

# EARLY ASSESSMENT AND SUPPORT ALLIANCE

503-988-3272 REFERRAL LINE  
503-988-5870 FAX



## EASA UPDATE – June 2010

The Multnomah County EASA Team celebrates its two year anniversary this month. Many thanks for all your referrals! You have helped us to serve many of our community's young adults and families from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. Here are some recent highlights from our program:

- ❖ We continue to accept referrals of young people between the ages of 15 and 25 years of age who have experienced their first episode of psychosis within the past year.
- ❖ We have made two recent additions to our team:  
Leslie Conlee, QMHA, Supported Employment/Education Specialist  
Robert Janz, LPC CADCI, EASA Team Supervisor
- ❖ We completed a Pacific University Occupational Therapy student internship Innovative Practice Project conducted by Lacey Bradford, MOTS and Chelsea Chamizo, MOTS. This project offered a brief group program focusing on identity and social skills. Since critical development in these areas can be a challenge for young people with psychosis we are excited about plans to continue this innovative model.
- ❖ Dr Neil Falk, who became the team's psychiatrist one year ago, furthers our mission by prescribing medications in concert with the EASA philosophy. This often includes a slow, low-key introduction of medications, prescribing in low doses, and discontinuing them after 3-6 months of stability.



““Medications are only helpful if people are willing to take them. This means valuing their beliefs about medications, and including them as primary decision makers in their treatment. Medication use is most successful when the client and prescriber agree on a plan, and work together as a team.” *Dr. Neil Falk*

“What I like about EASA is that the Team comes to me and that services are personalized for each person”. *EASA client.*

## PSYCHOSIS RESEARCH IN THE NEWS

Read the recent research pointing to the importance of social skills development in the recovery from psychosis.

- ❖ [http://schizophreniabulletin.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/32/suppl\\_1/S12](http://schizophreniabulletin.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/32/suppl_1/S12)



DEPARTMENT OF COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES  
MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS SERVICES DIVISION  
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## EARLY INTERVENTION AROUND THE STATE AND GLOBE

- ❖ <http://www.eppic.org.au/>
- ❖ <http://www.tsweekly.com/news/features/>

## EASA CRITERIA/SERVICES

We are currently accepting new clients and look forward to your referrals.

EASA serves Multnomah County residents between the ages of 15 and 25 who have had a first episode of psychosis in the past year that is not caused by a medical condition or substance use and who have an IQ of 70 and above. EASA accepts clients regardless of their mental health insurance, including indigent clients. Our team offers:

- Case management
- Multi-family groups
- Vocational training
- 24/7 crisis support
- Rapid access
- Education about psychosis
- Individual, group and family counseling
- Occupational therapy
- Life skills coaching
- Low-dose medication management
- Community-based services
- Social activities

Please feel free to contact us for consultation if you have a potential client for our program who may not match the above criteria. Our referral number is **503-988-3272**. Community Education presentations are available by contacting EASA Supervisor Robert Janz at **503-988-5464 x 29334** or **503-793-0760**. We look forward to hearing from you.



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