

MAY
2024אייר
תשפ"ד

CORE Seeks Assistant Program Manager

Pesach Tikvah's CORE program (Community Oriented Recovery and Empowerment) is currently seeking an LMSW, LCSW, or LMHC to function as an Assistant Program Manager, doing a combination of direct client counseling as well as some administrative work (Individualized Service Plans, Assessments, Reviews, Group and Individual Supervision with staff etc.) The position is for 20 hours weekly, 8 hours on-site and 12 hours off-site. Salary commensurate with licensure and experience.

Please address inquiries to Postreicher@pesachtikvah.org or call 718-875-6900 x1212.



We'd like to wish a **שנת הצלחה** to all our staff with May birthdays. We are so grateful to have you as a member of our staff. You should be blessed with everything you need materially and spiritually.

Senior Services Establishes New Counseling Program

Senior Services is now offering a new counseling program for women over 60-years-old from the Williamsburg community. This program is made possible by a grant from the Jewish Federations of North America. Pesach Tikvah will do group therapy for this population on trauma, bereavement and loss, and family relationships. The kick-off event will be held on Tuesday, June 4th at a catering hall in Williamsburg. 60 or 70 women are expected to attend. Attendees will meet the therapists running the groups; they will present on their respective topics. Following the event, the groups will meet monthly in the conference room. Groups will be limited to 20 people. Mr. Zalman Kotzen, Director of Senior Services, put in significant work to bring this program to fruition, and he deserves much recognition. We look forward to serving the elder population of the Williamsburg community; for many this will be their first experience with therapy.

Hearts and Minds Addiction Counseling Program is Now Open

Pesach Tikvah has begun outreach for the Hearts and Minds addiction counseling program and has begun designating existing clients for the program. This new program is administered under OASAS Article 32. Patients will receive weekly individual and group addiction counseling sessions with CASAC therapists. They will have access to Pesach Tikvah's psychiatry and individual psychotherapy for co-occurring conditions. Therapy is available not only for people struggling

with substance use disorders, alcoholism, gambling, and internet addiction, but also for their loved ones and caretakers. Group therapy leaders have been selected, and groups for men and women are currently forming. If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, he or she can register by calling the 926 Family Center.

A great thanks goes out to Esther Deutsch, Shayna Bryski, and Yechiel Benedikt for their hard work developing this program. We are in the process of acquiring an integrative license in which we will be able to provide addiction services under the current OMH license.

Health Homes Forms Collaboration with Woodhull Hospital

Woodhull, a community-focused hospital, recently welcomed Dr. Vora as its new psychiatric medical director. In a productive meeting, Dr. Vora and Ms. Davis-Smith, the head of social work, were joined by board members Rabbi Jacobowitz and Pesach Tikvah staff Executive Director Yerachmiel Stern, Aron Fink, Ahron Zev Herbstman, Hendy Roth, and Menachem Lichtman.

The meeting aimed to foster collaboration between neighboring mental health providers. Subsequent meetings held by the Health Homes department furthered this goal, initiating cross-collaboration. The hospital's first step was to involve Pesach Tikvah coordinators in pre-discharge meetings with patients, ensuring a seamless transition into the community.

We express gratitude to Rabbi Jacobowitz for his pivotal role in advancing this initiative.



Focus On: Yisroel Len, *Data Analyst*

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 *Data Analyst*, Yisroel Len, about his work. Mr. Len has been with Pesach Tikvah for four years.

Q: What are the responsibilities of the Data Analyst at Pesach Tikvah?

A: My title is Data Analyst and CCBHC Project Evaluator. On the data analytics side, my job description is multifaceted and covers many areas. For management, my job is to use data to tell the stories of our directors' successes or highlight areas where data quality needs improvement. For auditors, I automate data to allow for more efficient reporting. For programmers, I develop data pipelines that allow us to merge and access data from the various software we use, be it InSync, Viventium, the HR Portal, etc. and develop intuitive dashboard displays. For clinicians, my job is to show patient progress through, for example, depression screenings, which I'll talk more about later.

On the evaluator side, I play a supportive role to our CCBHC Director, Hendy Roth, in working through the CCBHC criteria and generating data we are required to report. This means communicating with Directors and our EHR specialist to understand how the data is collected and ensure that my results accurately represent reality.

Q: What other departments do you work with?

A: I've worked on several projects for a few departments. One project is SharePoint. SharePoint is a centralized Microsoft site where you can store and customize access to information. It's like a fancy in-house website. Several departments like CFTSS, Health Homes, and the Williamsburg clinic use SharePoint. When I put a site together, I aim to train staff so that they can continue to customize and build out the site on their own, which I'm happy to see they've done.

