



June 12, 2008

Thomas A. Kirk, Jr., Ph.D.,
Commissioner

DMHAS' FINEST

Susan Newell and **Kathleen McCarvell** were honored as the 2008 DMHAS Nurses of the Year. Nurses are nominated by their peers in two categories, Administrative and Direct Care.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Susan Newell, Nurse Clinician, Capitol Region Mental Health Center

As a Nurse Clinician and Infection Control Coordinator, Susan intercedes for patients on the Acute Care unit and helps the teams feel comfortable with taking risks in order to maintain clients at the least restrictive level of care. Entering state employment in 1995, she was promoted to her current classification as Nurse Clinician in 2003. Sue runs a health education group on the Acute Care unit, volunteers on several committees and is active on the statewide Pandemic Flue Preparedness Committee. It has been said that Sue makes things easier for people. It is no wonder that she is greeted by clients with the customary "Hey Sue!" or a high five.

DIRECT CARE: Kathleen McCarvell, Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Southeast Mental Health Authority

Kathy demonstrates fidelity to the recovery model of care and client's choice. She sees mistakes, not as failures, but as learning opportunities. She brings hope to young adult women who struggle with codependency, substance abuse, or their own self-image. Kathy received her master's degree in Nursing with a focus on supervision and organization and completed her APRN graduate work one year ago. She developed a Young Adult Services nursing program, "Circle of Care," to insure that nursing services meet and exceed the level of excellence that is expected within DMHAS. Much of her nursing profession is dedicated to being a life coach. Nurse McCarvell stands by her clients.

2008 Honorees—Administrative

Marcia Cobain, Behavioral Health Program Manager, Southwest Connecticut Mental Health System, oversees Health Information Management, Infection Control, and Utilization Management.

Carol DeLaurentis, Supervising Nurse, Connecticut Valley Hospital, is a nurse instructor in the General Psychiatric Division where she places the needs of the patient population as first priority.

Doreen Vazquez, Utilization Review Nurse, Cedarcrest Regional Hospital, consults with clinical staff on two campuses to keep them informed of utilization review and entitlements.

2008 Honorees—Direct Care

Lena Bristow, Head Nurse, Cedarcrest Regional Hospital, is a nurse instructor and welcomes and facilitates retention among her new staff.

Carole Montano, Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Capitol Region Mental Health Center, is on the Medication Management Team providing psychiatric assessment, and prescription medication monitoring of 200+ clients.

Theresa Pabis, Nurse Clinician, Southwest Connecticut Mental Health System, is a team nurse for Young Adult Services and serves as the focal point of her patient's health care needs.

Dorothy Shanahan, Nurse Clinician, Connecticut Mental Health Center, serves inpatient and ambulatory populations, consistently demonstrating a recovery-oriented approach to clinical care while promoting consumer and family education that brings together physiological, spiritual, and cultural needs of our clients.

John Vallejo, Forensic Head Nurse, Connecticut Valley Hospital, manages and leads the evening shift. He is acutely aware of the changing needs and conditions of his patients and responds to these needs.

Elizabeth Waterbury, Head Nurse, Western Connecticut Mental Health Network, embodies and represents all that is best in our nurses at the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Please join me in congratulating Ms. Newell, Ms. McCarvell and all of the honorees for their excellence in service.

Comments are welcome at Thomas.kirk@po.state.ct.us.

To post comments on the DMHAS website at dmhas.webmaster@po.state.ct.us.

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