



CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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*The Public and Community Psychiatry  
Fellowship at Case Western Reserve  
University School of Medicine*

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## **Mission Statement**

*“To develop the clinical, management and administrative skills necessary to be effective leaders in public and community mental health settings”*

## **Background**

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Since the mid-1990’s, Ohio has used a model of resident education, called the Psychiatric-Academic Liaison Model, whereby university faculty members are placed at agencies in the surrounding community, acting as both clinicians and resident educators. The Department of Psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in Cleveland, which originally developed this model, has also been among the most successful of these affiliations, placing a heavy emphasis on Community and Public Psychiatry in its training curriculum and establishing a strong connection with a unique network of more than 20 community mental health agencies throughout Cuyahoga County.



Emergency Shelter for Disabled Men



MHS Homeless Outreach Team

The success CWRU has had in training and recruiting psychiatrists into public and community mental health settings led to the development of other programs. CWRU now hosts the “All-Ohio Institute on Community Psychiatry,” a biennial mental health conference attracting more than 500 mental health professionals to learn about research and implementation methods for community mental health populations, and to establish a dialogue in helping to move their own agencies toward evidence-based, patient-centered care. Separately, in 1999, as part of a determined effort to transform the system of community mental health care into one that is consumer-centered and recovery oriented, the Ohio Department of Mental Health established Coordinating Centers of Excellence (CCOE) at academic centers throughout the state. These centers were charged with the mission of broadly disseminating evidence-based practices in public psychiatry. The result has been a significant upsurge in the adoption and implementation of such evidence-based practices at community mental health agencies throughout Ohio. CWRU, which is home to the CCOEs for Supported Employment and Integrated Dual Diagnosis Treatment, has played a major role in disseminating these practices not only to surrounding counties, but throughout the state and beyond.

All these developments have worked to make CWRU both a clinical and academic leader in the region, resulting in the establishment of a Public Psychiatry Fellowship in

2000. In 2008, the fellowship program evolved and has taken new direction under the leadership of Patrick Runnels, MD who, having trained at the nationally acclaimed Columbia University Public Psychiatry Fellowship has based the CWRU program on standards published by the Columbia program and expanded by the American Association of Community Psychiatrists.

## ***Program Description***

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The fellowship is a one-year training program during which fellows spend up to four and a half days per week at one or more public/community settings and one half day per week in didactics.

### **Field Placement Sites**

The core clinical and administrative experience of the fellowship is delivered through the field placement site. Up to four and a half days per week will be designated as clinical time, which may be split among multiple sites. Additionally, fellows designate a primary site where they will devote a half day to program development and/or administrative work. To help in this work, they will be assigned an on-site supervisor - typically a medical director - who will help provide administrative guidance and structure.



**Magnolia Clubhouse**

Upon acceptance, fellows work with faculty to select one or more sites that match their career interests from among the variety of agencies and institutions throughout Cuyahoga County. While the fellowship has developed a core network of agencies for fellows to choose from, potential site placements are not limited to this list and fellows with special interests are encouraged to seek alternative placements. Potential placements range from community agencies, where fellows may choose to work in programs catering to the homeless, SPMI, forensic, or substance abuse

populations, to state hospitals, Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, or county and state mental health boards.

## **International Training**

For those interested in working outside the continental US, we have also developed a placement in the US Virgin Islands to gain experience and training in international mental health work. Individuals can choose to either spend all 12 months there, or alternatively, spend the first 6 months in Cleveland at a more traditional placement, then the second 6 months abroad. Those interested in this placement in particular can contact us for further information.

## **Field Placements Outside Cuyahoga County**

Please contact us directly to discuss field placements in other regions throughout Ohio!



Safe Haven 3 - Transitional Housing Site



North Coast - State Psychiatric Hospital

## **Didactics**

One half day each week is devoted entirely to didactics. The didactics are designed to cover essential topics in public psychiatry based on guidelines published by the American Association of Community Psychiatrists. Topics include:

- History of Modern Public Psychiatry
- Structure of Contemporary Public Psychiatry
- Funding of Public Human Services: Federal, State, Local
- Administration and Fiscal Management of Behavioral Health Services
- Regulation and Accreditation of Public Sector Programs
- Comprehensive Elements of Systems Design
- The Role of the Psychiatrist in Community Based Services
- Recovery Focused Care and Psychosocial Rehabilitation
- Practical Program Analysis and Evaluation
- Special Populations and Cultural Factors Impacting Clinical Practices
- Homelessness and Housing Policy
- Providing Leadership and Facilitating Collaboration
- Principles of Public Behavioral Health

- Interface of Primary Care and Behavioral Health
- Transformation in the Structure of Public Behavioral Health
- Community Based Research and Scholarship
- Public Mental Health Advocacy

Beyond the lectures given by core faculty at Case Western, guest speakers from agencies and institutions throughout Ohio will be invited to make presentations relevant to particular topics. Furthermore, medical directors will make regular presentations regarding administrative issues pertinent to their roles in the community.

## **Presentations and Core Faculty Supervision**

To compliment the didactics, fellows are expected to prepare and make six presentations throughout the year which address clinical and administrative aspects of their field placements. Presentations range from fiscal analyses to advocacy efforts to program evaluations. Additionally, fellows will spend forty-five minutes weekly in supervision with core fellowship faculty to address administrative issues at field placements, ensure that topics covered in didactics are being applied to field placements, and to provide guidance in developing their presentations.

## **Faculty**

### ***Patrick Runnels MD, Fellowship Director***

Dr Runnels attended medical school at the University of Missouri, Columbia, completing general psychiatry residency at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City and the Public Psychiatry Fellowship at Columbia University. During his time in New York, he completed rotations in public policy work both at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, as well as a full year at the New York State Office of Mental Health. Additionally, he completed international administrative and clinical work in Belize, and worked within the extensive New York City mental health system. Since moving to Cleveland, he works clinically at several community mental health agencies throughout town, including: Center for Families and Children, where he is the medical director; Mental Health Services, where among other things, he directs the homeless and psychiatric outreach rotation, and Magnolia Clubhouse, where he is cofounder of the Carriage House clinic. He serves as Communications Director for the American Association of Community Psychiatrists, on the Council for Advocacy and Government relations of the APA, is a past board member of the APA, and a recipient of the Bristol-Meyers Squibb Public Psychiatry Fellowship Award through the APA.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

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Applicants must have completed 3 years of an ACGME accredited general psychiatry training program and be able to obtain a Ohio state medical license by the start of the fellowship (requires successful passage of USMLE Step 3). While we expect that most applicants will still be in residency training, we also encourage post-residency,

practicing psychiatrists interested in enhancing their public sector careers to apply. The stipend will vary based on hours worked and placement, and has ranged from \$55,000 to over \$100,000. This is a non-ACGME-accredited fellowship.

### ***Application Process***

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Individuals interested in applying should contact:

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