

North Carolina Psychoanalytic Foundation
&
Clinical Lecture Series at the UNC-CH School of Social Work

present

The Use of Paraprofessionals in Mental Health Care:
What can North Carolina Learn from Mexico's System of *Acompañamiento*?

When: Friday, September 19, 2008, 1pm-4pm

Where: Tate Turner Kuralt Auditorium, UNC School of Social Work, Chapel Hill (325 Pittsboro Street)

Registration: NO CHARGE with pre-registration on-line at <http://ncpsychoanalysis.org> (\$10 at door.)

CEUs: Letters of attendance provided (3 hours)

Audience: Mental health professionals, consumers, advocates, and other concerned citizens (Please distribute this information widely to foster greater inclusion. Thank you!)

In North Carolina, the involvement of paraprofessionals as part of the Mental Health System is relatively new and fairly controversial. Among the challenges of the effective use of paraprofessionals is their lack of training. Moreover, media coverage of the subject has been sensationalized and has led some to question the appropriateness of the practice. In Mexico, however, the practice of *acompañamiento* or companionship has been commonplace in the treatment of individuals with mental illnesses in Mexico for many years.

This workshop presents a cross-cultural discussion of the use of paraprofessionals as part of the provision of mental health care. The workshop will feature Alejandro Salamonovitz, PhD, who has pioneered a supervision program in Mexico for paraprofessionals that focuses on the value of listening and empathic skills in the treatment of individuals with mental illnesses. Dr. Salamonovitz will be joined by a panel that includes clinicians, advocates, administrators, and paraprofessionals from North Carolina, who will discuss and compare the North Carolina and Mexican experiences and look for ways to enrich the care of our mentally ill on both sides of the border.

We invite you to join this dialogue and come with your experience, questions, concerns, and an openness to creative strategies for improvement.

Panelists:

Alejandro Salamonovitz, PhD, a former physicist, has been practicing psychotherapy for more than 20 years. He is a dedicated teacher and supervisor and prolific author dedicated to the treatment of refugees and economically disadvantaged persons. His doctoral thesis, *Del Silencio a la Palabra: Reflexiones Psicoanalíticas sobre la Depresión* combines his interest in depression with the social and political perspective gained through work with such traumatized patients. In the 1990s, he trained as a psychoanalyst and went on to become President of the *Círculo Psicoanalítico Mexicano*. In

2004, he founded the *Circulo* branch in Cuernavaca, a resource center for psychoanalytic teaching and practice for more than one million people, which includes a low-fee clinic and therapeutic supervision for participating paraprofessionals.

Ed Eastman, PsyD, is currently the Director of Clinical and Residential Services for the Mental Health Association in North Carolina, which provides services to people with severe and persistent mental illnesses through assertive community treatment teams; community support teams; community support services; hospital transition teams; jail diversion; psychosocial rehabilitation centers; supportive employment; group homes; and supportive apartment programs. Dr. Eastman has 34 years experience in the mental health field in a variety of positions serving people with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness, including a deinstitutionalization project in VA.; crisis mental health services in an urban setting; inpatient admissions unit; a maximum security forensic unit; and as the Director of an inpatient psychiatric rehabilitation unit.

Laurie Selz Campbell, MA, is a Research Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work. She has been involved with mental health peer support services for the past several years as a program director, supervisor and trainer of peer supporters, and program evaluator. She is passionate about peer support as a way of facilitating the process of recovery -- for both providers and recipients.

Teri Knighton, MA, is a Community Support Coordinator for Comprehensive Care, Inc., a private provider. She has 20 years of working experience in the mental health field and extensive experience with individuals who are dually diagnosed. She completed her graduate studies at North Carolina Central University with a Masters degree in Psychology-Clinical Concentration. Ms. Knighton has been a state and national presenter for the National Alliance on Mental Illness. She was also a board member for the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (North Carolina Chapter).

Ronald L. Mangum, MA is currently responsible for helping to develop and maintain the Peer Support Specialist Certification process for the state of North Carolina through the Behavioral Healthcare Resource Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist and Licensed Employee Assistance Professional and has more than 30 years experience in substance abuse and mental health services in both out-patient and in-patient treatment programs, and as an employee assistance program manager.

Louise Jordan has become intimately familiar with the state mental health system through advocacy work she has undertaken for her brother, Phil Wiggins, who suffers from schizophrenia and had lived in state hospitals for 44 years. The story of Phil's discharge from Cherry Hospital into the community has been covered in a series of articles by Ruth Sheehan in the *News and Observer*. Ms. Jordan is very passionate about paraprofessional issues and in making the system more workable. She will be joining the Board of Directors of NAMI Wake County in January and participating on Advocacy Committee, and currently serves on the Board of Directors of Club Horizon, a clubhouse in Knightdale for the mentally ill.