

DAILY TIMES

TODAY'S WEATHER
High: 55
Low: 27
» PAGE 10

Thursday, February 13, 2025

\$2.95 [FACEBOOK.COM/DELCODAILYTIMES](https://facebook.com/delcodailytimes)

MediaNews Group

delcotimes.com



Brian Corson, founder and CEO of MVP Recovery, with Stacie Nawn, MVP executive director, outside the treatment center's 24-hour location at 2200 Providence Ave. in Chester

MVP Recovery continues to expand its substance abuse and behavioral health services

>> PAGE 3

BREAKING BARRIERS

MVP RECOVERY

Networking, partnering, reaching more people in their hour of need

One partner, DA's office, applauds success

By Kathleen E. Carey
kcarey@delcotimes.com

A homegrown recovery program has expanded to a variety of initiatives to address substance abuse and mental health with a variety of partners to help those in Delaware County who need it.

Through all of its programs last year, MVP Recovery had 3,018 total engagements with 2,520 people being linked to treatment for an 83% success rate.

And, all of these programs are accessible through one phone number — 855-MVP(687)-2410 — 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“Someone makes a phone call and within an hour, we have them in the treatment that they need,” Brian Corson, founder and CEO of MVP Recovery, said.

One of the initiatives is the Opioid Treatment and Recovery Center founded through a \$861,640 distribution from Delaware County Council from the Opioid Settlement Funds.

Delaware County is set to receive nearly \$64 million over an 18-year period through settlements made with the manufacturers and distributors of opioids. In 2022, the first round of funding was accepted.

MVP Recovery spent its allo-

cation to open the OTR center in January 2024. In six months, it served 101 people.

“When Crozer closed, they operated the last outpatient opioid treatment center this side of Delaware County,” Corson explained. “There’s two in Lansdowne. None on this side ... We knew it was needed. We absolutely knew it was needed.”

He said MVP saw the gap and approached county leaders, who approved the opioid settlement funding for MVP to open the facility.

Stacie Nawn, MVP Recovery executive director, explained that Crozer’s program had been at the old Community Hospital in Chester before being moved to Crozer-Chester Medical Center, where it was discontinued in 2022.

She said at that time, Crozer was caring for 150 people in that program and there was another provider in the city who was servicing another 225. That provider has since moved elsewhere.

Nawn shared some of the obstacles facing those in that part of the county to getting treatment.

“Somebody traveling from any part of this side of the county to get public transportation, possibly every day, it’s a huge amount of time,” she said.



Brian Corson, founder and CEO of MVP Recovery, with Stacie Nawn, MVP executive director, outside the treatment center’s 24-hour location at 2200 Providence Ave. in Chester.

“And,” Corson added, “then you expect individuals to participate in recovery and get to work and take care of your kids and sit on a bus for a couple of hours a day.”

That’s why they wanted to open the MVP Recovery Center at 2200 Providence Ave. in Chester. Like the phone service, the center is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

“We’ve gotten so much positive feedback from the community and from the patients who come here,” Corson said, sharing that 49% are city residents and 51% are from neighboring communities.

Nawn spoke about MVP’s services.

“Being integrated, we’re really able to offer all forms of (medi-



PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN E. CAREY — DAILY TIMES

Just up the street from the STAR Center at 2200 Providence Ave., MVP Recovery has another location for overflow when demand for their services is high.



MVP Recovery’s STAR Center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week for those seeking substance abuse or mental health assistance.

cation-assisted treatment),” she said. “It’s the same psychiatrist, so if methadone isn’t working, let’s consider suboxone or Vivitrol or vice versa. There’s so many options for somebody that’s accessing treatment at this site.”

Corson thanked county officials for their support.

“I can’t say enough about the leadership of the county: county council, the district attorney’s office and the Department of Human Services,” he said. “Often times, they’re the unsung heroes that are working with us in ob-

Need

FROM PAGE 3

taining this funding and working these grants”

Also, in June, MVP opened the region's first 24/7 behavioral health urgent care with its STAR (Stabilization-Triage-Assessment-Referral) Center.

In the first six months of the program, it has had 160 engagements. Of those, 148, or 93%, were linked to treatment.

The 24-hour component is also key.

“If someone is seeking help, they need help,” Corson said. “The STAR center is a proactive approach where we can work with somebody when the red flags start and get them stabilized on medication, in therapy. Why wait until they're a danger to themselves or someone else?”

Corson said 31% of these patients in the first six months were unhouseholded individuals.

“They rang our bell, we let them in,” he said. “We got them into treatment”

Seventy-one percent of the STAR clients are from after hours, highlighting the necessity for a 24-hour operation.

He explained that before the center opened, someone would need to get cleared by medical staff to be admitted into treatment.

“Now with the STAR center, with us having nursing staff on 24/7, they do the assessment,” he

said. “We can get it done in 20 minutes and get them the help they need and we can help the hospital alleviate that.”

