

Open House is a Success

Wichita, KS – Feb 19, 2018: The Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas (MHA) held an open house on Friday, February 16 to celebrate the launch of Open Access, a revolutionary walk-in model to receive counseling services that is virtually unparalleled.

The event took place at MHA's office at the corner of Harry and Webb, and was well-attended by a variety of health-care specialists – from both mental and physical providers – curious about this new idea. “The lobby at our Woodlawn office simply wasn't large enough to accommodate a large amount of walk-in traffic.”, says Shawna Allen, Senior Director of Outpatient and Addiction Services. “We moved our counselors into this location and our downtown office at 805 South Main, where there was space both for offices and for those needing help. Even though we only launched a couple weeks ago, we're already seeing a lot of use.”

With Open Access, the public is now able to walk into either 805 S. Main or 9415 E. Harry (suites 706 and 800) at Harry and Webb, and receive immediate assistance. Along with this new initiative and consolidated offices comes new hours available to these walk-in consumers. People are advised to call 316.652.2590 to hear office hours at the location that works best for them.

“1 in 5 residents of Kansas will be faced with a mental health issue in any given year.”, says Eric Litwiller, MHA's Director of Communications. “Certainly not all of them will be immediate needs. But if we can help fifty, twenty, even one person, than these changes are well worth it.” Litwiller points out that the stigma and connotation of mental illness needs to be changed in order for people to understand why Open Access is so badly needed in our community. “Mental health isn't just schizophrenia and PTSD. It's also job losses, sending your only child off to college, and broken relationships. These are things that we cannot control. They happen to us, not because of us. And there is no shame in needing to talk to someone when they do.”

For more information about the counseling services and other programs that MHA offers in and around Wichita, call 316.685.1821.

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Issued by Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas
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