

Annual Report 2025





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 non-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.

THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

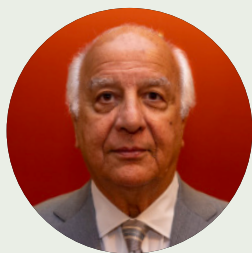
Board of Directors:



Rev. Ralph E. Blanks
Chairman



The Hon. Eugene E. Maier
Secretary



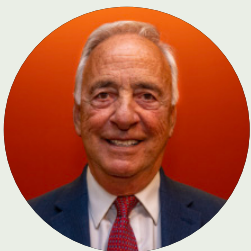
Dominic Sabatini
Past Chair



John W. Meacham



Folasade Olanipekun-Lewis



William Vanore



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



Gerri Walker
President & CEO



The Hon. Felice Stack



Idette Elizondo



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 Walker
President & CEO



Marco Giordano
Chief Financial Officer



Sharita Barnett
VP of Human Resources



Xavier Bancroft
VP of Operations



Wanda Nolasco
VP of Patient Services



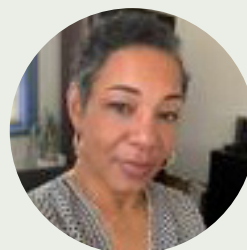
Marlene Douglas-Walsh
VP of Behavioral Services



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 (RTCU)– Rehab/Woundcare
- » Return Program
- » Latino Program
 - Male-Torre De La Raza (TDLR)
 - Female-Women Helping Other Women (WHOW)

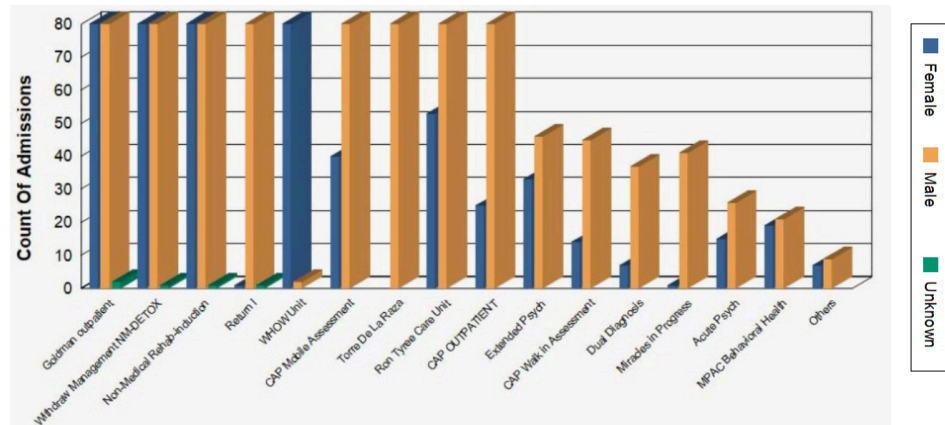
Outpatient Drug & Alcohol Services

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

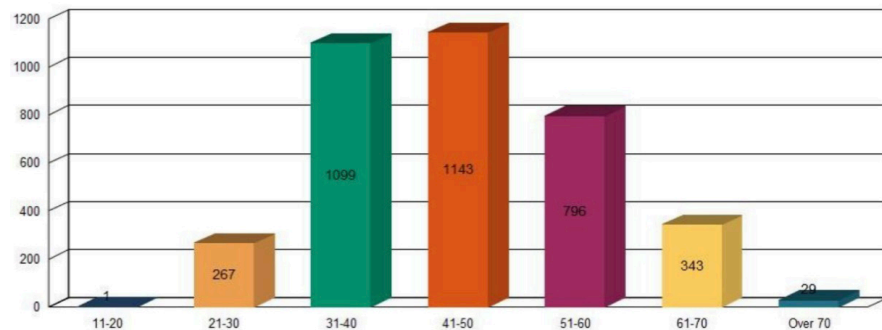
DEMOGRAPHICS SERVED

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.

