



THE BEHAVIORAL
WELLNESS CENTER
— AT GIRARD —

INSPIRING HOPE TRANSFORMING LIVES

Annual Report

2023

Mission

To provide effective, evidence based behavioral health services to persons in recovery that inspire hope, encourage change, and improve our community. We offer these services in a manner that is spiritually and culturally sensitive and responsive to the community's needs.



Vision

To be the region's premier provider of a caring continuum of behavioral health services.

Values

Choice

Recognizing and supporting the participant's right to choose and understand the consequences.

Hope

Expecting and embracing change.

Integrity

Being honest in words and actions while adhering to strong moral and ethical principles.

Respect

Listening to and acknowledging the concerns and needs of our participants and colleagues.

Professionalism

Communicating and conducting ourselves in ways that affirm the Center is a safe and supportive space for healing.



Organizational Summary

The Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard continues to adjust to operating in a post-pandemic environment. Ensuring the safety of staff, clients, and visitors while maintaining the integrity of its programs, opening new programs, assimilating to the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) treatment model, addressing staff shortages and census challenges. Additionally, we continue to encourage wellness among staff and patients as we implement programs that promote the benefit of taking care of ourselves by ensuring balance in our lives.

History

Past & Present

The Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard began its life as the Philadelphia Children's Homeopathic Hospital established in 1896, and later moved to 8th and Franklin Street where it was renamed St. Luke's and Children's Medical Center. St. Luke's was one of the first treatment facilities for alcoholism in the 1930's and, in 1947, the Saul Clinic was created to provide medical and sub-acute treatment for alcoholism. The Helen L. Goldman drug rehabilitation program was established in 1904 and, in 1970, the clinic now known as the Goldman Clinic, began offering methadone treatment. St. Luke's later became known as Giuffre and then as the Girard Medical Center. In 1990 St. Joseph's Hospital and Girard Medical Center merged and formed North Philadelphia Health System (NPHS). St. Joseph's provided medical and surgical services and Girard Medical Center provided Behavioral Health programs. In

2016, NPHS sold St. Joseph's Hospital and only continued to provide behavioral health services. Girard Medical Center, now known as The Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard continues the legacy of being in the forefront of provision of behavioral health services to the residents of the City of Philadelphia.

The Center is a not-for-profit corporation that focuses on behavioral health care offering drug and alcohol treatment, and both inpatient and outpatient Psychiatric and Substance Abuse counseling and treatments. In December 2016, the Center filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code. The primary objective was to alleviate and ensure the long-term viability of the Center. On November 16, 2018, the reorganization plan, approved by the bankruptcy court on October 9, 2018, became effective.

INSPIRING HOPE TRANSFORMING LIVES

The Leadership Team

Board of Directors:



Rev. Ralph E. Blanks
Chairman



The Hon. Eugene E. Maier
Secretary



Dominic Sabatini
Past Chair



John W. Meacham



Folasade Olanipekun-Lewis



William Vanore



Miles Ladenheim, M.D., JD
Ex-Officio



The Hon. Felice Stack



Idette Elizondo



Gerri Walker
President & CEO



Executive Team

This team is comprised of seasoned, highly credentialed, and experienced individuals who lead our staff and oversee the programs that guide participants on their journey to recovery.



Gerri H. Walker
President & CEO



Douglas Maier
Chief Financial Officer



Sharita Barnett
VP of Human Resources



Xavier Bancroft
VP of Operations



Wanda Nolasco
VP of Patient Services



Marlene Douglas-Walsh
VP of Behavioral Services



Maribel Gonzalez-Graham
AVP of Training & Innovation



Aisha Neal
AVP of Behavioral Wellness



Lesley Bettis
Executive Director of
the Goldman Clinic



Dr. Ila Nikhinson
Chief of Psychiatry

Services Provided



The Behavioral Wellness Center located at 801 West Girard Avenue, Philadelphia, PA. provides services 24 hours, 7 days per week. The Center offers both psychiatric and substance use disorder services individualized to each patient's needs. The Center's role in the health and wellness of the citizens of Philadelphia has been and continues to be critical, particularly given its location and easy access to much needed services in the surrounding communities.

