

Student Training at Pavillon

by John Roberts, MD

Pavillon Medical Director

As the Medical Director and Psychiatrist at Pavillon, I am excited about our expanding training opportunities for medical students and physician residents. Substance use disorder education and training have been sorely lacking in most medical universities. The University Of South Carolina School Of Medicine Greenville, a new medical school located in the heart of the Greenville Hospital System, has been very proactive in addressing this issue. Pavillon has been selected as their primary training location for substance use disorder education.

In my role as a clinical assistant professor, I have been giving monthly lectures to medical students while they complete their psychiatry rotation as well as presenting at grand rounds. Second year psychiatry residents from Greenville's new psychiatry residency training program have been rotating for 8 weeks between our Mill Spring residential campus and our Greenville outpatient location. This is a very rare opportunity for residents to be able to spend several weeks in a residential setting where they can be fully immersed in a 12 step, spiritually based treatment model that also addresses co-occurring psychiatric and substance use disorders.

As one of the few treatment programs in the country that specializes in the treatment of medical professionals, psychiatric residents are able to appreciate how addiction is a true medical disease that can affect anyone at any time. This experience has been invaluable in erasing the stigma that can surround our patients. Unfortunately, most trainees only get to see our clients when in crisis or hitting their bottom. Spending several weeks at Pavillon allows the residents to observe the awakening that occurs in our clients over a 6-12 week period. By interacting with our recovering staff as well as long term alumni, they are able to witness what healthy recovery looks like and observe the promises associated with working a 12 step program.

One resident commented that the 12 steps are a great solution for any problem and presented a seminar on the use of the 12 steps in the general population. I am very appreciative of Pavillon's support in furthering the education of our future medical providers and look forward to continuing our partnership with the USC School of Medicine Greenville as we confront the stigma of addiction in the medical population.