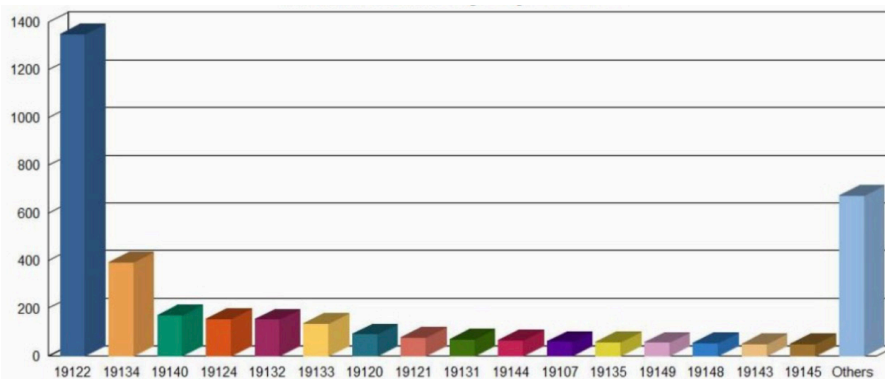
Admission Count by Program and Gender




Admission by Age



Admission by ZIP Code





ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

FY 2024-2025

New Programs

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 holistic care model is an initiative 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 on-site 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.

Fundraiser

The Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard hosted their 3rd Annual Resilience, Rebirth & Rise! Fundraiser on June 13 at the Hilton Hotel on City Avenue in Philadelphia. With a continued purpose of inspiring hope and transforming lives, funds raised will be invested in continued support of our patients, as well as our employees, in each of their individual wellness journeys. The focus for this year is on self-care.

The evening brought together a vibrant group of community members, from partners, to staff, to public officials and leaders, who all came together in honor of the Center's mission and to celebrate the remarkable legacy of Mrs. Gerri H. Walker.

Attendees enjoyed dinner, dancing, and engaging activities, reflective of what it means to transform lives by providing access to high-quality, compassionate behavioral healthcare in our surrounding communities. This extraordinary evening was filled with excitement, networking opportunities, and memorable moments. A special thank you to each of our sponsors for making this event possible.

Licensure and Accreditation

All programs provided by The Behavioral Wellness Center are accreditations by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO); licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) and the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS); and certified as a Medication Assisted Treatment Provider. Additionally, The Behavioral Wellness Center is also certified by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) as an Opioid Treatment Program.

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 review of response strategies. Emphasis is placed on the role of empathy in creating supportive and meaningful dialogues and cultivating an inclusive culture.



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.



LOOKING AHEAD... NEW LEADERSHIP

Advancing Toward the Center's Future, Continuing
to Provide Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Treatment Support in Local Communities



Philadelphia, July 2025

The Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard has announced a leadership transition following the retirement of Gerri H. Walker. Xavier Bancroft is now serving as the Center's President and CEO.

Bancroft most recently served as the Center's Vice President of Operations, where he led a wide range of initiatives to strengthen programs, improve quality, and expand access to care. He was responsible for overseeing residential treatment and clinical services, driving quality assurance and compliance, managing budgets, and leading multidisciplinary teams. His ability to align day-to-day operations with long-term strategic goals has positioned the Center to continue growing its impact and reach under his leadership.

"Xavier has been an integral part of the Behavioral Wellness Center's growth and success," said Rev. Ralph E. Blanks, Board Chair. "His deep understanding of our mission, his strategic mindset, and his commitment to patient-centered care make him the right leader to guide the Center into the future."

As CEO, Bancroft brings a collaborative, outcomes-driven approach focused on expanding access to high-quality behavioral health care. He is committed to fostering a culture of innovation, accountability, and compassion that supports both patients and staff.

"Working to treat the whole person and empowering recovery, that's what all of this is about," said Bancroft. "Together, we will continue to deliver culturally responsive, life-informed services for individuals facing mental health and substance abuse challenges, working to transform lives through compassionate care. It is my privilege to follow in Mrs. Walker's footsteps and lead The Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard into its next chapter."

Mrs. Walker's farewell message:

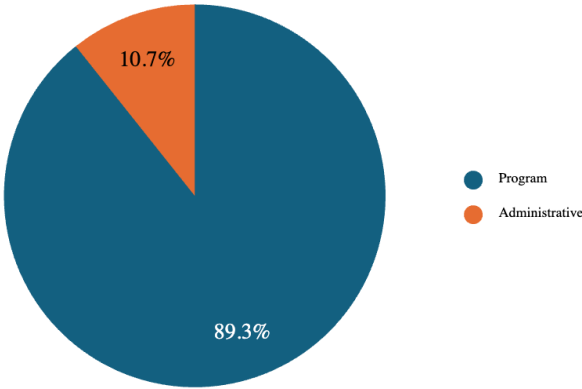
What a wonderful evening we had at the Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard's annual fundraiser and my retirement celebration, Friday June 13, 2025, which focused on Wellness, Mind, Body and Spirit. I was honored to receive personal accolades from Mayor Parker on behalf of herself and the City of Philadelphia and from Senators Vincent Hughes and Sharif Street on behalf of the Pennsylvania State Senate. A testimonial by Marvin White, a former Be Well client for over 37 years and now a program director and father; an original dance choreography performed by Creative Arts Director Jessica Daley and Curtis Lassiter III, and an original rendition performed by world renowned poet, Ursula Rucker paid homage to my belief in the resiliency of humankind and my love of the arts and the strong creative arts program at Be Well that includes dance, art and music.

