

Bulletin

MAY 28, 2010

MCHS congratulates the graduating class of 2010



Mercy College of Health Sciences (MCHS) conferred 125 associate and bachelor's degrees representing eight health care disciplines at a ceremony held at Hoyt Sherman Place on April 30.

Students graduated with Bachelor degrees in Health Care Administration and Nursing, and Associate degrees in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Emergency Medical Services, Nursing, Physical Therapist Assistant, Polysomnographic Technology and Radiologic Technology.

Catholic Health Initiatives' Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Dr. Kathleen Sanford, DBA, RN, CENP, FACHE (pictured above), served as this year's Commencement Speaker, while Associate of Science Nursing graduate Sarah Erickson delivered the Student Farewell Address.

MCHS is the only Catholic college in central Iowa and is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). To learn more about the college's 18 health science degree and certificate programs, visit www.mchs.edu.



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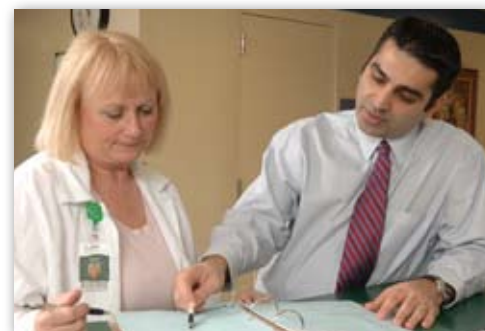
Mercy helps ensure rural Iowans have access to behavioral health care services

According to the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), more than 20 percent of the nation's population lives in rural areas; however, only about 10 percent of physicians practice in rural America. The more specialized the medical discipline – such as psychiatry – the less likely a rural population is to have access to care. In fact, among 1,253 smaller rural counties in the United States with populations between 2,500 and 20,000, nearly three-quarters lack a psychiatrist, and 95 percent lack a child psychiatrist.

To help combat this disparity of care, Mercy Behavioral Health recently received a SAMHSA grant to offer emergency mental health services through its Help Center via telemedicine technology to four Mercy Health Network – Central Iowa hospitals (Wayne County Hospital, Mercy Medical Center – Centerville, Audubon County Memorial Hospital and Story County Medical Center) as well as Ottumwa Regional Health Center.

Rural hospitals like these do not tend to have large volumes of patients who present in emergency rooms with mental health or behavioral health issues; however, when they do, there is often a struggle to get them the mental health assessment they need. Historically, many patients who have needed an evaluation have been transported to Des Moines for an assessment, which costs the hospital and the patient money and valuable time in emergency situations.

“The potential for telemedicine to assist with the appropriate management of patients with limited access to mental health resources is a win for everyone,



Mercy Behavioral Health clinicians Callie Barnard, clinical nurse, and Dr. Sasha Khosravi, are among the Mercy Behavioral Health clinicians who can now be accessed via telemedicine to provide emergency mental health assessments for patients in rural Iowa.

especially the patients,” said Karen Clayton, director of Mercy Behavioral Health. “Our goal is that fewer patients will need to be transported out of their own communities for inpatient stays that may not be warranted in the first place.”

This grant allows resources to be available whenever a need arises, connecting rural affiliates to a team of Mercy Behavioral Health Help Center staff, nurses and master's-level social workers who can conduct diagnostic evaluations and provide recommendations for care. Due to its ease of use and the time and effort that could potentially be saved by patients and providers, this service helps to alleviate the access to mental health care services that many rural areas are facing.

“It is exciting to think of the impact this technology may have on appropriate patient care and the potential assistance that it will bring as the inpatient mental health options for Iowans continue to shrink,” Karen added. “It is great to take the resource to the patient, as opposed to having to transport patients to get an assessment.”

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Amanda Brezina, Mercy College of Health Sciences, and Tony, on the birth of their son, Tate. Tate was born on May 18 and was welcomed home by Aiden, 4, and Preston, 2.

