Phillips-Henry Joins AuMHC as New CEO

It is my pleasure to introduce myself as the new CEO of Aurora Mental Health Center. During my 22 years in the Colorado behavioral health system, this organization has been held in very high esteem as a leader and innovator in the field - on both a state and national level. I am most fortunate to have known and worked with Dr. Randy Stith for many years, and it is my honor to succeed him and carry on his legacy.

I have been inspired and impressed by the professional, dedicated, and committed service of our staff and board of directors to the mission of AuMHC. As an Air Force veteran and former professor at the Air Force Academy, I understand the importance of working together in furthering a mission. Indeed, as we enter into a time of significant change in behavioral healthcare delivery, I am eager for the opportunity to work with all of our partners to incorporate our past successes into an innovative system of care that will benefit our entire community.

Sincerely,
Kelly Phillips-Henry, Psy.D
Chief Executive Officer
Aurora Mental Health Center

Gearing Up for Back to School

As summer comes to an end, parents, caregivers, teachers, kids, and the Aurora community prepare for another school year. Use these tips to help your child feel prepared and confident as they return to class.

1) Ease into the routine. Sudden changes in routine can be difficult for many kids. To help ease the transition, begin enforcing routines, such as going to bed early before school actually begins.

2) Talk to your kids about the upcoming year. Keep an open dialogue with your child and discuss goals and fears for the upcoming year.

3) Review the first day or first week schedule with your child. Let them know what activities they’ll be involved in and chat with them about their classes.

4) Prepare as much as possible. Connect with friends, meet the teacher, tour the classroom or school, and attend school welcome events.

5) Create a homework or study area at home. This area should be calm, quiet, and free of distractions, like TV and other electronics.

Aurora Mental Health Center offers comprehensive mental health treatment for school-age children in elementary, middle, and high school settings. To find out more about our school-based services, visit our website at www.aumh.org/child-youth-family

Credit: Loris Terrell, LMFT
Program Director, School-Based Services
Annual Spring Benefit Luncheon Raises Funds and Awareness

This year, Aurora Mental Health Center was thrilled to host the 14th Annual Spring Benefit Luncheon and welcomed over 340 guests to the event. The event was held in May at the Aurora Hyatt Regency. AuMHC’s Event Chair and Board Member, Mark Stephenson, welcomed guests and announced AuMHC’s School-Based program as the recipient of the funds raised from this year’s luncheon. We were honored to have Eric Lupher from Denver7 serve as our emcee.

One of the highlights of the event was Dr. Randy Stith, retiring CEO of Aurora Mental Health Center, receiving surprise special recognitions from Congressman Mike Coffman, Senators Nancy Todd and Rhonda Fields and the Aurora delegation, and Stephan Ghadaifchian with Citywide Banks.

The lunch was capped off with musical comedy entertainment by the Dueling Pianos of Michael and Amy. Guests also viewed a heartfelt video that illustrated the impact of the support offered to schools and districts in the community through the School-Based program.

Many thanks to all attendees and sponsors, and a special thanks to long-time supporter and our title sponsor, Citywide Banks. The luncheon was a tremendous success, raising $59,700 to further the important work of our School-Based Services program.

View a video of the event on our website www.aumhc.org/media

Randy’s Farewell Party

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate the retirement of Aurora Mental Health Center’s CEO, Dr. Randy Stith, and his 40 years of leadership and service in the mental health community. It was a night filled with friends, family, community, and colleagues sharing the milestones, accomplishments, and stories of Randy, as well as honoring his impact on so many lives. During a special moment in the evening, the board of directors officially declared the Center’s building at 791 Chambers to be named The Stith Center in honor of his legacy. The entire community of Aurora Mental Health Center thanks Randy for his many years of dedication and advocacy for mental health and sends their best wishes that he “live his retirement to the fullest!”

Stay connected
with Aurora Mental Health Center news and announcements by signing up for our e-newsletter at: www.aumhc.org/stay-connected/newsletters