Lehigh Valley Drug and Alcohol Intake Unit

Annual Report (– July 1st, 2022-June 30th, 2023)

The Lehigh Valley Drug and Alcohol Intake Unit (LVDAIU) is a Department of Health, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol, licensed assessment and referral site. Easton and Allentown offices provide adult and adolescent assessments for county consumers. Funding is provided through contracts with Northampton County, Lehigh County Drug & Alcohol Administration as well as the Department of Medical Assistance Behavioral Health Care Provider, Magellan Health Care. We also have private insurance agreements with the major insurance providers within Lehigh Valley allowing us to provide assessments to adults and adolescents with Behavioral Health coverage.

Throughout the 2022-2023 fiscal years, The Northampton County Easton and the Lehigh County Allentown Office conducted 2271 assessments, 84 were adolescents and 2187 adults. There were 2840 assessments scheduled with 295 individuals that did not show up to their scheduled appointments and 266 individuals who cancelled. Alcohol and other Drug Treatment were recommended for 1947 individuals. This is a 1.08% decrease in the number of assessments from last fiscal year. The number of adolescent’s assessments (84) increased and the number of adult assessments (2271) decreased compared to the total amount of completed assessments last fiscal year. The primary drug of choice was Alcohol (54.9%), Marijuana (43.6%), Stimulants (28.4%), Opioid (18 %), Anxiolytic (4.7%), Hallucinogen (2.6%), Phencyclidine (.1%) other Psychoactive (.5%).This indicates a 1 % increase in the use of Marijuana, 7.8 % increase in the use of alcohol, 1.6 % increase in the use on Anxiolytic, 0.9% increase in the use of hallucinogen , 0.2 % increase in the use of other psychoactive drug. This data also indicates a 1.5% decrease in the use of stimulants, 0.2% decrease in the use of Phencyclidine and a 0.2% decrease in the use of opioid over last fiscal year.

The Certified Recovery Support (CRS) service program is in its 8th year of operation. The program is located at 100 N. 3rd St Easton, PA. The CRS staff are state certified through a series of trainings and a state test through Pennsylvania Certification Board to assure compliance. The program is hands on in that these are individuals are in long-term recovery supporting and assisting those in all stages of recovery. LVDAIU is currently participating as a team member in Problem Solving Court in Northampton County on weekly basis. The CRS department has been closely working with Recovery Court participants by assisting them in their recovery journey while supporting them meet the terms of their legal sentence. The Department receives funding from Northampton County Problem Solving Courts, Lehigh County Drug and Alcohol Administration since March of 2021.

Lehigh Valley Drug and Alcohol Intake Unit receives funding from Lehigh County Drug and Alcohol Administration to oversee the new Recovery Center Change on Hamilton (COH) since March of 2021.The recovery center is available for the recovery community. The program utilized the Peer Recovery model in creating a recovery atmosphere, providing mutual recovery support by experientially credentialed individuals. The facility has been highly utilized and continues to serve approximately over 1,400 individuals a month in the Lehigh Valley area. COH hosts a variety of different services and resources such as; Twelve Step Support Groups, recovery oriented activities: karaoke, movie nights, holiday parties, yoga, arts & craft, educational & life skills workshops, other resources: computers, internet access, telephones, recovery based reading materials and more. Change on Hamilton recovery center also participates in a number of community drives; hosting back to school book bag drives, winter coat drives, these are all arranged based on the need of the community.

In June of 2022, Lehigh Valley Drug and Alcohol Intake Unit received funding from Lehigh County to start a Plan of Safe Care (POSC) program aimed to assist pregnant women and children who have been impacted by a substance use disorder. In November of 2022, we hired a new Plan of Safe Care Coordinator who worked with an existing Certified Recovery Specialist in meeting the needs of the program. Since the coordinator has started, we have received 80 new referrals. The qualifications for the program have also broadened to include any parent or caregiver and their children, who have been impacted by Substance Use Disorder. POSC has been able to utilize Lehigh County grant monies to purchase different items to meet the needs of the families being served. POSC has also implemented a monthly Mommy and Me Meet-up. Agendas for meet ups include service projects; mindfulness medication practices, parenting skills, and socialization in a safe, sober environment.

Hortensius, Ltd. governs the Lehigh Valley Drug and Alcohol Intake Unit and S Corporation incorporated within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania since September 1986. The President and Chief Stockholder of Hortensius, Ltd. is Jenny Duval. She functions professionally as Chief Executive Officer of the Intake Unit.

A full financial report is available detailing the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Please contact the Lehigh Valley Intake Unit’s main office for further details.