A silent auction and live auction brought an energy of excitement and competitiveness to the crowd which escalated as the Urban Guerilla Orchestra's, 18 members brought the house down with their "can't sit down" dance music. Kudos to the Be Well employee committee that put this magical event together. Thank you to everyone for your well wishes on my retirement at the end of this month. It will be both sentimental and exciting to move into this next chapter of my life. The Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard is a very special place to me and to the community, with very special dedicated people who bring their whole selves to work. I honor them all by urging them to take care of themselves... to take advantage of our wellness program activities and offerings so that they do not become depleted, but give care from an overflow of energy, love and deep compassion. It has filled my soul to serve as President and CEO of The Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard and to work with a dedicated board of Directors, led by Rev. Ralph Blanks. I now hand the baton to Xavier Bancroft, the current Vice President of Operations, who I know will lead Be Well into a new era of behavioral health.

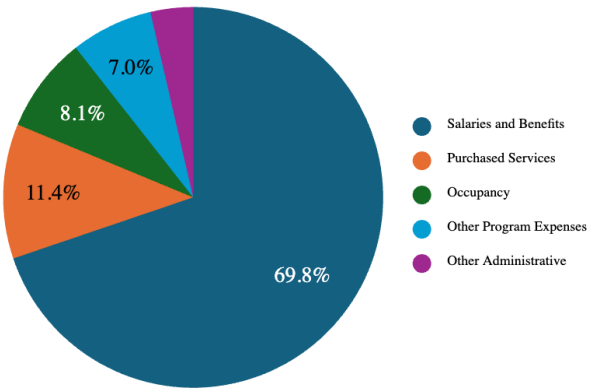


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

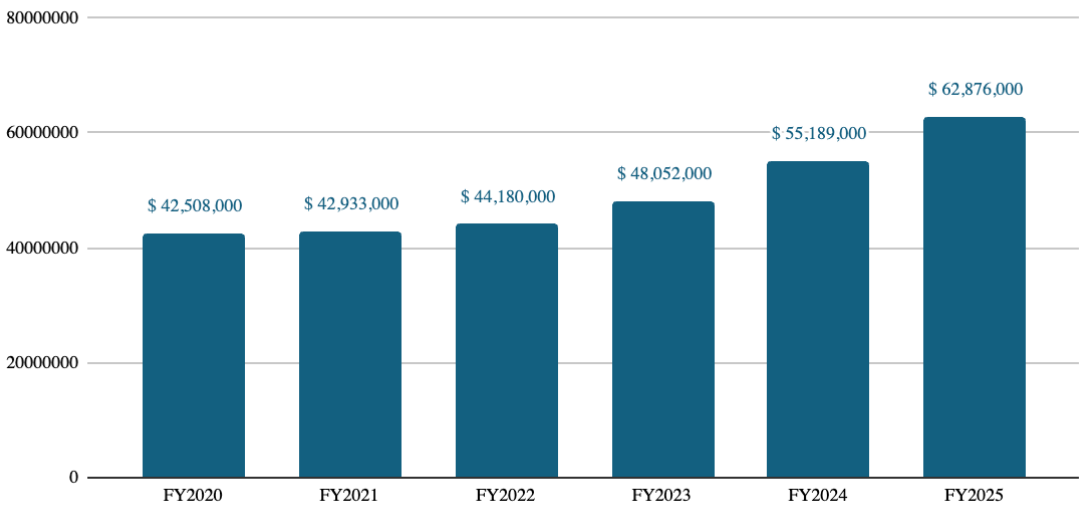
FY 2025 Expenditures



FY 2025 Expenditures



Total Revenue



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.
- » Expand services for sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- » Continue to promote wellness and a holistic environment for staff and patients.





THE BEHAVIORAL
WELLNESS CENTER

— AT GIRARD —

www.bewellctr.org

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