MVP performed a cost analysis and determined that the savings realized from diverting patients from hospital over the past six months alone has saved \$192,000.

At the center, there are recliners and snacks and a peer or certified recovery specialist sits with someone while they're there.

“This is who we serve. There's no stigma associated with it,” Corson said. “You don't have to be embarrassed. This is what we do. If you walk in here, this is what we expect.”

The county initiative

Both Nawn and Corson said it is making a huge impact on those people in need.

“It's so critical to help somebody in that time that they reach out for help,” Corson said. “Working with the county to remove these barriers is saving lives.”

The Delaware County Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative is a district attorney-directed program that works with police departments to divert people with a substance abuse disorder from the criminal justice system into treatment.

Last year alone, the program saw 92 participants.

“I am immensely proud of the success of the Delaware County LETI program,” Delaware County District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer said. “My team, including

the folks at MVP Recovery, have created the most successful law enforcement treatment program in Pennsylvania; we are in fact a model for other counties.”

He credited leadership in his office with helping to realize the success LETI has had.

“Under the leadership of Deputy District Attorney Salena Jones, we are giving people suffering from substance use a chance to find recovery and redemption right here in our community,” Stollsteimer continued.

Corson also thanked the DA's staff for their role in the program as well as the 14 police departments involved last year.

Those were Prospect Park, Chester, Ridley Park, Folcroft, Morton, Sharon Hill, Swarthmore, East Lansdowne, Upland and Ridley, Radnor, Springfield, Aston and Marple-Newtown townships.

“The passion of the police officers using this program has been absolutely amazing,” Corson said, adding that the community-policing model really helps individuals get the help they need.

He said that the initiative has been spearheaded by Cpl. Leo Doyle of the Ridley Park police, who was the first person in the county to utilize it and who promotes it.

Warm Hand Off Program

The Warm Hand Off Program allows hospitals, businesses and anyone in the community to call MVP Recovery for anyone needing support with substance abuse or mental health issues.

“It was averaging 40 people a month,” Corson said. Now, we're at 140-150 a month. Our totals for 2024 was we had 1,755 engagements. We placed 1,513 into treatment with an 86% success rate”

He said the success of this program is MVP's certified recovery specialist team.

“It's great to talk to a doctor,” Corson said. “It's great to talk to a licensed counselor but when you're talking to a peer that's a couple years in recovery, that says, ‘I was where you are just a couple years ago’ that's so powerful.”

He shared the message they give: “I did it you can do it. Take my hand, walk with me.”

Corson said, “It's not somebody talking to, it's somebody walking with.”



KATHLEEN E. CAREY — DAILY TIMES

Brian Corson, CEO/founder of MVP Recovery, speaks in February 2024 of how the Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative is working in Delaware County with law enforcement partners and the Delaware County District Attorney's office. With him, from left, is then-Pennsylvania Attorney General Michelle Henry, Delaware County Council Chair Dr. Monica Taylor and Delaware County District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer.

This program started as a hospital-based program only and it's now opened up to the entire community with 917 of the 1,755 calls last year coming straight from the community.

“It is open to any Delaware County resident,” Corson said.

Program for youths

And, now, started three months ago, there's an adolescent warm hand off program called ConnectED, geared for schools and parents.

“Now, if a parent wants to get their kid some help, whether it's mental health, whether it's substance abuse, they can call us,” Corson explained.

Something MVP has learned is that the waiting list for kids on state insurance is months.

“What's the point of taking that phone call if you can't get them help in real time?” Corson said. “It has to be then when someone reaches out.”

'Just make a difference'

MVP Recovery's reach has also since gone beyond Delaware County. In mid-2023, it opened facilities in West Chester and Exton. Three years ago, MVP opened Sober Living in Phoenixville.

Corson said the success of their program is removing barriers.

“If a person calls and says, ‘I don't have insurance.’ We get them insurance. A person calls and says, ‘I don't have transportation.’ We get them transporta-

tion. Those were the main barriers before,” he explained.

With county leadership, Nawn said they work to continue to look for barriers and solutions to those.

“Where are the gaps? What are the barriers? How do we do something unique and different to really serve the community?” she said they consistently ask themselves. “At every turn, we get the support. It triples the effects of just helping individuals that need it and trying to reduce those barriers.”

She said the multi-disciplinary staff at MVP Recovery includes physicians, licensed therapists, and certified peer and certified recovery specialists.

“All those different dynamics, we're able to really help align ourselves with and meet the person where they're at to get those needs,” she said. “If they come in, we're able to meet them where they're at and really work with them to achieve an overall healthier holistic approach to life.”

Corson said it's all about helping those who need help.

“Our No. 1 goal is awareness and education for all Delaware County residents,” he said. “It's of no charge to them and it's to serve them. And, it's not only Delaware County residents but Delaware County agencies. We're here to help the hospitals. Businesses can call. Anyone. We're here to just make a difference in Delaware County.”



COURTESY OF THE DELAWARE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Delaware County Deputy District Attorney Salena Jones gives a Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative training.