



Edwin Gibbs, a case manager with Haven Ministries, receives the Achieving Excellence through Empowerment of Consumers Award.



Lifetime Achievement Award winner Andrew Pons is retiring from the Whittitt Center in Chestertown after 19 years.



Kathy Flamer accepts a Special Recognition Award on behalf of her late husband Purnell Flamer at the 20th Caliber Awards.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Matthew Peters, director of Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center in Easton, is the recipient of the Advocacy and Education Special Recognition Award.

Mid-Shore behavioral health community honored

EASTON — Mid Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. held its 20th annual Caliber Awards celebration on May 18 at the Milestone in Easton. The event honored the work of local organizations and individuals for their contributions to the public behavioral health system in the Mid-Shore region.

Kathryn G. Dille, LCSW-C, executive director for MSBH, and Dr. Ben Kohl, MSBH Board of Directors president, began the event with a welcome message. Laura Pollard, marketing and events specialist for MSBH introduced the guest speaker, John Schratwieser, director of the Kent County Arts Council, who discussed the importance of art therapy in the behavioral health field.

Approximately 29 providers, law enforcement offi-

cers, community agencies, and other individuals were honored at the event.

Special Recognition Awards were given to Ivy Garcia, Kenny and Christine Walton, Virginia Spence, Matthew Peters and the late Purnell Flamer.

A new award category was developed this year to award those nominated by the various MSBH workgroups.

The Forensic Workgroup Community Award recipient was Director Joseph Hughes of the Dorchester County Detention Center. The Child and Adolescent Community Award was presented to Paul Tue III. The Mid Shore Roundtable on Homelessness Community Award recipient was Krista Petitt, executive director of Haven Ministries.

The recipient of the Ag-

ing through Effective Program- ming was awarded to Circle- and Disabilities Workgroup Community Award was Ty Kennedy, a clinical Social Worker at Caroline County Department of Social Services, Adult Protective Services.

Legislators presented citations to each of the main award winners. State Sen. Addie Eckardt, R-37-Mid-Shore, Del. Jeff Ghrist, R-36-Caroline, and Del. Jay Jacobs, R-36-Kent, attended. Citations also were sent on behalf of U.S. Rep. Andy Harris, R-Md.-1st, U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md., and U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md.

Representatives from local county governments, as well as the Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Administration, also were on hand.

Achieving Excellence through Effective Program-

ming was awarded to Circle- build team of Sherrie Tilghman, Suzette Turner and Barbie Glen. In less than one year, this program has stabilized and enriched the lives of 29 children who have a parent who is incarcerated and 12 caretakers.

Achieving Excellence through the Empowerment of Consumers was awarded to Edwin Gibbs of Haven Ministries. As a case manager, Edwin meets with clients and connects them to area programs, organizations and services to better their lives. He also teaches classes at the Haven Ministries Resource Center.

Two Achieving Excellence through Interagency and Community Collaboration Awards were presented. The first was awarded to the Prison Yoga Project team of Joe Hughes, director of Dorchester County Detention Center

Connecting for Success Program; Sue Radcliffe, LCSW-C; Mindy Black-Kelly, LCSW-C, and Lavonna Aubrey, community health worker of Dorchester County Health Department.

Together, this team developed a strategy and implemented the program, which included training every correction officer in the program that centers on trauma-informed clinical training, brain science education and yoga. Since the program's implementation, 20 individuals have participated and 13 remain on the waiting list.

The second award was presented to Jeanine Beasley, continuum of care manager at MSBH. Dr. Ben Kohl of the MSBH Board of Directors, along with nominator Steven Houston of the Roundtable for Homelessness, presented this award.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Andrew Pons of the A.F. Whittitt Center in Chestertown, a publicly licensed and certified 44-bed Residential Dual Diagnosis Behavioral Health Center that offers both residential and crisis services for those with substance use and mental health disorders. He is retiring after a 19-year career working for the state in the behavioral health field.

The event brought out 115 local consumers, providers and community members. Mid Shore Behavioral Health, Inc. is the Core Service Agency for the Mid-Shore region which includes Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties.

For more photos from the event, visit the Mid Shore Behavioral Health Facebook page.