Terry Carik Biography
Duquesne University School of Nursing Fifth Rita M. McGinley Symposium
Approved by: Terry Carik
October 3, 2014

Terry Carik, LCSW
Service Coordination Unit Director
Mercy Behavioral Health, part of Pittsburgh Mercy Health System

Terry Carik, LCSW, is Service Coordination Unit director at Mercy Behavioral Health, part of Pittsburgh Mercy Health System and CHE Trinity Health, serving in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy.

Terry graduated with honors from the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work Master’s Program. In the early 1970s, her community work with those living with mental illness and addictions ignited her commitment to the underserved and strengthened her passion to empower those with disabilities. At that time, few resources were available to individuals with mental illness. Many of these individuals lived for years in state institutions with little hope of recovery or the prospect of leading full lives in the community.

Terry advocated for individuals, families, and provider organizations, including her current employer, Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, to create ways to serve these individuals in the community. With her early training as an outpatient and group therapist, she developed skills to serve those whose lives have been affected by trauma to heal, including those with severe thought disorders and those who are disconnected from the community. As manager of a large mental health outpatient services program, Terry recognized the importance of building support in the community and saw the community as part of the solution.

As the director of the Service Coordination Unit, Terry is responsible for overseeing programs that empower individuals to live safely in the community and divert them from inpatient hospitalization or incarceration. She directs crisis, diversion, acute stabilization, residential, and service coordination programs at one of the region’s largest health and human service nonprofit organizations, serving more than 26,000 people annually in 60+ locations.

Terry served as a member of the Mayview State Hospital Regional Planning Steering Committee, a regional collaborative that planned the closure of Mayview State Hospital and developed innovative community programs to ensure that persons – today and well into the future – receive services that promote successful community reintegration; support individual, person-centered, wholistic wellness and recovery goals; and empower them to thrive in the community. She, along with others from Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, faced angry, uninformed, and fearful communities as individuals were discharged from Mayview State Hospital.

Terry has successfully developed more than a dozen innovative programs and services to address the needs of those with specialized or acute behavioral health care needs. Additionally, she is a member of the National Council of Behavioral Health Trauma Informed Care Learning Collaborative. She also participates in a variety of advisory boards and activities that advocate for persons with disabilities and grow healthy communities.