



LEO A. HOFFMANN CENTER'S "JOURNEY TO NEW BEGINNINGS" NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2015

1715 SHEPPARD DRIVE – PO BOX 60, ST. PETER, MN 56082



**From the Desk of Gene Taylor,
M.S., LPCC, Executive Director**

**"What you do today can improve all
of your tomorrows" Ralph Marston**

Hoffmann Center has had an eventful, wonderful and fun filled spring and summer. While "words have power", there is very few words that can truly express the warmth and remarkable experiences clients, parents, teachers and staff experienced during our "Family Day" on Sunday June 27th. We were fortunate to have New Horizon Food Services prepare and serve over 100 people. While food is almost like a medicine in providing a relaxed atmosphere of sharing, gathering and opening doors for building stronger relationships between a parent and their son, it also provides an opportunity to strengthen their relationships with staff. BBQ hamburgers, hot dogs and various salads were made available for everyone. Hoffmann Center provided experiential opportunities for parents to connect with their sons. At the end of the day, the clients prepared and did an awesome job of singing to everyone to bring closure to a well-organized and fun Family Day.



Hoffmann Center was fortunate to have a previous client, who completed treatment over 14 years ago, come back to talk with clients. He shared his experiences in transitioning from Hoffmann Center back into a group home, foster care and then the community. He provided great insight and a message of "there is still life after treatment" and they should take a risk and trust staff at Hoffmann Center; they are here to help you rebuild your life. His story is fairly typical of many of the children and adolescents we serve as many are unable at first to take risks and trust anyone due to trauma in their life. Therapists at Hoffmann Center have all been trained in working with clients with trauma through "Trauma

Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy" (TF-CBT). Listening to someone who has been through similar experiences helps many of our clients connect to someone who has had personal insight to treatment and the difficulties that hold you back from moving ahead in treatment.

Over the last few months, Hoffmann Center has been working administratively on several new components to make LAHC more credible and build on our strengths of what we do to help troubled youth. In meeting the federal standard of creating an electronic medical record system, Hoffmann Center has purchased software which will enable us to put all client records together for electronic access across campus. This system will help in evaluating and integrating our complete system of treatment protocol and clients records. In addition, Hoffmann Center has moved forward on becoming nationally accredited with the Council on Accreditation (COA). Tricia Roemhildt MS, LAMFT was hired to coordinate this process and assist in writing specific standards to meet COA's specific standards. This process will help us look at how we can improve our service delivery system as well as improve our organizational performance.

*****MEET OUR NEW STAFF*****



*Kari Kelso, MS, LADC
Therapist, Evergreen Cottage*

Kari received her Master's in Counseling Psychology which also includes chemical dependency studies and obtained her LADC license. Most of her career she has worked for the State of Minnesota within the sex offender treatment program. Kari's previous experience within the state DHS system consisted of working at the Minnesota Sex Offender treatment programs in Moose Lake and St. Peter. She also had the opportunity to work within the Minnesota's Corrections system in Red Wing, MN. Kari is currently working on her doctorate in Higher Education Administration.



Eric Watson, MA
Therapist, Evergreen Cottage

Eric completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Minnesota State University, Mankato in 2011. In 2013, he completed a Master of Arts degree in Sport and Exercise Psychology. He has worked as a Performance Consultant with the Center for Sport & Performance Psychology in Mankato, MN. In 2015 he completed a Master of Science degree in Mental Health Counselor from Minnesota State University, Mankato. As a counselor, Eric worked on a part-time basis in the North Cottage program at Hoffmann Center. He completed a clinical internship at the Minnesota State University-Mankato Counseling Center serving as an Intern Therapist. In addition, he worked as a Mental Health Practitioner serving children and their families in the Mankato and surrounding areas. Eric grew up in the north woods of Minnesota and has lived in the Mankato area for the eight years. In his free time, he enjoys camping, hiking, playing basketball, tennis and reading for pleasure.



Sara Mennen, MS, LMFT, RPT -
Family Therapist

Sara obtained her Bachelors of Arts degree in Human Services and Psychology from the University of Minnesota, Morris. She then continued her education at Minnesota State University, Mankato to obtain a Master of Science degree in Community Counseling with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy. Sara became a Registered Play Therapist (RPT) through the association of play therapy and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) through the Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy. She is also certified as a sexual assault advocate. Sara's mental health career includes working in several group home settings with consumers that have developmental disabilities and/or mental health concerns. She has been employed as both a children's therapeutic support services (CTSS) worker and adult rehabilitative mental health services (ARMHS) worker providing in-home services. Sara has provided outpatient services in both a community mental health center and private practice.

WELCOME TO HOFFMANN CENTER
KARI, ERIC AND SARA!



Therapeutic Activities At Hoffmann Center

We have had a warm, busy and fun filled summer! The boys were able to go hiking, fishing, swimming, shopping, have campfire cookouts, and spend time with the Naturalist at Minneopa State Park. The highlight of their summer though was the weekly canoe trips! Canoeing is a team building activity which emphasizes problem solving, positive communication, compromise and working together as one. In addition, the boys were also able to participate in team games as well as individual activities. These team building activities are encouraged to be used when they leave Hoffmann Center as they move forward in their transition back into community living.



Hoffmann Center is licensed by the Department of Human Services as a Rule 5 facility. **Counties who place boys with us are able to seek federal funds through Medical Assistance and Title IV-E.** This allows counties to be reimbursed for **over 58%** of the per diem costs! Hoffmann Center does not bill for clients who are on straight medical assistance (counties bill) but our programs are MA reimbursable! Hoffmann Center **DOES** bill the treatment portion to insurance companies for clients who are on Prepaid Medical Assistance (PMAP). This means that counties are only responsible for the Room & Board portion!

Also, did you know that **Hoffmann Center, as a Rule 5 licensed facility, is frequently eligible for private insurance coverage?** We are very willing to work with counties and parents to check for eligibility of coverage prior to placement. In some cases, **Hoffmann Center has reimbursed the referring county 100% of the total per diem they paid!** If you have questions about this or would like additional information, please contact our office at (507)934-6122. We are very happy to work with counties in helping to keep placement costs down!

If you have questions, would like additional program information, or are interested in a tour of our campus, please give us a call at (507)934-6122.