Arica Brinegar, Pediatrics, and **Josh Brinegar**, 5 South, on the birth of their daughter, Kathryn. Kathryn was born on May 7 and was welcomed home by Hewitt, 4, and Harrison, 2.

Christy Carroll Cownie, Physician Employment Services, and Drew, on the birth of their twins, Abigail Francis and Thomas James. Abigail and Thomas were born on April 25 and were welcomed home by Chip, 3.

Laura Coleman, Labor & Delivery, and Michael Ogden, on the birth of their son, Kendrick Dylan. Kendrick was born on May 13 and was welcomed home by Peyton, 6, Preston, 5, Parker, 3, and Kaiden, 1.

Laura Greenwell, Medical Imaging, and **Aaron Greenwell**, Radiology, on the birth of their daughter, Ryley Keelyn. Ryley was born on May 5 and was welcomed home by Braylon, 2.

Kate Jones, NICU, and Bart, on the birth of their son, Noah Bryan. Noah was born on May 17 and was welcomed home by Gabriel, 2.

Jennifer Logan, Iowa Heart Center, and Jason, on the birth of their son, Ryan James. Ryan was born on May 6 and is the couple's first child.

Sarah Martin, Respiratory Therapy, and Mike, on the birth of their son, Noah Michael. Noah was born on May 3 and was welcomed home by Lillian, 4.

Auburne Overton, Mercy College of Health Sciences, and Joel, on the birth of their son, Leighton Coel. Leighton was born on May 4 and was welcomed home by Jackson, 3.

Dawn Pladna, Perinatal Center of Iowa, and Michael, on the birth of their son, Owen Robert. Owen was born on May 12 and was welcomed home by Kaden, 7, Mariah, 5, and Addison, 3.

OUR SYMPATHY TO...

Ron Howard, ITS, on the death of his mother-in-law.

Jeff Long, Plant Operations, on the death of his mother and mother-in-law.

CHI Password available to **reset passwords, save valuable time**

When it comes to logging-on to a computer or accessing a secure program, it can sometimes be difficult for employees to remember all the usernames, passwords and PINs they have been assigned. To help make that process easier, Catholic Health Initiatives introduced CHI Password last November – a self-service tool for employees who need to reset or unlock their Inside CHI, or active directory, password. This is the password used to log-in to workstations, the network, Inside CHI, Kronos and other CHI applications and Webmail/Outlook.

CHI Password was implemented to reduce the number of calls received by the national Help Desk from employees requiring password assistance and ensure those resources were available for other, more significant information technology (IT) issues. Across CHI, IT Help Desks currently spend more than 200 hours each week on password resets – time that could be saved by employees using CHI Password. Yet, to date, only 15 percent of all Mercy Family members have registered to use the free tool.

To use CHI Password, employees simply need to visit <http://chipassword.catholichealth.net> and follow these steps:

1. From the “Welcome to CHI Password” page, select the “Register Now!” link.
2. Select your domain (DESMOINES-IA) from the drop-down menu and enter your network username and password.
3. Verify your birth month and day and the last four digits of your Social Security Number.
4. Select Security Questions and provide the answers. This information will be used to help verify your identity.
5. Click the “Next” button at the bottom of the screen. Your registration is complete and you can click “Logout” to exit.

The entire process only takes minutes to complete, but once employees have registered, they will be able to reset their Inside CHI password at any time online by returning to <http://chipassword.catholichealth.net> and selecting the “Reset Now!” link or by calling the national Help Desk at 1-866-236-0441 and selecting the option for password issues.

One group of employees that is being recognized nationally for its high adoption and use rate of CHI Password is part of the Mercy Family. Iowa Heart Center went live with CHI Password last fall, just one month after the group aligned

with Mercy, and within one week had registered 344 users – or 68 percent of the staff. Since then, 377 password resets have been performed by Iowa Heart Center employees and physicians, with 78 percent of all staff members registered to use CHI Password.

Questions or feedback about CHI Password may be directed to Darrin Stoll, CHI Password project manager, at (402) 219-7092 or dstoll@stez.org.

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