

OSH Recovery Times

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Diversity Spotlight

By Rebecca A. Sweetland

After spending his first five years in St. Croix, Virgin Islands, Lucian Serrano moved with his family to Ashland, Oregon. He was the only one in elementary school with dreadlocks. Wearing dreadlocks in St. Croix was normal, but not in Ashland where a photographer was so enchanted with the sight of Lucian and his brother that photos of the two appeared in the town's coffee shops.

Lucian points out that dreadlocks are not the easy maintenance hairstyle many think. Every three weeks the locks need to be separated. Otherwise the head of hair becomes one huge matted mess, quite painful to remove, wash or otherwise care for. Fortunately, Lucian's mother is a beautician whose shop "Express Yo'self" specializes in curly hair.

Of mixed heritage, with an Ethiopian/Crusian father and a Puerto Rican mother, Lucian explained that his last name, Serrano, is a chili pepper in Mexico. Although his mother is fluent in Spanish, Lucian is not.

Lucian's experience at OSH, where he is currently a resident, unfortunately resulted in him watching health care professionals exhibiting biases.

For example, he finds it troublesome that those residents who grew up with rap are often not allowed to watch BET TV, even though others who grew up with country or other types of music are allowed to watch those stations. Staff "can't treat all groups the same," regarding their problems, and then expect that all will improve with the same methodology, he says.

In Lucian's experience, patients are often labeled and stereotyped simply because of their mental health disability, and therefore not given any credibility that could help in their own recovery.

Since the Oregon Advocacy Center lawsuit, the quality of care at OSH has deteriorated, he believes, with fewer meal choices and staff

having "short-timers syndrome." Lucian hopes that with the new hospital, management and employees will be flexible in dealing with patients from various ethnic backgrounds.

A thought from Lucian:

Staff who care for those with mental health disabilities need to remember that they hold people's lives in trust, and that one negative consequence of inappropriate care could be that the patient is worse off than before.

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AS400 Update

By Chris Betts

The final month of 2006 was another busy one for the AS400 Migration Project Team. Several project milestones were achieved.

- ✓ All hospital forms previously processed on the AS400 have been migrated to the Novell network and are either already in production or in pilot and scheduled to be in production soon.
- ✓ The visitor list has been consolidated and is now in production as a single source of visitor approval data.
- ✓ Phase two of requirements gathering is complete, has been summarized and reported out to executive staff.
- ✓ Work to enable the use of overtime calendars on GroupWise is nearly complete.
- ✓ Database development to replace personal directories is under way through the DHS Office of Information Services and the State Data Center.

Over the coming months we will enter the closing phase of the AS400 Migration Project. We will be seeking your guidance yet again as we gather lessons learned and fine-tune some of the newly automated processes you perform.

All of these developments have been made possible by your willingness to embrace change, enabling us to bring you the technology to efficiently and continuously improve patient care.

We offer our continued gratitude and support for the good work you do here at Oregon State Hospital.

48B Fire Response

By Linda Bylsma

I want to thank everyone for the outstanding efforts put forth in response to the fire that occurred on 48B.

On the afternoon of Jan. 1, 2007, a patient set fire to a couch in a common area on the ward.

We had numerous responders from all over the hospital to help assist in monitoring our patients in the yard.

Jeff Birkholz and the other ward staff did an excellent job of evacuating patients from maximum security and securing the ward for patients to re-occupy.

Housekeeping services delivered wool blankets to everyone in the yard.

Food Service assisted with bringing the dinner meal up to 47B, which is where we relocated until the ward was cleared for patients.

All of this was done by staff with positive, helpful attitudes, and a desire to work together toward a safe outcome. All did an excellent job. Thank you, everyone!

Caring Tree Wrap-up

By Jessica Loewen Preis

A grand total of 722 festively wrapped gifts were delivered to OSH patients during the Caring Tree Project for 2006. Each year I am truly amazed by the number of people who come together to make sure that each patient at OSH will have a personal gift to unwrap.

I would like to thank all of the staff and outside volunteers who gave time and money to make this project work. Twelve individual donors contributed a total of \$1,895 this year. The staff and/or members of 29 different organizations donated hundreds of gifts. Approximately 205 volunteer hours were spent collecting, sorting, wrapping and delivering the gifts.

“I just wanted to extend warmth and thanks to all of the beautiful people with hearts of gold,” wrote a patient. On behalf of all of the patients at OSH, thank you to everyone who helped to make the Caring Tree Project possible.

