

NOVEMBER
2024/// חשוון
תשפ"ה

Remembering Daisy Lopez, LCSW

We are sad to disclose that our longstanding social worker Daisy Lopez passed away. Daisy Lopez was a distinguished senior clinician at Pesach Tikvah for over 30 years. She can be considered one of the founding mothers of our outpatient clinics. For years and years on end, when mental health was stigmatized, Daisy Lopez helped to destigmatize mental health to the Spanish-speaking community, spanning three decades. She helped the Spanish-speaking community both as a clinician working with clients as well as nurturing young Spanish-speaking therapists to help continue to broaden our eclectic demographic reach. We are grateful for her contributions to Pesach Tikvah and will always remember her with great respect.



Impressive Financial and Data Preparation Contributed to CCBHC Demo Certification

Our recent CCBHC Demo certification is a marked transformation for Pesach Tikvah. It will allow us to give more supervision and training; the opportunity to serve more clients from the community; and to significantly increase our services' already great quality. The concept of CCBHC is to treat the whole person so that not only are we giving people higher quality mental health care, but we are also treating them physically. (We will be adding a nurse to the staff for that purpose.) It is an integrated care model – supplying all of the services that a patient might want in one location, such as psychiatry, therapy, peer support, and case management. Financially, CCBHC will allow our clinics to operate without deficits.

Applying for this certification was an extremely competitive process. There were only 13 designations made for the whole New York state. We were the only recipient in Brooklyn. The application was executed primarily by Hendy Roth and Hindy Langer; our CFO Isser Rosenberg and our Data Analyst Yisroel Len contributed significantly.

24% of the application was financial data, which was prepared by Isser Rosenberg. The application required a cost report based on our 2023 audited financial report, as well as projected costs for fiscal year 2026 (when CCBHC becomes active). It entailed breaking down all of the job titles that go into CCBHC as well as the organization at large. The CCBHC portion had to be

presented in granular detail. For example, they asked for the different types of therapists and how many billable hours each one has by percentage per year both for 2023 and 2026. (Personnel costs accounted for 80% of the costs.)

Years of data collection and analysis went into the application. One of the goals of CCBHC is to increase the number of ways that we can measure a patient's progress. To apply for CCBHC, Pesach Tikvah had to demonstrate that we already are collecting and analyzing data according to the CCBHC guidelines. For four years, Yisroel Len has been collecting and analyzing this data. Yisroel Len worked closely with our InSync specialist Sara Newman to ensure that the data has been collected in a way that makes sense, meaning efficiently and accurately.

Yisroel Len has built up the infrastructure so that all that data is immediately accessible. He designed a system where all the data that is captured can be pulled into a single place for efficient access. The CCBHC application wanted to know that we had that infrastructure. They also wanted to know if the data was being used to make decisions. One example of that is an overdue treatment plan dashboard which he built, which people who review caseloads use to make decisions.

Mr. Rosenberg worked weekends and late nights to gather and present all the required data, which he worked on while

Continues on page 2

performing his usual duties. Four years of building a data infrastructure by Yisroel Len prepared us for this application. Yisroel Len also supported the CCBHC process by reading the updated CCBHC requirements in order to act as a sounding

board to the CCBHC director by helping to differentiate between state and federal requirements. We are immeasurably grateful for their indispensable contributions, as well as to Hendy Roth and Hindy Langer.

Legends Plaques Honor Lifetime Achievements

18 longtime Pesach Tikvah staff have been honored with plaques on the fourth-floor training room. These plaques were given at the Legends Event. The Legends Event, in March of 2024, was an event that honored the contributions of Pesach Tikvah's long-term employees. It was held at The Loft and featured many inspirational speeches by our leadership and honorees. The event served as a celebration of the purpose and growth of Pesach Tikvah since inception. All who attended were reminded of the love and hard work that went into the founding and development of this organization.

These legendary contributors to the organization have a permanent place on Pesach Tikvah's walls now. Those honored include: Rabbi Hershkowitz, Chanie Shindler, Izzy Tropper, Isser Rosenberg, Diana Masri, Dr. Eisdorfer, Zalman Kotzen, Moty Torenheim, Brenda Katz, Rabbi Berkowitz, Dr. Michaels, Dr. Kirschenbaum, Hindy Langer, Lipa Werczberger, Compliance Director, Joe Bistricher, and Zack Teper. We are grateful for their long-term contributions to the organization and are proud to display their achievements on the wall for posterity.

