

The Ohio Association of
County Behavioral Health Authorities

November 2004 Newsletter

FAITH BASED SERVICES

FOCUS ON CHILDREN

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The mission of the Rosemont Center is to address the mental, spiritual and physical needs that will assist each person in recognizing, developing and using their skills and in being reconciled within themselves, with others and with God.

The faith based influence of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd who founded Rosemont Center in 1865 is very apparent in the agency's mission statement with the identification of *spiritual needs*, the concept of *reconciliation*, and the expansion from self and others to God. When the Sisters of the Good Shepherd relinquished ownership and governance of the Rosemont Center in 2000, the agency could no longer be identified as a Catholic institution, but became a secular agency. The board expressed its desire to weave the continued influence of the Good Shepherd philosophy into the fabric of the new Rosemont entity with regard to governance, human resources, community interactions, and programming.

The faith based influence is easily incorporated into governance and operations as a mission driven organization. The decisions regarding the use of the agency's resources – financial, facilities, personnel – are measured against the values of the organization that are articulated in Rosemont's preamble to the new Articles of Incorporation. The belief that *the training of children should be regarded as a work of the utmost importance and nothing should be left undone to prepare them for their future life* (St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier – foundress of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd) elevates the agency's expectations regarding the importance of the quality of care. The preamble includes the statement that: "Licensing standards and accreditation requirements establish the minimum standards for our services."

The Good Shepherd values keep Rosemont focused in our approach to our employees: "We believe that our employees are our most precious resource for accomplishing the Good Shepherd mission. The manner in which we treat all current, prospective and past employees reflects the strength of our belief that a person is of more value than a world." *While you labor for the Good Shepherd, regardless of your duties, this is your calling.* (SME)

Rosemont's value that the buildings and grounds should be well maintained and home-like are related to the belief that "the environment reflects the loving care of a generous and nurturing Creator."

The influence of faith can be easily incorporated into the administrative areas because they do not create conflicts with licensing and accreditation standards and they do not encroach on individual staff or client beliefs. The bigger challenge is in the incorporation of faith-based beliefs into treatment approaches.

At Rosemont, we believe that the faith based values provide the foundation for the therapeutic approaches with respect to individual worth and dignity, valuing diversity and teaching tolerance for differences. St. Mary Euphrasia, even in the late 1800's in rural France, taught a tolerance for differences in religious beliefs when she talked of *bringing people closer to God in whatever way they understood God*. Within Rosemont programs, the focus on spirituality is with the intent of helping youth and families put their life experiences in the context of a much larger picture. Providing the opportunity to explore their belief system is the starting point for developing a sense of future and therefore a sense of hope. Without hope, recovery is not possible.

The faith based approach at Rosemont provides the permission to include spirituality in the therapeutic equation, but it is not the treatment. Faith and values establish the context within which the treatment staff builds on evidence based, best practice models that include competency, resiliency, and multigenerational family systemic approaches.

The inclusion of spirituality and faith based approaches enhance Rosemont's treatment because it compliments the best practice models we have adopted. As an agency, Rosemont does not support faith based approaches exempt from the scrutiny of licensing and accreditation standards, research, outcome monitoring and interface with proven treatment models. For over 200 years, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd have demonstrated that serving the least, the lost and the last is most effectively done through the blending of faith with the highest standards of care.

The spiritual dimension is integral to human life. Spirituality helps us to become whole. A connection with God gives us the power and the hope to change our lives for the better so that we may love our neighbor and ourselves. (St. Mary Euphrasia)