



**THE GUIDANCE CENTER**

*Mental Health Services for Southern NJ*

*Best Wishes for 2022!*

# THE GUIDE

INFORMATION ABOUT SERVICES, PROGRAMS, EDUCATION, AND ADVOCACY

DECEMBER 2021

## The Guidance Center announces its new executive director, Elizabeth Meenan, MS, M.Phil

The board of trustees is pleased to announce that Elizabeth Meenan, MS, M.Phil, has been named the new executive director of The Guidance Center (TGC), succeeding Dieter Hovermann, who will retire on December 31, 2021, after 50 years of service.

Elizabeth came to The Guidance Center with 16 years of experience in mental health programs and services from Acenda Integrated Health, Inc., formerly Cape Counseling Services, Cape May County, NJ. She has served as performance and compliance director and then as COO at TGC since April 2021.

"In a short time, Liz Meenan has proven to be a passionate human service leader," announced Ed Bowman, president. "After an extensive interview process of many qualified professionals, our board and executive staff found Liz to be best qualified to positively impact the growth of our agency that will ultimately benefit all those we serve."

As the new executive director, Liz will oversee the day-to-day operations of The Guidance Center including its eleven mental health specific programs. She will work with the agency's board of trustees to fulfill the organization's mission and execute its strategic plan. Liz will also advocate on behalf of

the vulnerable. Other responsibilities will include maintaining the agency's positive image in the community; helping attract, retain, develop and lead employees of the organization; ensure commitment to an inclusive work environment and effective workspace; oversee program directors to ensure competence and diversity of staff; manage programs within budget levels; and participate in community task forces and inter-agency collaborative efforts relative to the work of TGC.

"While this list of responsibilities is extensive, we are confident in Liz Meenan's capabilities," adds Bowman. "Her past experiences combined with her proven leadership in clinical, operational, and fiscal areas gives us great confidence for the continued success of our agency."

Elizabeth Meenan holds two master's degrees — a Master of Science in Human Services from Capella University and a Master of Philosophy, Human Services, from Walden University, both located in Minneapolis, MN. She will be receiving her PhD in Human Services from Walden University, anticipated in 2022. She has received awards for both Best Practice Case Management (2018 and 2014) and Best Practice Adult Partial Care (2017) from the national Mental Health Corporation of America.



**Elizabeth Meenan**  
MS, M.Phil

## Farewell to our longtime leader, Dieter Hovermann



**H. Dieter Hovermann**  
Executive Director

It is with great admiration, respect, and gratitude that we, the board of trustees and staff of The Guidance Center, bid farewell and offer best wishes to Dieter Hovermann, executive director, as he retires at the end of December 2021. Dieter has served here for 50 years with vision, dedication and compassion.

Dieter is the second executive director of the center, having succeeded Edwin Cooke in 1979.

During his lifetime of service, Dieter Hovermann led the agency through difficult times in the late 1970s and early 1980s, helping to secure federal grants to continue its nationally recognized mental health programs and initiate new services. During this time, The Guidance Center added programs such as Liaison Case Management, the Residential Program, and the Sexual Assault Program, along with Outpatient Satellite Centers and a Youth Shelter.

In 1982, the Center received the newly instituted New Jersey Block Grant Funds from the Division of Mental Health and Hospitals. Dieter was an integral part of the leadership team that secured this funding which was crucial to the sustainability and growth of The Guidance Center.

In the late 1980s and into the '90s, the Family Preservation Program, a program for Homeless Mentally Ill and the Adult Protective Services program were added.

In the 1990s, The Guidance Center, with Dieter Hovermann at the helm, continued to grow. Improvements were made to buildings to increase programs and services. The Adult Partial Day Program, community residences, a Supported Employment Service, a PACT (Program of Assertive Community Treatment) team, Intensive Family

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## Farewell to Dieter Hovermann Continued from page 1

Support Services, Integrated Case Management Services, and Supported Housing were all added to the list of programs. In year 2000 and beyond, Residences expanded by 20 beds, the PACT program expanded into Salem County, and there was significant expansion in the Crisis Program.