We provide effective, evidence-based behavioral health services in partnership with participants on their wellness journey. Our services include:

Inpatient Psychiatric Services

- » Subacute Psychiatry
- » Acute Psychiatry
- » Extended Acute Psychiatry

Residential Services

- » Detoxification and Withdrawal Management Services
- » Residential Treatment Facility for Adults (RTF-A)
- » Miracles in Progress
 - Homeless Program
 - Ron Tyree Care Unit (RTC)– Rehab/Woundcare
- » Return Program
- » Latino Program
 - Male-Torre De La Raza (TDLR)
 - Female-Women Helping Other Women (WHOW)

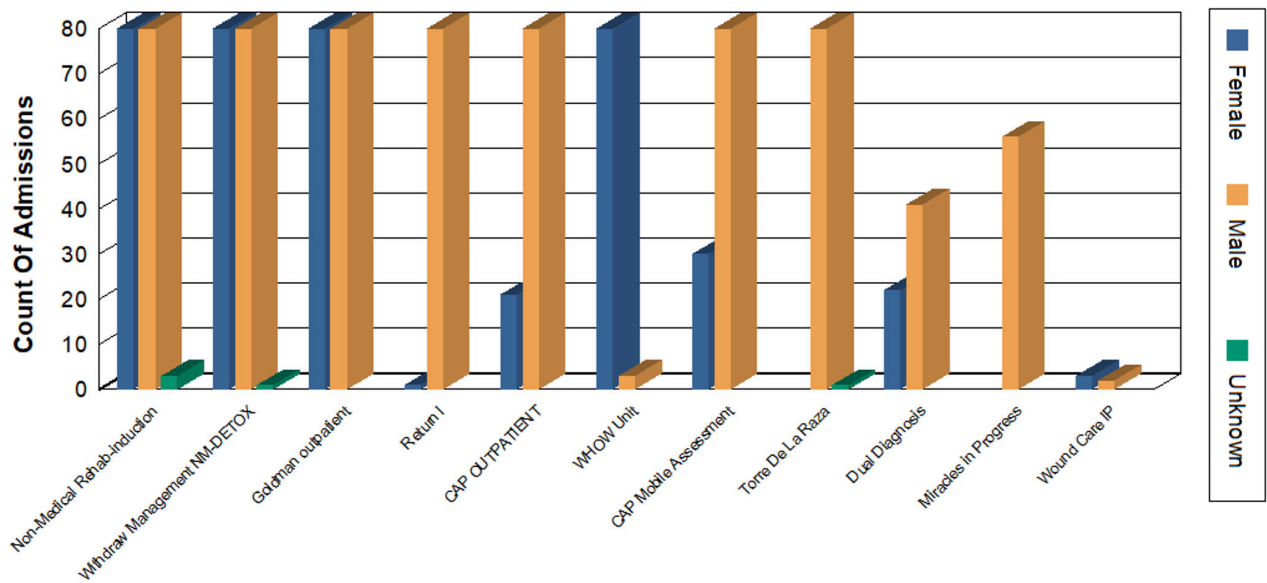
Outpatient Drug & Alcohol Services

- » Goldman Clinic- (Medication Assisted Treatment-Methadone, Suboxone, Vivitrol) and drug free treatment.