2024-2025 Training Schedule Announced

A huge thanks goes out to Lea Scharf, our Training Institute Director. She has arranged the schedule of trainings for the 2024-2025 year. It took dedication and hard work to create this series of trainings. The Training Institute is one major entity that makes Pesach Tikvah stand out. Our staff development is unparalleled in the industry thanks to the work of Lea Scharf.

This year the Training Institute will shift from modalities to both modalities and topics. This is a result of staff requests and consultation with all three clinic directors and our Executive Director Yerachmiel Stern.

"While we still will do a few modalities, we will be covering a lot of topics and different diagnoses. For example, social skills for children and emotional regulation for children, addictions, eating disorders, personality disorders, loss and grief. Some of the actual modalities we're going to be doing are CBT, ACT, and Sandtray. There is a really nice combination of both topics and modalities," said Lea Scharf.

Some of the trainings will take place in our newly completed training room. א גרויסע דאנק is due to Lipa Werczberger for his contribution to the construction of this beautiful state-of-the-art room.



The graphic shows a calendar for the 2024-2025 training schedule. It features a purple header with the title '2024-2025 TRAINING SCHEDULE' and a table with three columns: TRAINING, PRESENTER, and DATE. The table lists various training topics and their corresponding dates and presenters.

TRAINING	PRESENTER	DATE
CBT	Dr. David Miller Ph.D.	November 13 th & 14 th
Social Skills	Chaya Henchy Friedman LCSW	November 28 th
Emotional Regulation	Chaya Henchy Friedman LCSW	December 5 th
Addictions	Dr. Shalom Augenbaum Ph.D.	December 12 th
Client Engagement	Dr. Faye Zakheim Ph.D.	December 24 th
Eating Disorders	Dalia Abbott LCSW, RD, CDN	January 9 th
Sand Tray	Dr. Jodi Mullen Ph.D.	January 22 nd & 23 rd
Personality Disorders	Elan Javanfard M.A., LMFT	February 12 th & 13 th
Psychodynamic	TBD	February 27 th
Theraplay	Rochel Sandhaus LCSW	March 4 th
ACT	Dr. DJ Moran Ph.D.	March 18 th , 19 th & 20 th
Loss & Grief	Dr. Abby Nathanson DSW	May 6 th

At the bottom of the graphic is the logo for the Training Institute, featuring a stylized 'i' and the text 'Training Institute' with Hebrew text 'מכון תדמ"ר' above it.

Focus On: Rabbi Hershkowitz

Q&A



Each month, we feature an unsung hero of Pesach Tikvah – someone who contributes something indispensable to the organization. This month, we spoke with our Director of Development, Rabbi Hershkowitz, about his work.

Q: What is your position at Pesach Tikvah?

A: My position is Director of Development.

Q: What do you do in your position?

A: Fundraising and public relations. I have to bring Pesach Tikvah's message to the outside world. I started working with the OPWDD programs, but now I also work with the CFTSS program.

Until now we were fundraising for developmentally disabled kids. With those kids, it is an accomplishment to bring the child up from a zero to a two. What we're now concentrating on more is bringing higher functioning children up to 100%. Today's children are going through a lot. If they don't improve now, eventually their problems will be much bigger.

Q: So a lot of your job entails networking?

A: That's right. Most of the job entails networking. Money is a side benefit. At the end of the day, it's a relationship. Whenever the donor needs something, he knows he can turn to us. It's a mutual relationship. My job is primarily relationship development.

As a father of one of the children that is in an OPWDD program, when I come to a person explaining to them the מצב, I'm not coming to them as a fundraiser. I'm coming to them as a parent. They understand that I have a deeper

understanding of the situation. There is a certain trust that we have developed over the years. We take the kids from the OPWDD programs to Orlando once a year, which is an attraction that gives a lot of happiness to the kids and a lot of respite to the parents, and it appeals to the people we want to form relationships with. It appeals to the outside world.

Q: How long have you worked for Pesach Tikvah?

A: Since 1983. That's over 40 years!

Q: Do you have any interesting projects you're working on now?

A: During COVID, we stopped the Florida trips. Last year I took a few kids; this year we want to take more. We just want to expand the network of contributors to the CFTSS program. We're going into Manhattan schools now. I'm meeting with influencers in that neighborhood. Through my network I meet more people, and through meeting more people I meet more people.

Q: What do you like about working at Pesach Tikvah?

A: Working with people. I enjoy every second. I love it.

Q: What are your goals for the future?

A: Same as they were in the past. Just continue to develop relationships.

