



Suffolk County United Veterans

ClubNotes

February 6, 2012

The New Year has started off with a flurry of activities 'round the clubs, SCM, and the Vets Place. So, read on:

*The Boards of Directors of the **Mental Health Association in Suffolk** and Clubhouse of Suffolk have announced that they have agreed to enter into a strategic partnership that will lead to a merger. While the exact new structure has yet to be decided, each Board and the Executive Directors see this new partnership as an opportunity to combine forces to expand anti-stigma activities, workforce training, and peer-operated initiatives, as well as to build capacity for mental health advocacy for people and families affected by mental health disorders and disabilities. One of the joint activities underway will be the **20th Annual Mental Illness Awareness Day**, scheduled for Friday, October 12th. (SAVE THE DATE !!)*

*One of our more recent MIA Day speakers was **filmmaker Lucy Winer**, writer/producer of the film "**Kings Park: Stories from An American Mental Institution**". Lucy's film has now been released and will be shown - as a benefit for Clubhouse of Suffolk and Hands Across Long Island (HALI) on **Wednesday, February 15th at 7:00 pm at the Huntington Cinema Arts Center**. The event will include a discussion with the filmmaker and leadership and members from HALI and Clubhouse. Refreshments will be a part of the event. Make your seat reservations (\$40 each) via our website www.clubhouseofsuffolk.org. Current **Sponsors** are: **South Oaks Hospital, Medford Chemists, Adelphi University, and the Family Wellness Center**. For more info - including Sponsorship opportunities - contact Ruth McDade at x1329.*

***Whole Foods in Lake Grove** has made a donation of nearly \$3700 from proceeds of its **Community Support Day** on January 11th. Clubhouse of Suffolk was selected to be the featured charity with 5% of the net proceeds from the day's shopping donated to Clubhouse. These funds will help us to expand our community garden which grows chemical-free vegetables and fruits for our Clubhouse meals and our Charlotte's Table food pantry.*

Grant News:

- We are pleased to announce that the **United Way of Long Island** has selected Suffolk County United Veterans and Clubhouse of Suffolk to assist in the Long Island effort to assist our **Military Families from Operation OIF, OEF, and New Dawn**. The grant of \$12,500 will provide for case management services linking Veterans and families to financial, housing, vocational resources available to these veterans. For referral information, contact SCUUV's Wilkins Young at 631-924-1601.*

- *The **NYS Departments of Health and Labor** selected a proposal submitted by the Mental Health Association of Nassau and Clubhouse of Suffolk to provide **Care Management Training** to over 200 Long Island case managers. With the transition to Patient-Centered Health Homes, case managers will be trained in care coordination geared to reduce the impact of chronic health and mental health conditions. NYAPRS is a partner in this initiative. Training is expected to commence in the Spring. For more info, contact Andrea Hopkins at x1107.*
- *As a result of generous donations received by **Pal-O-Mine Equestrian**, Lisa Gatti, Founder and Executive Director, has offered Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy to 6-8 Clubhouse members. For a period of six months, our members are participating in therapeutic equine/human exercises which facilitate personal growth, learning and healing. These unique experiences build skills for an individual to develop positive relationships well beyond a therapeutic setting. For more info, contact Ruth McDade at x1329.*
- *The State Department of Health has informed Clubhouse of Suffolk that we have been awarded provider status under the **Nursing Home Transition and Diversion** waiver programs. Clubhouse will provide care management and a range of counseling and adjustment services to people who have medical issues that warrant nursing home-level care. For more info, contact Case Management Program Director Andrea Hopkins at x1107.*

*Suffolk County United Veterans participated in the **Annual Homeless Count** facilitated by the **LI Coalition for the Homeless**. This Count is critical to a region obtaining the necessary resources to provide housing and support services to its homeless. In that vein, SCUUV successfully received renewal funding for its Single-Room Occupancy (SRO) beds. For more info on either, contact Joanne Massimo at 924-8088 x1503.*

*Speaking of advocacy activities, **Synergy Center** led the way to Albany from Long Island at **NYAPRS' annual Legislative Day** in Albany last week. Synergy sent 22 members and staff to a successful day of legislative briefings, advocacy training, and visits with our elected representatives.*

*Synergy Center also completed a **recent on-site NYSOMH audit and Program review** for its PROS license; the exit interview revealed a high degree of praise by the OMH reps for Synergy's customer satisfaction, documentation, and program quality. Way to go, Synergy Center!!.*

*We are once again hosting **nursing students from Suffolk Community College** at our Club-Ronk PROS program. Students are on their mental health rotation and learning from members and staff about the experience of psychiatric disabilities and recovery. In return, the students are assisting in classes with health prevention and health promotion activities. For more info, contact Tara at x1347.*

Oh...and one more thing...Way to Go Big Blue!!

Please visit our website at: www.clubhouseofsuffolk.org