From year 2000 to the present, Dieter has held the leadership role in securing funding, modifying and updating programs, overseeing a large staff of professionals, and working the day-to-day operations of The Guidance Center — all while continually expanding the scope of mental health services to the benefit of our community.



**2016** Board president Jay Einstein (left) recognized Dieter Hovermann for 45 years of dedicated service as executive director of The Guidance Center.

The Guidance Center has grown from modest beginnings to the leading mental health agency serving the greater Cumberland County area — thanks to Dieter Hovermann's professional and compassionate leadership.

"Dieter Hovermann is an icon in the mental health community in southern New Jersey," notes Larry Pepper, Guidance Center trustee, who has served with Hovermann for nearly 50 years. "Thanks to him, countless individuals and families received the professional, compassionate help they needed that gave them a better life."

*Dieter, we wish you many years of good health and happiness for the future and we are thankful beyond measure for all that you've given to The Guidance Center and our community.*



**Thursday, Oct. 11, 1979**

**NEW DIRECTOR** — Lawrence Pepper, Jr., left, president of the Cumberland County Guidance Center Board of Trustees, and Harry Freitag, right, freeholder member of the board, congratulate H. Dieter Hovermann, who was named the center's new director Wednesday. Hovermann, former coordinator for the center's transitional program, has served as acting director since June when director Edwin W. Cooke resigned.



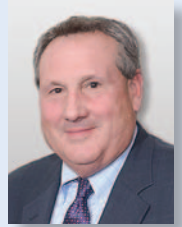
**2012** Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of The Guidance Center. Dieter Hovermann, second right, organized a special awards banquet to honor the agency's founder, longtime trustees and past officers. The Honorable Judge Philip Gruccio received a certificate of recognition as one of the organization's founders. Left to right: Lawrence A. Pepper, Jr., trustee and past president; Jose Rivera, trustee and past president; Mary Ella Morie, past trustee and past president; M. Jay Einstein, trustee and past president; Judge Philip Gruccio, original incorporation signer and past president; Robin Daplyn, board trustee; Hovermann; and Senator Jim Hurley, trustee.



**2014** Dieter Hovermann, executive director, right, and M. Jay Einstein, board of trustees president of The Guidance Center, presented Dr. Thomas Isekenegbe, president of Cumberland County College, with a certificate of recognition for being named the agency's first annual Mental Health Distinguished Community Leader.

## Message from the President

**Edward Bowman, Esq.**



2021 has been a year of transition at The Guidance Center. While we continue to work hard to find ways to deliver our services to those in need of mental health care amid the challenges of COVID-19, 2021 has seen a slow return to the new normal Fee for Services created just before the onset of the pandemic. Through all of the challenges of the last several years, we have had wise and steady leadership. I thank our leadership team for their expertise in guiding us through one of the most challenging periods in The Guidance Center's history.

For a half century, Dieter Hovermann has stewarded The Guidance Center from its infancy to its position today as the preeminent behavioral health agency in Cumberland County. It is no exaggeration to say that without Dieter, there would be no Guidance Center. Dieter's retirement at the end of the year will be difficult to overcome. I often joke that when Dieter is in the office he could be negotiating a fine point of regulatory interpretation with DMHAS one minute and changing a light bulb the next. Although it is impossible for us to put into words what Dieter has done for the success of The Guidance Center, we thank him for his incredible dedication and wish him the best in his retirement.

For the last decade, CFO Dave Bartels has applied his considerable skill and experience in corporate finance to The Guidance Center. As a direct result of his efforts, The Guidance Center is financially sound and positioned to not only survive these turbulent times, but to grow and prosper into the future. Dave will also be retiring at the end of the year.

Dieter and Dave worked hard to leave The Guidance Center with a strong financial foundation. Their retirement combined with the retirement of Dr. Josephine White in 2020 represents the end of an era for us. The Board will miss them greatly as they are not only consummate professionals, but also wonderful people. As we build The Guidance Center of the future, we will not forget their legacy.