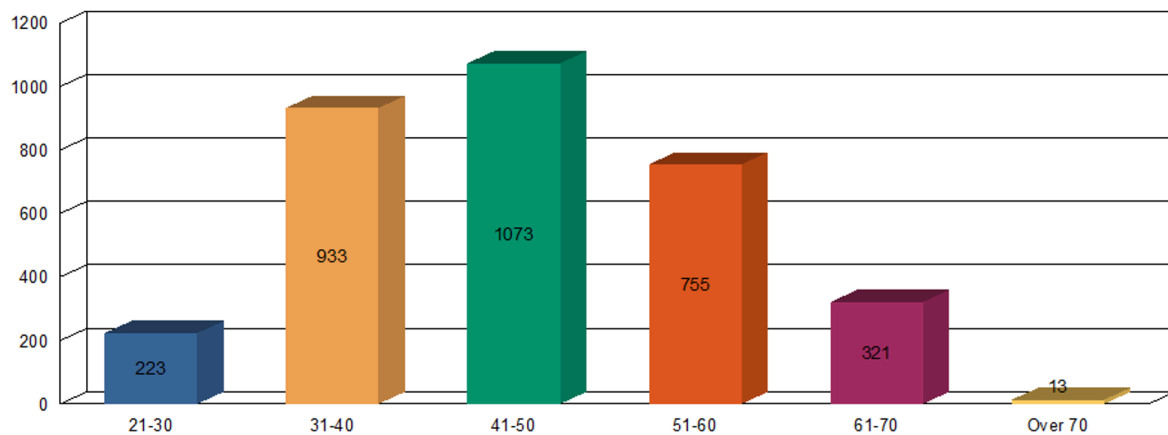
Demographics Served

The Behavioral Wellness Center adheres to all equal opportunity regulations and prohibits the refusal, withholding or denial of services to any current or prospective clients or staff because of race, color, religious creed, handicap, ancestry, national origin, age, sex, veteran status, disability, marital status, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or citizenship status.

Admission Count by Program and Gender

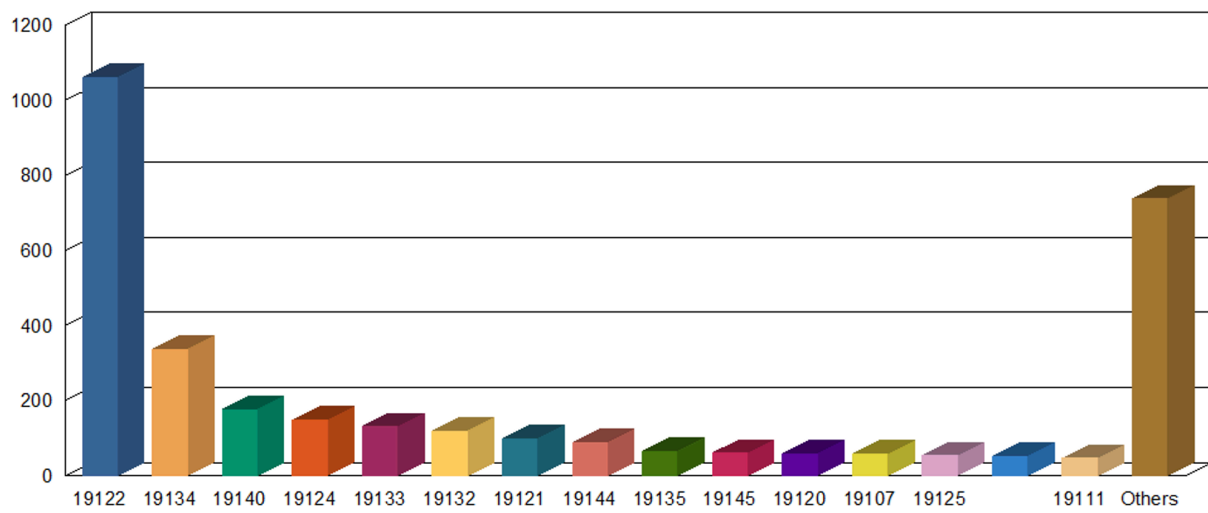


Admission by Age





Admission by ZIP Code



Organizational Growth

FY 2022-23

New Programs

- » **Opening of the Ron Tyree Care Unit:**
 - This is a 15-bed unit that focuses on treating clients with substance use disorder who have wounds caused by using xylazine.
- » **The Behavioral Wellness Center at MPAC:**
 - This new initiative is for frail older adults, who are diagnosed with a serious mental illness and need long-term skilled nursing services which are combined with behavioral healthcare. This framework addresses complex behavioral health and medical needs in a safe and stabilized environment. This model includes identifying and overcoming barriers of acceptance to skilled nursing facilities, stigmas, regulation gaps, funding streams, staffing models, and best practice recommendations to care for frail older adults with serious mental illness in skilled nursing facilities.

Streamlined Programs

- » **Outpatient Services:**
 - The Goldman Clinic and the Comprehensive Addiction Program (CAP) programs were combined under a single outpatient license. This initiative helped to streamline processes so they are in alignment with the new American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) treatment model. The combination of the programs under a single license has expanded the program capacity to 912 outpatient slots.

