Helping Churches Support Individuals and Families Affected by Mental Illness

The Mental Health Liaison and The First Year of Mental Health Ministry

Catherine Boyle
Key Ministry - Mental Health Ministry Director
Objectives and Assumptions

• **Objective**  Walk through what the first year of Mental Health Ministry might look like at your church

• **Assumption**  The pastoral staff supports launching mental health ministry

• **Assumption**  Church leadership has obtained any approvals needed to launch mental health ministry

• **Assumption**  The Mental Health Liaison is in place
Mental Health Liaison’s Role
The First 90 Days

• With staff and lay leadership, create the ministry plan

• Make contacts within church community to gain support for mental health ministry

• Make contacts within mental health community (local/state government, non-profits, medical professionals) to determine community resources and community mental health needs

• Determine unmet mental health needs in your church and community. Church needs assessment survey

• Address objections to mental health ministry
Mental Health Liaison’s Role - After The First 90 Days

- Maintain current information on community mental health resources
- Prioritize and oversee implementation of mental health ministry plan
- Recruit volunteers for mental health initiatives
- Coordinate mental health training
- Point person for mental health requests and objections
- Measure results and refine the ministry plan

*Cultural change vs “just another program”*
Mental Health Ministry Plan Components

- Care/Prayer Team
- Church and community needs
- Communications
- Small group ministry
- Training

*Take care of prayer and tangible needs first*
Liaison’s Typical Week

• From Pastor Two mental health referrals
• Small group leaders Meeting about mental health needs. Training scheduled
• Local mental health board Meeting scheduled with peer support team
• Church mental health survey Liaison reviews results, drafts ideas and questions for church leadership board meeting
• Visiting family, includes youth with high functioning autism Liaison gives Thursday evening tour of the facility and information about youth ministry supports
• Social media updates Mental health ministry success testimony
Addressing Objections

• Understand the source - often fear
• Answer factually about mental illness
• Scripture support, historical figures
• Value the dignity and image of God in every person
• Demonstrate the positive impact of mental health ministry on your church and community

Mental health issues are part of the human condition
Connect with Key Ministry

- www.keyministry.org
- Twitter: @KeyMinistry
- www.facebook.com/keyministry
- www.keyministry.org/contact/
Stay in Touch!

Key Ministry Website: http://www.keyministry.org

Church4EveryChild…Key Ministry Blog: http://www.church4everychild.org

http://www.facebook.com/keyministry

http://www.pinterest.com/keyministry/

http://twitter.com/#!/drgrcevich
http://twitter.com/#!/KeyMinistry