As saddened as we are by Dieter's departure, the Board is excited to have Liz Meenan assume the role of executive director. We were fortunate to have

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## Elizabeth Woods named new clinical director for The Guidance Center

The board of trustees of The Guidance Center is pleased to announce that Elizabeth Woods, LCSW, has been named to the position of clinical director for the agency.

Elizabeth has been the recovery administrator for TGC since December 2020. Prior to this position, she was the manager of Adult Partial Care for Acenda Integrated Health, Inc., formerly Cape Counseling Services, Cape May County, NJ.



Elizabeth Woods  
LCSW

"Elizabeth has extensive experience in all fields of mental health," announced Ed Bowman, president of The Guidance Center. "As the new clinical director she will oversee all of the agency's programs, services and providers, assuring quality care as top priority."

Woods has a master's degree in social work from New York University (MSW), and is a licensed social worker (LCSW). Her background includes managing residential services, outpatient therapist, and quality improvement/staff development coordinator, among many others.

"We are confident that Elizabeth can handle any challenge put before her," continued Bowman. "Her knowledge of mental health and compassion for others makes her an excellent choice to fulfill the needs of our agency."

***Congratulations, Elizabeth Woods, and best wishes in your new position at The Guidance Center.***

## Congratulations, Vera Igumnova!

The Guidance Center is proud to congratulate Vera Igumnova, ICMS (Integrated Case Management Services) Case Manager, for receiving an award from the New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies (NJAMHAA). Vera was selected and received an **ICMS Case Manager Award** during the ICMS Conference, *Delivering Hope Post-Pandemic*, which was held virtually November 19, 2021.

Vera was recognized for the quality of service she provides at TGC and her dedication to and compassion for the individuals and families in our community with mental health needs.

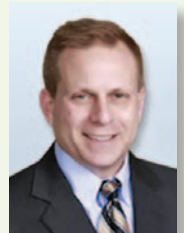
*Dieter Hovermann, TGC executive director, congratulates Vera Igumnova on her award and thanks her for dedication to the agency and the people she serves.*



## The Guidance Center welcomes new medical director David Harrison, DO

The board of trustees and executive staff of The Guidance Center (TGC) are pleased to welcome David Harrison, DO, New Jersey licensed and board-certified psychiatrist, as medical director for the agency.

Dr. Harrison has more than 25 years' experience in the areas of community mental health, psychiatric screening services, substance abuse rehabilitation services, and military (including VA) services, as well as administrative services.



David Harrison, DO

"We are extremely pleased to welcome Dr. David Harrison as the new medical director for The Guidance Center," announced Ed Bowman, president. "Dr. Harrison is extremely qualified and offers a wealth of knowledge gained through years of experience."

Coming to TGC from Acenda Integrated Health, Inc., formerly Cape Counseling Services, Cape May County, NJ, Dr. Harrison also served as chief of psychiatry for the United States Coast Guard in Cape May for nearly 20 years, and is the founder/sole proprietor of Advanced Behavioral Counseling Services, LLC.

Prior to these positions, Dr. Harrison was assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Medicine (UMDNJ-SOM) in Cherry Hill, NJ.

He received his doctorate from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia, PA, and did residencies at both Norristown State Hospital in Norristown, PA, and UMDNJ-SOM, in Cherry Hill, NJ.

"Dr. Harrison has extensive experience in mental health care that will greatly enhance services here at The Guidance Center," Bowman continued. "I welcome him on behalf of the board of trustees, staff, and most importantly the greater Cumberland County community."

Dr. Harrison began service at The Guidance Center in Nov. 2021.



**THE GUIDANCE CENTER**

## PROGRAM UPDATES

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Guidance Center made every effort to continue to provide quality services to the community while prioritizing the health and safety of our staff and stakeholders. During this time, we are pleased to say that we have been able to continue to demonstrate commitment to our mission through our ability to pivot into the provision of Telehealth services.

