients, regardless of insurance.

We are meeting with current CCBHC members as they provide technical assistance and help us assess our readiness. We take pride in their affirmation of our current actions and look forward to their report to help guide our next steps. At this point in time, CrossWinds expects

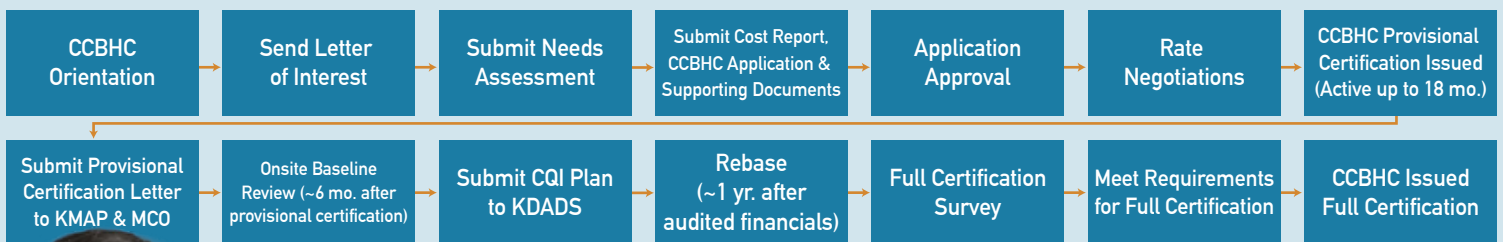
an onsite visit with the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services approximately 6 months following our provisional certification. The visit will provide the opportunity to review continued progress and receive guidance and feedback to complete our goal of full certification by July 2024. We remain optimistic about the preparation we have done so far and excited for all that is to come!



*Lauren Rickner,
Project Director*



Kansas CCBHC Certification Process



“We are extremely excited to be in the next wave of Kansas Community Mental Health Centers establishing the CCBHC model! I am so proud of our staff and their extremely hard work to get us here! This model is monumental in continuing our efforts to improve access to both mental health and substance use treatment as well as an integrated approach to health care. CCBHCs are transformative to the whole system of care and will focus on the whole person. It is a very exciting time to be part of the mental health safety net system of care!” -*Amanda Cunningham, CEO*