

Monitoring patients' drug abuse withdrawal

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provides "a unique service," according to Fineman.

"We're treating the entire spectrum of chemical dependency," said Greg Matzelle, of Insight, a non-profit health care system providing a series of services for addiction programs.

INSIGHT HAS a service contract with the hospital to provide management and clinical staff in the chemical dependency unit.

The unit, located on Botsford's second floor, is "a self-contained unit" offering 12 to 15 beds specifically for the treatment and detoxification of chemical dependent patients.

What's unique about Botsford's program is that it offers 24-hour admission in which the patient is not required to be admitted through the hospital's main desk. Instead, patients may enter the unit through the emergency room.

"It is a direct admission. This preserves the dignity and confidentiality

of the patient," Fineman said.

Confidentiality is of prime importance and is highly protected in the unit. Shortly after a patient is admitted, he or she is asked if they wish to receive visitors or phone calls. If they do, they are required to sign a release form. If no form is signed, calls will not be put through to the patients.

"The information desk and volunteers have no idea who is on the unit," Chambers said.

From the start, chemically-dependent patients are treated, not as criminals, but as sick people. Staff, who are trained in reducing anxiety, begin working with the patient to let him or her know they are cared about.

"It's important to realize they are not criminals, etc. They are ill and we are going to treat them and make them better," Chambers said.

Once in the unit, a nurse takes them to their room where an assessment process, to determine what priorities should be dealt with first, is conducted.

"ALL THE nurses were hand-picked, not because of their tremendous knowledge (in this type of treatment) but because they came across as very caring people," Fineman said.

The goal is to detoxify a patient and really give them an opportunity to let them become a recovering patient," Matzelle said. "We try to clear the dependency away and provide a good safe environment for them."

The idea is to use the most cost-effective method of treating patients and getting them in and out of the unit in as short a time as possible, Fineman said.

The unit's staff addresses the patient's addiction and gets them through the life-threatening stage, he continued. All drug dependencies, particularly the sedative hypnotics, such as alcohol, have a withdrawal that is potentially life-threatening.

"Patients who are the most critical are the alcoholics," Fineman said.

While the withdrawal is monitored during the patient's three-to-five-day stay, other staff members work on the patient's psychological effects. Staff also works on the education side of the problem, with both the patient, employers and family members.

While patients must acknowledge they are sick, staff members force the

patients to get out of bed, dress and interact with fellow patients in the unit.

Because drug dependency and the ensuing withdrawal forces people to become isolated, the idea in Botsford's care unit is to encourage patients to react and interact without the help of chemicals.

THROUGHOUT THE program, patients undergo both group and individual therapy.

The key to everything is rehabilitation," Fineman said. "We use the appropriate medication for detoxification."

But Matzelle is quick to add that "we don't substitute one addiction for another."

Important to remember, Fineman said, is that "you get cross-addiction. It's very seldom we get a patient on one drug."

Although the staff is not equipped to determine the causes of a patient's drug or alcohol dependency, "no one leaves here without an after-care plan unless they walked out on us," Chambers said.

The after-care plan can include referral to an outpatient or residential program or to other resources available in the community which would aid the patient in continuing recovery.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer
Dan Chambers, a certified addiction counselor, is the site supervisor in Botsford Hospital's chemical dependency unit.

Property is donated

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"These freebie things, in my opinion, do not always work out in the best interest of the city," she continued.

In accepting the property, council acknowledged the two-year restriction on selling the property but rejected the provision that it be used later for senior citizen purposes.

City Clerk Floyd Cairns said that since other property donated by the

Hanaways has been used for senior citizens, the donors thought it would again be appropriate.

"I don't think they care what you do with it," Cairns said.

The Hanaways have already donated about 19 acres to the city, Cairns said.

The Detroit Baptist Manor sits on one of the five-acre parcels. The senior citizen home currently has an option on the other five-acre piece, he said.

Registration open for basketball

The Farmington Hills Parks & Recreation Department will be offering a High School Girls basketball program for girls in the 9th through 12th grades. Registration deadline is Friday, Dec. 28. The \$14 registration fee will be ac-

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