- Our Outpatient therapy and psychiatry services and Adult Partial Care Services (APC) continue to provide exclusive Telehealth services while other program lines such as Case Management Services, Supportive Employment, Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT), Intensive Family Support Services (IFSS), and Crisis provide a hybrid of Telehealth as well as traditional face-to-face service delivery.
- The Guidance Center's dedicated Residence Program continues to provide 24-hour on-site service as it has throughout the pandemic. As we increased Telehealth services, we experienced an increase in kept appointments for our Outpatient Programs, which can be attributed to the ease of access to services through this platform.

*We could not be prouder of our staff for their continued dedication and clear passion for serving our populations during these turbulent times. We are looking forward to seeing our programs continue to thrive and grow in 2022.*

# THANK YOU, SPONSORS

## of The Guidance Center 2021 Golf Tournament

*that benefits mental health assistance and educational programs.*

The Guidance Center is greatly appreciative of your generous support!

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## ***The Guidance Center thanks its donors who contributed in 2021.***

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## **2021 Employee Service Awards**

*Congratulations and thank you for  
your years of dedicated service.*

### **50 Years**

Dieter Hovermann

### **35 Years**

Elizabeth Stuart

### **20 Years**

Sheri Restuccio

### **15 Years**

Tino Coursey • James Mabry  
Georgia Wettstein

### **10 Years**

Vera Igumnova • George LoBiondo  
Norma Ruef • Kathleen Vaughn

### **5 Years**

Kenya Durham • Lynn Harris  
Tara Nardi • Osungbemi Osunniyi  
Mary Ann Pettit • Jennifer Phillips  
Kenneth Todd

## ***Message from the President***

*Continued from page 2*

Liz join us earlier in 2021. She made an immediate impact on The Guidance Center and is in the process of putting together a new leadership team that includes clinical director Elizabeth Woods, LCSW, and medical director David Harrison, DO.

We thank Dr. Alexander Kwon, our former medical director, for his commitment to his patients and service to The Guidance Center and we look forward to working with Dr. Harrison.

Our leadership team is just a small part of our success. The Guidance Center's dedicated team of mental health professionals and staff work tirelessly to help those who often have nowhere else to turn. They perform miracles daily, hidden from public view. They are the reason The Guidance Center will remain strong, independent and the best Behavioral Health Agency in our region.

## ***As we reach the end of year 2021... Please help support us.***

*The Guidance Center constantly faces economic challenges. We are so grateful for the support that members of the community have given to help us continue to provide quality mental health services to those in need.*

*The Guidance Center is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.  
Your donations are tax deductible.*

### ***Use the enclosed envelope to make a donation for 2021.***

*If you are interested in making a larger or sustaining donation, sponsoring a program, or offering an endowment or bequest, please contact Mary Ann Pettit at (856) 825-6810, ext. 204, or e-mail mpettit@ccgcnj.org.*



*Special thanks to Newfield National Bank  
for their continued support for  
community events at The Guidance Center.  
These events create awareness and  
benefit individuals and families with  
mental health needs.*





## THE GUIDANCE CENTER

*Mental Health Services for Southern NJ*

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## **The Guidance Center congratulates first-place golf tournament winners**



Ed Bowman, president of The Guidance Center (right), congratulates first place winners of the Center's 9th annual golf tournament fundraiser held on July 14, 2021, at Running Deer Golf Club. Members of the winning team include (left to right): Sean Tucker, John Wildman, Brian Ehresman, and John Ehresman. The team was sponsored by Brown & Brown Insurance of Lehigh Valley. Proceeds from the golf tournament help support mental health initiatives that benefit individuals and families in the greater Cumberland County area. The golf event was sponsored by Newfield National Bank.

## **Mental Health Training Classes to return in 2022**

*Educational workshops and classes for mental health professionals are scheduled to resume in the latter half of 2022.*

The on-site educational training programs were cancelled in 2020-21 out of an abundance of caution during the COVID-19 pandemic. These classes qualify for LPC and LCSW Continuing Education credits. Please keep an eye on The Guidance Center website, [ccgcnj.org](http://ccgcnj.org), under "Education" for updates.



## THE GUIDANCE CENTER

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**Crisis Hotline: (856) 455-5555**

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