

WEEKLY SPOTLIGHT ON HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Recovery (Continued from page 1)

for its residential program. It recommends outpatients live within a 30-minute drive for convenient treatment.

He said the company originally wanted to plant a local foundation with the 32 beds, and then added outpatient services.



Joe Pritchard

After Recovery Works received approval to accept Medicaid, Pritchard said its census grew to the point of having a waiting list for treatment. Discussions about expansion began.

The 160-by-60-foot addition will be on Pinnacle's nearly 8-acre property that is being joined with part of a nearly 14-acre property, located immediately to the north. That land has been owned by David L. and Paula A. Bertsch. Both parcels in Jackson Township are in the C-2 Community Business District.

Pritchard said the company is going through the process to get the right permits, with construction to begin as soon as those are issued.

"Construction should be anytime," he said.

In addition to more bedrooms, Recovery Works will add infrastructure to support the additional beds by expanding the septic system, parking and common areas as well as additional clinical, recreational and dietary space.

Since Pinnacle is a for-profit company, Pritchard noted the tax base will increase with the additional square footage.

In addition, he said more professional staff will be hired to care for the new patients, such as nurses and master's-level counselors and administrative staff, bringing more employment opportunities. He estimated 90 percent of Recovery Works' employees live in the immediate surrounding area.

A new local director will be among upcoming hires. After the retirement of Recovery Works' previous local director, the Cambridge City campus currently has an acting director, Tom Delgado, who also oversees the Merrillville campus. Pritchard said he expects a new local director will be announced within the next 30 days.

The new director will be part of an open house to be offered when the new addition is complete.

"Wayne County has been very remarkable in its dedication to developing and pro-



Recovery Works Cambridge City clients use these bedrooms and recreational spaces, as seen on a tour of the facility.



moting quality services and supporting us on expanding," Pritchard said, noting good partnerships with local leaders and law enforcement.

Recovery Works Cambridge City, which is Pinnacle's second treatment center in Indiana besides Merrillville, opened in the winter of 2017.

When making plans for the Cambridge City campus, Pritchard said the company started with state officials and then began working at the community level with various local officials including the county commissioner, local police and sheriff's departments and state legislators. He said company officials believed they could be a true partner in the local fight against addiction.

"A year before we even

opened up, we had a lot of community support in developing these services," he said.

Pritchard said the company's philosophy always has been to make care accessible and affordable, and that's been made easier with the Medicaid approval, which he acknowledged was a long process. The company is an in-network provider with all major insurances and all of Medicaid's managed care organizations, he said.

About 50 percent of Recovery Works' clients come from Wayne County and the immediate surrounding area, with a similar percentage of males and females that can vary slightly.

Recovery Works accepts patients at age 18 for residential treatment. Pritchard said the median age of local pa-

tients is mid-20s to early 30s, but they do get an older population who have employment and families.

"Addiction is a powerful disease, and the healing process is a lifelong journey — one that we share with our patients and loved ones," according to Recovery Works' website. "Our full continuum of quality care provides a smooth transition between proven, evidence-based treatments to ensure your recovery takes the right steps at the right time."

Before admission, counselors and prospective patients discuss what substance is being abused, patterns of use, physical and mental health, and other factors to determine what kind of treatment is needed.

Pritchard said the local Recovery Works is continuously developing relationships with local agencies, ranging from police to courts, probation, child services and workforce development as well as local healthcare providers.

"We enjoy those partnerships to help guide people to the right place," he said. "If somebody can make one phone call and that phone call will guide them to the right place ... It's difficult for that person or that loved one to finally pick up the phone, and we want to make it as seamless as possible and easy to navigate."

He said the company aims to further expand its relationships and services into the community beyond its campus.

Because clients only stay on campus for a few weeks, the more services Recovery Works can either provide itself or partner with another agency to offer, Pritchard believes there will be better opportunities for them to be successful.

Pinnacle treats more than 17,300 people every day at 71 locations across Indiana,

Kentucky, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

At an open house and tour of Recovery Works last fall, Wayne County Commissioner Mary Anne Butters expressed her gratitude to the treatment center for locating in eastern Indiana.

"We are fortunate to have an extraordinary expansion in treatment and recovery programs in Wayne County," Butters said. "In just a matter of a few years, we have gone from zero residential treatment to over 90 beds.

"We have always had options for outpatient, but now we have the focus on recovery, not just ongoing treatment. That's the main difference that organizations such as this brings to Wayne County, which puts us way ahead of our neighbors, even neighbors with much larger populations."

"Anyone who wishes to save the life and well-being of another should reach out to any one of these facilities," Butters said. "Centerstone, Meridian, Recovery Works, (Richmond) State Hospital. It's amazing where we are today versus just two years ago, because the alternative is incarceration or death, almost inevitably."

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