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NHS Dual Diagnosis Treatment Team Receives Full Accreditation from NADD
Years of preparation and data collection results in prominent certification of a model that supports dually diagnosed individuals

MONTGOMERY COUNTY – [NHS](#), one of the nation’s leading providers of education and human services, announces it has received full accreditation from NADD, an association for persons with Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health needs, for their Dual Diagnosis Treatment Team (DDTT) model in NHS Allegheny Center in Pittsburgh PA, NHS Schuylkill Mountain Center in Pottsville PA, and NHS High Point Center in Dubois PA. These three teams cover 24 counties in the Commonwealth.

DDTT is comprised of a specialized mobile team of professionals including a psychiatrist, a behavioral specialist, recovery coordinators, a nurse, and a pharmacist consultant, providing treatment, support, and education for individuals in the community diagnosed with a mental illness and co-morbidity development disability. Individuals referred to DDTT are in crisis, at risk of losing community tenure, and/or are transitioning from acute care hospitalization.

The NADD Accreditation Program was developed to improve the quality and effectiveness of services provided to individuals with a dual diagnosis of an intellectual and developmental disability and mental illness by developing competency-based professional standards and by promoting ongoing professional and program development. After five years of preparation by the NHS DDTT Steering Committee and the DDTT professional staff, NADD surveyors were impressed with the level of organizational detail and documentation provided during the accreditation reviews. The primary surveyor, John J. McGonigle, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Rehabilitation Science and Technology at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC in Pittsburgh, PA, and NADD Board Member, stated, “the NHS DDTT programs are excellent and well run. Review of a number of the psychiatric evaluations and interviews with team members under the direction of the attending psychiatrists indicate they do an excellent job in providing accurate and differential diagnoses (medical and psychiatric). Overall strengths of the DDTT programs at NHS are the dedicated commitment to the dually diagnosed population, support from leadership and from all levels of staff, development of comprehensive treatment plans, and the generalization and staff training for individuals with complex needs.”

The Accreditation survey consisted of face-to-face interviews with staff and program participants, record reviews and policy and procedure reviews. Additional strengths noted in the survey report include: organizational commitment from the top NHS administrators to clinical services in support of the DDTT model, a holistic approach when formulating psychiatric diagnoses, clearly observable high staff morale, excellent collaboration between and among team members, and excellent feedback from consumers, stakeholders, and partnering agencies.

About NHS

[NHS](#), through its subsidiaries, is one of the nation's leading non-profit providers of community-based education and human services. With nationally recognized programs in multiple states, NHS offers a full range of integrated services to children and adults in the areas of behavioral health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and education and autism.

About NADD

NADD is a not-for-profit membership association established for professionals, care providers and families to promote understanding of and services for individuals who have developmental disabilities and mental health needs. The mission of NADD is to advance mental wellness for persons with developmental disabilities through the promotion of excellence in mental health care. NADD is recognized as the world's leading organization in providing educational services, training materials and conferences. NADD has been influential in the development of appropriate community based policies, programs and opportunities in addressing the mental health needs of persons with IDD.

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