Hep C Program

- » Any participant who receives a positive HCV antibody test and is interested in receiving treatment is referred to our onsite Public Health Coordinator who will help the participant navigate the system to ensure that they receive the Hep C vaccine and are supported in the process.

Expansion of Services:

- » **Outreach of Services:**
 - The mobile assessment unit which became operational in May of 2022, has been extremely successful in providing assessments and referrals to over 500 contacts, including 181 assessments which resulted in 154 admissions.

Extended Acute Care (EAC) Psychiatric Program

- » The EAC was expanded to provide services to an additional 20 beds – raising our capacity to 85.

Reduction in Service

- » **Journey of Hope (Miracles in Progress)**
 - This program was reduced from 44 to 28 beds. This reduction allowed the Behavioral Wellness Center to open the Ron Tyree Care Unit, a 15-bed unit that focuses on treating clients with substance use disorders who have wounds caused by using xylazine.

Fundraiser

- » In the fall, we hosted our second Annual Resilience Rebirth Rise! Fundraiser. Nearly 300 community members attended the night of art, culture, storytelling, and engagement. Our efforts resulted in more than \$80,000 raised. With these funds, we plan to provide additional programs and resources to include an innovative wellness room for our mental health patients – the first of its kind in the city. We are also looking to activate an all-encompassing app that will support holistic mind, body, and spirit health for users. Funds will also allow for continued expansion of additional resource support such as our healthy food and snack options for the Be Well community. Updates for each of the projects will be shared as planning is underway.

Licensure and Accreditation

- » All licensure and accreditation surveys conducted during the past year were successful. All areas of non-compliance identified during the surveys were corrected and plans of corrections (POCs) submitted to the regulatory bodies for review were approved. All licenses and accreditations for the Behavioral Wellness Center are in good standing.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- » In January 2022, The Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard launched the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) training for all staff. DEI training seeks to address disparities in the workplace culture caused by social barriers and biased thinking. It aims to build awareness and skills which support marginalized employees to cultivate a safe, compassionate, and equitable culture where everyone feels valued. Dr. Marie Amey-Taylor and Maribel Gonzalez-Graham designed and facilitated an interactive training that encourages active discussion, followed by a debrief and response strategies. Emphasis is placed on the role of empathy in creating supportive and meaningful dialogues and cultivating an inclusive culture.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

HEALTH > OPIOID ADDICTION

by Aubrey Whelan | Published Aug. 22, 2023, 5:00 a.m. ET

In Philadelphia, getting people into addiction treatment was hard enough. Then xylazine changed everything.

"If I were out here using now," said one outreach worker dealing with xylazine in Philadelphia, "I don't think I would have survived."

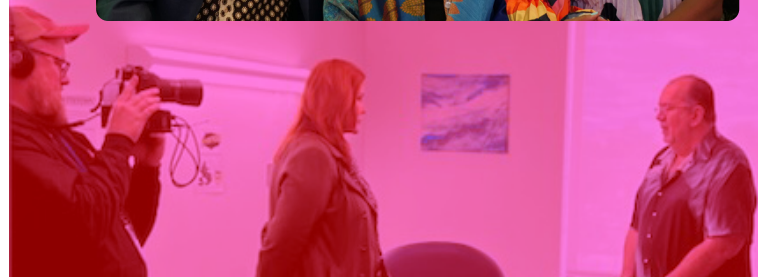


to fentanyl) to produce a longer-lasting high, and for years people buying illicit drugs had no way to detect its presence.

Two months ago, Girard opened a clinic dedicated to treat patients who need higher-level medical care for their wounds — who are often turned away from other rehab clinics that don't have the capacity to treat xylazine wounds. So far, about two dozen patients have come through.

Some are too serious even for the clinic to treat. Rodriguez scrolled through photos she'd sent to doctors recently, stopping at a picture of a wound the size of a baseball on a man's knee. The flesh was blackened — necrotizing. The infection had worn down to the bone. The team on the RV told him he had to visit an emergency room.

"It's my first experience working outside of a hospital setting, in the community, and every day is a challenge," Rodriguez said.



The RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

The Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard

801 West Girard Avenue, Philadelphia
215-787-2407 | bewellctr.org

Four years ago, The Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard (formerly North Philadelphia Health System) found itself coming out of a two-year bankruptcy period. This process was led by then board chair Dominic Sabatini. With feelings of relief and excitement, coupled with renewed energy, a new CEO, and a clear vision, the Center's leadership was ready to step into the future.

Joined by their teams of supporters, partners and community, the Center emerged ready to expand its outreach services and to continue providing programs and opportunities for those in need of assistance in addressing their substance abuse and mental health issues head-on. The Center has been in the heart of the community for nearly 100 years, most recently at 8th and Girard. From their brick-and-mortar buildings, they provide substance abuse disorder services, inpatient psychiatric services, and outpatient drug and alcohol treatment services. In addition, they offer withdrawal management and detoxification programs and have created a research-based employee wellness program. Within the last year, they have launched a mobile drug and alcohol assessment unit along with their clothing closet and food pantry services, breaking down barriers to access and holistically treating the entire person. "We truly are fortunate to do this work," says CEO Geri H. Walker. "We have a dynamic, giving staff who pour their hearts and skills into this place every day. We see the increase in opioid and substance abuse and mental health challenges faced by our communities, and we are committed to providing services that allow everyone who meets us to feel supported."

Rev. Ralph E. Blanks, current board chair says, "The Behavioral Wellness Center is poised to grow and expand its ability to serve."

Left to right, back: Ruli Rosario, Edickson Bonilla, Geri H. Walker, Brittany Palmer and Reggie Santiago. Front: Jessly Alex and Aisha Neal.

Family Treatment Involvement

- » Family Day began in the late 1990's under the direction of Dr. A. Anthony Arce, Chairman of Behavioral Medicine and Cynthia Howard Jones, Chief of the Creative Art's Therapy Department. The day began as an opportunity to educate families underscoring the importance their family members recovery journeys.
- » Previous years have included morning educational workshops. The afternoon would feature live performances, a family-style lunch, as well as face painting and games for younger children.
- » By 2010 we decided to set the day to allow for more family interactions and recreational activities, with workshops and other education sessions available throughout the year. Families are invited to kick off the day by participating in opening ceremonies and breakfast. There are then a myriad of activities and a lunch later in the day.
- » Now opened to the broader community, the day includes, vendors and programming which provides attendees access to health screenings, voter registration information, and a variety of other community educational and resource information.
- » Through the years, Family Day has become an integral part of celebrating National Recovery Month, observed in September. Many of the Family Day participants also take part in the Philadelphia Recovery Walk and the Recovery Baseball game at the Phillies ballpark.

Financial Summary

Independent Auditor's Report

The Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard, balance sheets as of June 30, 2023, and the related statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Center as of June 30, 2022, and 2021, and the results of its operations, changes in its new assets and its cash flows for the years in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

Basis for Auditor's Opinion

The auditors conducted the audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). The responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of the full report. The auditors are required to be independent of the Center and to meet ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to the audits. The auditors believe that the audit evidence they have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for their audit opinion.





Financial Summary

2023



Revenue

\$53,087,494



Expenses

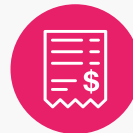
\$51,023,445

2022



Revenue

\$44,175,011



Expenses

\$44,202,545



Future Plans

The Behavioral Wellness Center will continue its quest for service innovations that support individuals with mental health and or substance use disorders along their treatment journey to ensure easy access to care, while debunking the stigma associated with behavioral healthcare. We believe in inspiring hope and transforming the lives of our participants.

Strategic objectives

- » **Position the Be Well Center as a substance use disorder Center of Excellence.**
- » **Implement strategies that will position the Center as an employer of choice.**
- » **Complete financial analysis on the development of housing initiative to provide supportive housing to participants completing residential treatment programs.**
- » **Develop partnerships which will increase our ability to provide vocational, educational, and other services to participants.**
- » **Develop and establish Opioid Use Disorder and psychiatric treatment locations(s) within and outside of Philadelphia.**
- » **Expand the Behavioral Wellness Center services by maximizing telehealth.**
- » **Continue to promote wellness and a holistic environment for staff and patients.**



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