

Kate B Reynolds Grant

Integrated Health Care



Right to left:

Donna Holloman, Women's Health Supervisor – Johnston County Health Dept.

Shannon O'Neal, Behavioral Health Counselor- Johnston County Mental Health Center

Sherry Creech, Primary Care Supervisor – Johnston County Health Dept.

Johnston County Mental Health Center has received a grant from the Kate B Reynolds Charitable Trust to implement an “integrated care” model of service at the Johnston County Health Department. This grant for \$263,230 over a two year period will allow for a Mental Health Center clinician to provide depression and substance use screening, assessment and brief treatment in the Health Department’s Primary Care and Women’s Health Clinics.

Integrated Care is a model in which mental health care and primary care are provided in the same location with providers working collaboratively on the patient’s treatment. Recent studies show an increased incidence of mental health symptoms in those with physical health concerns. Integration of care promotes identification and coordinated treatment of physical and mental health conditions.

“Integrated treatment allows patients to get the care they need in one setting, in one visit. That in itself is a big positive” states Dr. Marilyn Pearson, Johnston County Health Department Director.

Medical practices treat a significant number of people for depression or other mental health issues, many of whom do not seek specialized mental health services. Untreated depression affects physical health, management of chronic disease, pregnancy and early parenting. Early detection of substance use allows intervention before significant health and psychosocial damage occurs. Providing behavioral health services at the Health

Department allows identification and intervention with individuals who might not otherwise have obtained treatment.

The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust was established in 1947 and is now one of the largest private trusts in North Carolina. Its mission is to improve the quality of life and quality of health for the financially needy of North Carolina. The Health Care Division promotes wellness state-wide by investing in prevention and treatment. The Poor and Needy Division of the Trust responds to basic life needs and invest in solutions that improve the quality of life and health for financially needy residents of Forsyth County. Wachovia, a Wells Fargo Company, serves as sole trustee.

The mission of Johnston County Mental Health Center is to ensure that quality services and supports are available to consumers and families with mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse problems or needs. Working with the Johnston County Health Department on this grant goes to Johnston County Government's mission to enhance the quality of life in the community by County agencies to provide responsive, efficient and innovative services.