

Some quotes from respondents:

“The Board of Directors of the Door County Department of Community Programs acknowledges the overall inadequacy of psychiatric care in Door County...(we) have struggled for years, attempting to respond to the demands of the community...(there is) such a need as to require at least one full time psychiatrist.”

**David Hirn, MS,
Mental Health Coordinator,
Door Co. Dept. of Community Programs**

“Chronic problem the past 33 years.”

John Beck, M.D.

“A local psychiatrist available for crises could avoid about 12.5% of hospitalizations. Hospitalizations cost about \$575 per day plus transportation costs (double time).... Patients requiring this type of hospitalization are sent to Brown County Mental Health Center in Green Bay. These expenses are billed to and paid for by Door County.”

**Clare Anne Jacobsmeier, MSW
Community Support Prog. Coord.
Door Co. Dept. of
Community Programs**

PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES IN DOOR COUNTY

A Needs Analysis



Class of 2001/2002

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The 2001-2002 Leadership Door County class (LDC), after review of numerous project submissions, chose to conduct a survey that might ascertain if there is a need for a full-time psychiatrist in Door County. Currently services are provided one day per week by an advanced practice nurse prescriber and a psychiatrist.

It is important to note the difference between a psychiatrist and a psychologist. A psychiatrist has medication prescribing authority as part of the realm of evaluation and treatment options. He or she has a medical degree and has served a residency in the specialty area of psychiatry. A psychologist has post-graduate training in psychology, has obtained a doctoral degree, and has worked at a post-doctoral position in his or her chosen specialty area of psychology. A psychologist cannot prescribe medications of any kind. This is an important distinction because many people suffering from mental illnesses (e.g. depression, ADHD, addictions, schizophrenia, etc.) are benefited by psychotropic medications that alleviate symptoms and are prescribed by a psychiatrist during the course of treatment. (Note: Physicians,

physicians' assistants and advanced practice nurse prescribers also have medication prescribing authority.)

LDC prepared two surveys, one for medical/mental health/social work professionals and one for those who may have contact with people suffering from mental illness. Potential survey respondents were selected based on a respondent's likelihood to be involved with or provide services for members of the Door County community who are benefiting from or might benefit from the services of a psychiatrist. Recipients included members of many professions – including medical, mental health, home health, nursing, nursing home, social work, pastoral services, law enforcement, medical health facilities administrators and members of mental health organizations.

Of those who completed the surveys, a “significant” majority expressed concern regarding the current availability of psychiatric care in Door County. In calculating total response rates, 88% clearly indicated the need for a full time psychiatrist.

It is the opinion of this Leadership Door County class that this concern warrants the attention of the entire Door County community to the effect of initiating discussion relevant to the feasibility of establishing a local full time psychiatrist.

Financial statistics of note: Door County Community Programs currently pays \$145 per hour for the psychiatrist serving Door County one day per week. Last year's payment to the psychiatrist totaled \$71,505. In addition, the more recently hired advanced practice nurse prescriber is paid \$80 per hour for one day of services per week.

It has been estimated that if an on-staff psychiatrist worked 44 billable weeks per year averaging 6 to 7 hours per day, total billable hours would equal \$241,000 per year. Support and ancillary services would take about 40% of that amount, leaving approximately \$145,000 annual income for the psychiatrist.

For additional information or for a complete detailed report of survey findings, please contact the LDC Door County Class of 2002. LDC2002@aol.com