Employees Reaching Milestones in November

Retirements

Marcia Bell,

Principal Executive Manager B

Spencer Mahnkey,

Mental Health Therapist 1

20 Years of Service

Lloyd Hansen, 50C

Patricia Delaney,

Food Services

Deborah Jones, P1B

Diana Duke,

Food Services

Brad Schmidt, 50I

15 Years of Service

Anita Cantrell,

Clinical Services

10 Years of Service

Raymond Bowser,

Food Services

Larry Kestell,

Warehouse

5 Years of Service

Fawn Cserep,

Security

Nelson DaSilva, 50H

Debra Neliton, 35A

Diane Frederick, 34C

Sara Pickett, 34C

Melissa Boyd, 50E

Carmen Camacho, 48C

Angela Middleton, 48C

Kathi Hamel, 41A

Connie Jensen, 34D

Nov. 06 Promotions and New Hires

•New Hires•

Joanne Brannies,

Mental Health Therapist 2

Gregory Charles,

Mental Health Security Tech

Geri Graham,

Food Service Worker 3

Michael Harmon,

Clinical Psychologist 1

Melody Harp,

Medical Records Specialist

Brian Hartman,

Clinical Psychologist 1

Jeffery Knowles,

Physician Specialist

Robyn Marshall,

Pharmacy Technician 2

Tamera McCool,

Mental Health RN

Sonja Mogan,

Food Service Worker 2

William Owsley,

Mental Health RN

Dennis Petrie,

Mental Health RN

M. Robbins-Friece,

Custodian

Maria Serna,

Mental Health Therapy Tech

Angela Waggoner,

Mental Health RN

Beverly Wilson,

Accounting Technician 2

•Promotions•

Dagmar Amrein,

Mental Health Therapist 1

Nancy Boge,

Mental Health Therapist 1

Susanne Schuch,

Mental Health Therapist 1

Patricia Sells,

Office Specialist 2

Daniel Sikich,

Mental Health Therapist 1

Rodger Whitworth,

Mental Health Supervising RN

Nicole Wirth,

Principal Executive Manager C

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION #23

Be sure the Office of Human Resources has correct address!

By Becky Hawkins

Moving can be a very stressful time, and often there's some places where we forget to submit an address change. Please take a few minutes to check the address listed on your next paycheck stub. If you find the address is listed incorrectly, please notify the Office of Human Resources, located in the Administration building, in writing with your correct address and/or telephone number.

Submitting a change of address to the Office of Human Resources will also ensure that your health insurance carrier, life insurance carrier, Retirement (PERS), Payroll, and any other benefit provider you have selected will update this information.

EDD Schedule

Following is a list of classes being offered at the OSH Education and Development Department (EDD) during the remainder of January. Classes are located at EDD unless otherwise noted. For more information about these classes, call 503-945-2875.

General Orientation:

Jan. 8 - 12, 16 - 18, & 22,
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Ed Day: Jan. 9 or 23,
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Bipolar Disorder Training:
Jan. 10, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Evacu-Trac Chair Training:
Jan. 10, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Pro-ACT Refresher Training:
Jan. 11, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., &
Jan. 12, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

CMA Pharmacology:
Jan. 12, 1 - 5 p.m.

Pro-ACT Refresher Training:
Jan. 16, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., &
Jan. 17, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Pro-ACT Refresher Training:
Jan. 18, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., &
Jan. 19, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

DLN CME Activity "Roadmap to Recovery Pharm. Treatment in Schizophrenia":

Jan. 18, 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.
or 2:30-3:30 p.m.

General Orientation:
Jan. 22 - 26, 29 - 31. &
Feb. 1 - 2, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Evacu-Trac Chair Training:
Jan. 24, 1 - 5 p.m.

Library Class:
Jan. 24 or 25 2 - 4 p.m.

DLN CME Activity "Pharmacotherapy with Antipsychotics":

Jan 26, 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.
or 2:30-4 p.m.

Pro-ACT Refresher Training:
Jan. 30, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., &
Jan. 31, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

January Calendar

8th — 10:00 a.m.
OSH Foundation Meeting
Callan Room
Contact Jessica Loewen Preis
945-2892

10th — 1:00 p.m.
Friends of Forensics Meeting
Brooks Conference Room
Contact Deborah Howard
945-7132

15th — Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

17th — 1:30 p.m.
Valuing Diversity Committee
Brooks Room
Contact Rebecca A. Sweetland:
(503) 945-2806

19th — 8:15 a.m.
Wellness Committee
Callan Room
Contact Sue Wimmer:
(503) 945-2886

24th — 2:30 p.m.
General Staff Meeting
30 Building Gym
Contact Pam Dickinson:
(503) 945-2852