

Scenes from the 2009 Mental Health Matters in the Workplace Conference



Ben Harrington presents Chris Martland from TEAM HEALTH the “*Mental Health Matters in the Workplace Award*.” TEAM HEALTH staffs emergency rooms across the country and was recognized for converting the MHA’s Mental Health Matters in the Workplace Toolkit into an employee “intranet” of online resources, screening tools, educational fact sheets and recovery tools.



Karen Queener, VP for Human Resources at Pellissippi State Community College accepts the “*Mental Health Matters in the Workplace Award*” presented by Ben Harrington, Executive Director of the Mental Health Association of East Tennessee. Pellissippi State, from senior leadership to front line employees, embraced the Mental Health Matters in the Workplace Program by involving department heads and supervisory staff in the conference for a number of years. Under Ms. Queener’s direction, Pellissippi State has also implemented a series of lunch and learn professional development opportunities for staff.



Managing and controlling stress through exercise is certainly something all can do. In the picture above, exercise physiologist, Karen Milligan, has audience members loosening neck and shoulder muscles. Don Strickland from Norfolk Southern is pictured second from the left.



Gregory Fisher, Director of Outreach Programs for AmeriChoice, shares his journey from onset of Bipolar disorder and alcohol abuse to recovery. Bipolar disorder affects 1.1% of the workforce in any given year yet bears greater costs than major depression (which is six times more prevalent) when not treated and well controlled. Seventy –six percent of those with bipolar disorder who had not reported an episode in the past two years were employed!



David Shern, PhD, President & CEO of Mental Health America, emphasizes to the audience that untreated or poorly treated mental illness in employees costs businesses dearly in direct and indirect costs.



A survey of Human Resource Directors reported that only 15% of employers train employees how to recognize mental health problems in employees and how to effectively deal with these issues in the workplace. Beth Goldman, MD, MPH, pictured above, with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, shared with participants her program training supervisors how to recognize depression and alcohol abuse in employees. She also teaches staff the techniques to motivate coworkers to get help.

Pictured at right, Seth Rakestraw (L) from Pfizer and Debby Lovin- Buuck (Center) enjoy Dr. Goldman's insights on how to recognize depression.



Some of the capacity crowd at the Mental Health Matters in the Workplace Conference enjoy a light moment.



Participants in the conference include L to R John West and Mike Southerland from Bradford Health (standing), Gregory Fisher & Kubra Snow from AmeriChoice and Edward Harper from Blount Memorial Hospital (seated).



Scenes From the 2008 Mental Health Matters in the Workplace Conference & CEO Breakfast



Ben Harrington provides CEOs an overview of the Mental Health Matters in the Workplace Program prior to introducing Christopher Kennedy Lawford.



Frances Fogerson, Phyllis Chambers, Pat Carson and Betty Penson share a moment at the break.



Christopher Kennedy Lawford answers a CEO's question at the CEO breakfast.



Mayor Ragsdale watches as **Christopher Kennedy Lawford** signs books he purchased by at the CEO breakfast.



Some of the capacity crowd at the Mental Health Matters in the Workplace Conference.



Christopher Kennedy Lawford emphasizes a point at the Mental Health Matters in the Workplace Conference.



Allen Edwards, President of Pellissippi State, meets **Christopher Kennedy Lawford.**

Christopher Kennedy Lawford's participation in the conference would not have been possible without the generous support of Cornerstone of Recovery & CEO Dan Caldwell, pictured far right, below with colleagues John West, Mike Southerland and Angie McCord from Bradford Health Services.



Harrington & Lawford are pictured below with former MHAET board president and the CEO of Denark Construction Frank Rothermel and board member Diana Seaver.



Christopher Kennedy Lawford meets MHAET Board President Keith Richardson, who works at HUD.



Carol Huffaker from the Cariten affiliate of Humana and Suzanne Rose from Landmark International Trucking



Dayle Hoffman enjoys conversation during the break above, while below, Dave Brundage asks Chris Lawford a question from the floor.



Clare Miller from the Partnership for Workplace Mental Health catches up with Christopher Kennedy Lawford.

Pictures courtesy of MHAET board member Jack Williams. Thanks Jack!