



Embracing Change at Somerset House

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Embracing change is Erin DeWolfe's approach to achieving success. This will serve her well as the new site supervisor for Cazenovia Recovery Systems' Somerset House residence for women in recovery.



Erin DeWolfe, site supervisor

The Appleton, NY facility is among the sites Cazenovia Recovery acquired from Fellowship House in 2016. Erin joined the agency in February from a previous position as a supervisor in a Catholic Charities program for behavioral and substance use issues. She has a master's degree in social work from the University at Buffalo and is a licensed clinical social worker.

"Change inspires me," she said. "Participating in change and growth is what makes me tick. You have to embrace change in order to understand it and move through it. People want to be part of change for the good in the recovery field."

Erin has been reorganizing to increase efficiency, while clarifying staff responsibilities and implementing Trauma-

Informed Care (TIC). She noted that building trust, one of the TIC principles, is at the top her list: "Once you have a solid, trusting relationship, everything flows from there. I am excited to build a cohesive, positive, strength-focused team."

Her priority moving ahead is to make relapse prevention a primary focus. Dual diagnosis also is important, she pointed out. "Collaboration is a big piece, not just with residents, but with the natural supports in their lives. We will have more joint meetings with family members and increased engagement with other service providers."



Kelly, a Somerset House resident

Kelly, a Somerset House resident, commented on its "very comfortable and warm atmosphere." She values "inspiration" from her counselor and support from fellow residents as important to her recovery. She said: "I want to be on my own and free of addiction. I would like to achieve my GED. I've always wanted to work with kids with disabilities or to volunteer at a nursing home." Kelly's daughter, grandchildren,

continued on page 2

Staffing Info

Let's Congratulate:

Falonia LaMar for becoming a CASAC!

Let's Welcome:

Fatisha Collins, relapse prevention specialist at Housing

Amy Cottrell, program secretary at Somerset House

Gloria Flowers, residence monitor at Madonna House

Paula Reed, facility assistant at Casa Di Vita

Latoya Reed, mental health counselor at Housing

Jesse Stines, mental health counselor associate at Caz Manor

Alesia Watkins, residence monitor at Unity House

Jeremy Wheeler, counselor associate at Unity House

Cazenovia Creators & Catchers:

Ashley Jachimiak

Kathy Lewis

Dominique Lane

Doug Werth

Congratulations to Dominique Lane for winning this month's gift card drawing! Our next drawing will be in June.

continued from page 1

and her own spirituality provide daily inspiration, she added.

Erin appreciates that Andrea Ocasio, the agency’s director of clinical services, facilitated her integration into the organization. Providing residential treatment is what Erin especially likes about Cazenovia Recovery’s services. “Being right onsite allows you to be more therapeutic,” she said. “Resident-staff meetings are my favorite. We really hear what residents are saying and then can provide the best supports to help them.”



Somerset House in Appleton, NY

Capacity Building Through GetSET

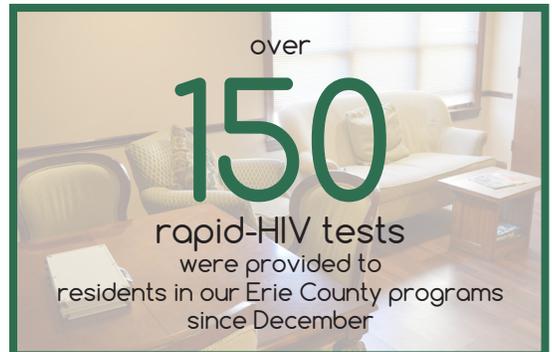
Cazenovia Recovery Systems is partnering with GetSET, a capacity building initiative that focuses on organizational development. This program helps selected mid-size nonprofits to find “success in extraordinary times.” The Tower Foundation has generously funded our participation in the two-year program. GetSET will help the agency capitalize on its recent growth in the face of external challenges that many nonprofits are experiencing throughout Western New York.



Part of our GetSET Team

Encouraging HIV Awareness

The agency has collaborated with Evergreen Health Services to provide over 150 rapid-HIV tests to residents in Erie County since December of last year. As part of the HIV Early Intervention Services program with Evergreen, our agency has raised awareness about HIV and encouraged preventative measures to reduce potential infection. Additionally, Evergreen’s Educator-Trainer has provided education and training to nearly 200 staff members and residents in Erie County.



Trauma-Informed Care Benefits

One of the most important changes that has occurred throughout the agency’s Trauma-Informed Care initiative is that staff are now considering residents’ histories of trauma. Staff are now looking beyond residents’ behaviors and are paying attention to how trauma may be playing a role in their lives. Language is another area that staff have reviewed, from the words they choose to say to the way guidelines are written. There have been improvements in collaboration, team decision making, and communication. Staff are more open-minded, more flexible in providing choice, and more understanding and empathetic.