We also just started with a new IT provider, Systech. I did a significant amount of research into many different companies, made suggestions to the Board and Mr. Stern on the top performers which ultimately led to Systech being chosen.

I'm also helping Zack Teper, our HR Director, smooth out the employee onboarding process. Most of the onboarding workflow and the data we collect is currently done on paper. We are working on switching over to software to automate that process. We're researching several solutions and will hopefully decide soon.

Q: Do you have any interesting upcoming projects?

A: I have a few: One project I'm doing is with depression screeners like the PHQ9 for adults and PHQA's for children. As part of being a federal CCBHC, we will soon be required to report on what they call the "DEP-REM-6" measurement, which is Depression Remission over 6 Months. Patients with depression must do a PHQ9/A every six months and we're required to monitor and report the number of patients qualifying as "in remission." I'm developing a dashboard so we can see if patients are improving or not improving and hopefully include some of the relevant factors.

I'm also soon going to be supervising a part-time programmer and data analyst. I'm excited to have a larger data analytics and automation team available to help improve efficiency and reduce workloads.

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

A: My interests are coding and psychology. Before I came to Pesach Tikvah, I completed a 3-month, 60-hour-a-week data science bootcamp and spent 3 months volunteering for a suicide hotline during COVID. So, I was very lucky to be given the opportunity to start working here at Pesach Tikvah allowing me to combine my passion for mental health and data analytics. It's also been

(Q&A continued)

excellent to be in an environment where people are positive and give me encouraging feedback. I'm happy to say that even though leadership has changed a lot since I've been here, the people above and around me have always been fantastic – encouraging and very positive.

Q: Do you have an open-door policy?

A: I tell people this all the time: I try my best to schedule my work around people, not the other way around. I want to ensure that

people get my utmost focus. If I build a dashboard, I want to hear what is and is not working because the feedback allows me to improve the user's experience. Being a tech guy, I sometimes also help with IT or general technology work. My door is always open to anyone who would like support with Excel or any other Microsoft product.

A great thanks goes to Yisroel Len 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.

Legends Event Honors Longtime Team Members

On May 7th, program directors and longtime team members gathered to honor the legacy of Pesach Tikvah. The warm, beautiful event was held at The Loft in Borough Park. The evening was emceed by Pesach Tikvah's Executive Director, Yerachmiel Stern. A large banner celebrating 40 years of service to the community stood at the front of the elegantly appointed room, as did a lectern and a table of awards. It was a moment of unity held on an apropos day, day 14 of counting the Omer – Malchut of Gevurah, as the event honored both the strength of our organization and the dignity that we treat all our patients with.

Aharon Fink, Director of the 640 Family Center, opened the evening with remarks inspiring all with a reminder that Pesach Tikvah's mission is to bring out the good in each other, in Pesach Tikvah's clients, and in the world. He emphasized that the basis of bringing out the greater good is kavod for self and others and recognized our Executive Director Yerachmiel Stern as an example of knowing one's intrinsic value and treating others as such.

Mr. Stern honored several long-term and founding members of the Pesach Tikvah team. Several stepped forward for interviews in which they recalled Pesach Tikvah's beginning days, and discussed the foundational work that they did. Among the honored were founding member Dr. Kirschenbaum, Director of Fundraising Rabbi Hershkowitz, director of the ICF Mrs. Chanie Schindler, Director of Senior Services Zalman Kotzen, ICF manager Izzy Tropper, our Medical Director Dr. Rachel Michaels, Hindy Langer, Motti Torenheim, Brenda Katz, Joe Bistricher, and the legendary therapist Devorah Teitelbaum OBM.

Brenda Katz, the original Director of the Day Program and incredible contributor to the development of Pesach Tikvah's clinics, recalled the early days of Pesach Tikvah in her speech, discussing the altruistic drive to help the mentally ill that fueled the founding of the organization. She discussed how the outpatient clinic was built up from scratch with few resources and a lot of perseverance and personal dedication.

The message the event's participants took home was that Pesach Tikvah truly, truly exists for the sake of our patients. We are the original Heimishe mental health clinic, founded on love, grit, and

determination. What has always set us apart is the kindness and dignity with which we treat our patients – we are known for being nurturing and we will continue to kindly support even the most challenging patients. People come to us broken, traumatized, or anxious, and we make it a personal priority to help them achieve a healthier state of being. When Mr. Stern honored Rabbi Berkowitz, he introduced him as someone who personally went to inpatient facilities to extricate severely and chronically mentally ill patients from jams. That kind of dedication is characteristic of this organization.

