

Behavioral Health 2015-2016 Key Accomplishments

- Continued to add Advanced Practitioners to the Department of Psychiatry. Allowed for additional outpatient time as well as extended reach in our long term care communities.
- Implemented an integrated BH/PCP model. Behavioral Health Specialists, LCSW, provide immediate, brief interventions in the physician offices. Started in Bethlehem in 4 practices now expanding to several more. Reduction in ED utilization, improved PHQ 9 scores as well as improved prescribing practices through concierge psychiatry was accomplished.
- Telepsychiatry links established internally to improve access for 2nd opinions within our network.
- Established groundwork for “grow our own” advanced practitioners with DeSales University. Current, employed SLUHN nurses will track through the program which will offer additional financial support for continued employment post advanced degrees.
- Groundwork established to restart ECT. This will be a valuable modality for individuals with severe depression, especially older adults.
- Piloted a mindfulness program for our employees to assess import for future programs. Feedback was extremely positive and will continue to be expanded for our own employee wellness program.