

“A Neighborhood of Support” ***Presenter Biographies***

Joyce Pesch *(Moderator)*

Administrator, Region 4 South Adult Mental Health Initiative

Joyce Pesch served as the Director of Grant County Social Services for 24 years. Pesch currently serves as the Administrator of the Region 4 South Adult Mental Health Initiative.

Mary Amundson

Director, State Operated Services Central Preadmission

Director, Community Behavioral Health Hospital Social Workers

Mary Amundson has a Masters of Social Work from the University of Minnesota in Duluth and is a licensed independent clinical social worker. Amundson has been with State Operated Services (SOS) Central Pre-Admissions since it opened in the spring of 2006. Before joining SOS, she served as a social worker on a behavioral health unit at Regions Hospital in St. Paul. Prior to that, Amundson was manager of a county mental health crisis center in southern Oregon.

Leanne Harmsen

Program Director, Prairie Community Services (Mental Health)

Leanne Harmsen has worked for Prairie Community Services, a private provider of mental health services, since 1990. She served as a day treatment counselor for 8 years, then later as a CSP worker for 5 years. In 2003, she began working as a program coordinator in an Adult Foster Care Home. During her 19 years in the field she has worked with providers and consumers from all five counties in the Region 4 South Adult Mental Initiative and has served on both the Grant County and Pope County Local Advisory Committee boards.

Craig Gagnon

Program Manager, Region 4 South AMHI Crisis Response Program

Craig Gagnon has an M.A. in Counseling Psychology from St. Mary's University in Minneapolis, Minnesota and interned at the Mayo clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Gagnon has served in the Human Services and Mental Health fields for 20 years. Throughout his career, Gagnon has served as a clinician program manager and an educator in mental health. He has worked with both children and adults with mental illness.

Dave Peterson

Treatment Director, Milestones I.R.T.S. Facility

Dave Peterson is currently serving as the Treatment Director of Milestones, an intensive residential treatment service (IRTS). Peterson has a Masters Degree in social work from the University of Minnesota, Duluth and is a licensed independent clinical social worker (LICSW). Peterson has worked in the field of adult mental health for 26 years.

Jennifer Filgas

Pre-Petition Screener, Region 4 South Adult Mental Health Initiative

Jennifer Filgas has a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Moorhead State University and has worked in the field of Human Services for over 14 years. Filgas is a Licensed Social Worker in Minnesota. Over the years she has worked in numerous vulnerable populations fields including: Child Protection, Children's Mental Health, Child Foster Care Licensing, Long Term Care for the Elderly, Head Start, Dependency Drug Treatment Court, and currently Adult Mental Health.

Mary Peterson

Case Manager, Douglas County Social Services

Mary Peterson is a veteran of the social services field. Peterson will present case scenarios of high intensity mental health situations.