Mr. Stern also bestowed awards to people who had done an outstanding job preparing for audits. Audit-preparedness awards went to our CFO Isser Rosenberg, Director of HR Zack Teper, Director of COMHAB Diana Masri, ICF Director Chani Schindler, and the Compliance department. Preparing for audits is one of the least glamorous and most difficult yet important jobs in the organization, and all these people continue to do that work with flying colors.

A few newer but certainly valuable team members were also honored. Rabbi Avrum Grunwald has marvelously built up the School Satellite Program and spoke at the event. Leiby Weinreb was honored for his ongoing innovativeness in finance. Lipa Wercsberger was honored for his dedication and positivity.

After Mr. Stern distributed the awards, Aaron Zev Herbstman, Director of the 926 Family Center, wrapped up the evening by speaking about the future of Pesach Tikvah. He acknowledged the unique role that Mr. Stern plays in positioning the organization for growth, as both a founder and a leader for the future. Likewise, when Izzy Tropper spoke, he encouraged everyone at the organization to really support Mr. Stern's leadership by all working together for a common goal.

It was an inspiring night of remembering the past and looking toward the future as the original Heimishe mental health service continues to be the best.



Good News from Pesach Tikvah Programs

Pesach Tikvah's programs have been enjoying unprecedented success this spring, and all program directors and staff deserve credit. What makes our organization special is that we take our work personally, bringing great care and effort to the populations we serve. **קָרוֹיִסְטַע דאַנק** goes to all of you! You make Pesach Tikvah the amazing place it is!

Clinics: The clinics continue to offer stellar services to the community. Our clinic directors and therapists deserve much recognition for their ingenuity, hard work, and dedication.

- At the 5309 Family Center, we have a record number of groups which have been successfully built up.
- Borough Park has reached its highest numbers of the year for in-person sessions.
- The 4111 Family Center had a successful and substantial renovation. We're getting great feedback from the clients.
- The 926 Family Center has become an in-demand place to work. The clinic continues to grow.

School Satellite Program: The School Satellite Program's infrastructure has never been better.

- A full slate of new clinicians from all denominations, both Yiddish and English speaking, will be joining us for the upcoming session.

Senior Services: Senior services hosted several events for Holocaust survivors during the past month:

- A trip to the Hobby House where participants painted beautiful projects.
- A paint class in the conference room where the ladies painted pictures of flowers using mixed media. Sarah Blima told them an impactful story that everyone enjoyed, followed by a light lunch. It was a beautiful event.
- Two outings to Domino Park, where all delighted in lovely warm weather and did crafts in the park, including repotting flowers and jewelry making. They enjoyed lunch together, played bingo, and went walking on the boardwalk.

Rochy Weinberger and our Senior Services team bring so much joy and love to Williamsburg's community of Holocaust survivors. A great thanks goes out to the Senior Services team.

Health Homes: Health Homes has been enjoying continued success. Some great news from this month:

- Health Homes has expanded the children's program to the Bronx.
- OMH has approved five more members for high intensity high touch care management.
- The program has hired four new adult care managers and a new children's care manager. Welcome to Hershel Jacobowitz, Suri Hoffman, Rikal Mangel, Dovber Cohen, and Ruchie Feldman.
- Health Homes started a collaboration with Woodhull Hospital.

Thank you to Health Homes director Jacob Lichtman and his dedicated team for bringing excellent care management to the community and beyond. They make a big difference in the lives of many vulnerable people.

COMHAB: COMHAB is continuing its great work. Mrs. Masri was honored at the Legends event.

ICF: ICF Director Chanie Schindler and ICF Manager Izzy Tropper were both honored at the Legends event. Their phenomenal work continues to inspire us.

CORE: The CORE program will be hosting its annual Staff Appreciation Dinner in June! This is a chance for staff to receive recognition for their hard work and for all to socialize in a convivial atmosphere and to learn of recent updates in the field. The theme of this year's dinner will be The Golden Thread: Documentation Done Right, and will include a presentation and small group practice with best-practice note writing skills. We look forward to this very special evening! Thank you to program director Pearl Ostreicher for leading such a vital team!

CFTSS/Simpatico: Simpatico keeps on growing!

- Simpatico hired a new biller.
- They had a staff meeting for all providers. It was an informative and collaborative event.

Thank you to Bruchy Endzweig, Gitty Kahan, the incredibly dedicated Simpatico administrative team, and all Simpatico's providers for the transformational support you provide throughout the five boroughs.