A great thanks goes out to Rabbi Hershkowitz for his dedication to Pesach Tikvah, and the vital work he does. Would you like to suggest an unsung hero of Pesach Tikvah for next month's newsletter? Email ckurtz@pesachtikvah.org to make a suggestion.

Good News from Pesach Tikvah Programs

Clinics:

- The Borough Park clinics have reinstated Lunch and Learn as a space for learning and connecting with colleagues.
- The 926 Family Center has experienced an ongoing increase in client numbers.
- A cohort of interns at the 926 Family Center have earned their licenses.
- A cohort of new therapists has been hired at the 926 Family Center.

Hearts and Minds: Hearts and Minds is accepting clients for individual and group therapy.

- Therapy groups include internet abuse and substance use.
- Hearts and Minds is also offering therapy for the close family members of people with addictions.

School Satellite Program: A great school year is underway.

Senior Services: Thanks is due to Rochie Weinberger, Sara Blima Gestetner, Shoshie Sobelman, and Zalman Kotzen for giving Williamsburg's Holocaust survivors support and inspiration during the holidays.

- Senior Services hosted a Tashlich event at Domino Park. The attendees enjoyed lunch, a sukkah decoration arts and crafts project, an inspiring story about Rosh Hashanah from Sara Blima Gestetner, and doing Tashlich at the park. Everyone received a loaf of bread to cast into the water and a Tashlich packet. There was an adorable moment when a flock of seagulls joined in to eat the bread.
- Senior Services sent Rosh Hashanah packages to all 90 of their clients. In it was a honey loaf and a beautiful tray. They received very positive feedback on it.



Keshar Connection: The Health Home Care Management program was rebranded to Keshar Connection. They have a new logo, which you can see above. They rebranded to indicate the nature of the work that they do, to emphasize the supportive connections care managers form with their clients and the connections to resources in the community which they provide.

Keshar Connection provides empathic support to individuals or families who need help connecting to resources and navigating challenging times. The Keshar Connection program has helped individuals with the following resources:

- Employment support, including finding sustainable and fulfilling jobs
- Education support, including reaching educational goals
- Housing subsidies such as section 8, PHEPS applications, and affordable housing programs
- Supportive housing for individuals with mental health challenges
- Post-hospitalization discharge planning and follow-ups

- Medication and treatment adherence
- Connection to intensive mental health treatment programs
- Free transportation to health-related appointments
- Referrals to appropriate mental health, psychiatric, and physical health professionals and specialists
- Connection to accessible or pro-bono legal support when needed
- Family support including referrals to mentoring programs, home care, ABA therapy, HCBS services, home cooked meals when in need, and tutoring services
- Connection to substance abuse programs
- Connection to public assistance programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, and welfare
- Overview of areas that individuals need support and navigating and guiding in the proper directions

Keshar Connection arrives at times of crisis and finds resources. Individuals can stay in the program until they choose to disenroll; Keshar Connection will provide support for as long as needed. Therapists can view Keshar Connection as an ally in treating clients with complex needs. It's a truly comprehensive program that addresses all areas of an individual's life.

COMHAB: COMHAB continues to deliver skilled and compassionate care to individuals with developmental disabilities. A great thanks goes out to Diana Masri and her team.

ICF: Thank you to Izzy Tropper, Chanie Shindler, Joe Bistricher, and Diana Masri for excellence at the ICF.

CORE: Pesach Tikvah's CORE program took part in two OMH-sponsored networking events this month, one on Staten Island (South Beach Psychiatric Center) and one in Brooklyn (Kingsboro Psychiatric Center). The Networking events are opportunities for CORE programs, Managed Care Organizations (MCO's), and community partners such as hospitals and care management agencies, to meet. Pesach Tikvah was represented by Pearl Ostreicher, Program Director, Julien Saka, Employment Specialist, and Howard Hirt, Certified Peer Specialist.

Educating the community on CORE referral pathways continues to be a goal, as CORE strives to bring its services to the widest HARP-eligible population possible.

Feedback from Danielle Johnson at OMH indicated that Pesach Tikvah's CORE program generated a great deal of interest.

CFTSS/Simpatico: Simpatico is back in the swing of things after the holidays, and it has some good news!

- Mazal tov to Tzirel Knoll on the birth of a baby boy!
- Simpatico was approved for the Evidence-Based Practice Functional Family Therapy Certification. Simpatico will be in the second cohort of evidence-based practice training. Simpatico has designated five OLP providers who work with families to go through the training and become certified as FST. The selection process for certification was competitive. Props to Bruchy Endzweig and the Simpatico team.
- Simpatico will start running parenting groups at the 926 location for parents of children who are currently enrolled.