



# Benchmarking Insights

## **BPS Partners with the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare**

The National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare and Behavioral Pathway Systems have announced that they have entered into an agreement to use and apply BPS' national database of benchmarks to improve the clinical, operational, and financial performance and effectiveness of mental health and addiction service organizations across the country. The National Council and BPS will be collaborating on strategies designed to enhance benchmarking as a management tool among behavioral health providers across the United States. Mental Health Weekly ran a story in response to the press release in their February 18, 2008 issue with additional quotes from the principal spokespersons. MHW reported, "It was a natural fit to talk with him", Mark Blockus, director of practice improvement at the National Council, told MHW in reference to Lefkovitz. "He offers great services to our members". The article goes on to describe the latest developments in the work being conducted by BPS, particularly in the area of process benchmarking. MHW quoted Paul Lefkovitz, BPS President as saying "I've become more and more a believer that at least to a certain degree, best practices are not only geographically defined but also temporally defined. What is best practice today may be old hat in a few years". BPS is very excited about this new relationship with the National Council. BPS will be providing strategically important benchmarking data to the National Council to use in its advocacy work, thereby enhancing further the value of the data being gathered.

## **New Article: Process Benchmarking in Texas**

A new article entitled "Learning from Top Performers" was co-authored by Susan Rushing and Paul Lefkovitz, BPS President, for the February, 2008 issue of Behavioral Healthcare Magazine. The article describes a process benchmarking initiative taking place throughout the state of Texas in conjunction with a partnership between BPS and the Texas Council of Community MH/MR Centers. Two exercises have been conducted thus far. One dealt with the utilization of state hospital beds and the other addressed treatment engagement and client choice. In both instances, valuable new insights into potential best practices emerged. More importantly, these promising practices have been adopted in numerous centers throughout the state as part of a formalized implementation project.

## **Congressional Briefing**

On March 13, Paul Lefkovitz will be a presenter at a congressional briefing that will take place in the Longworth Office Building in the nation's capital. Sponsored by Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), the briefing is intended to provide information about partial hospitalization in support of pending legislation. Paul will present data gathered in conjunction with the Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare's survey and benchmarking initiatives. He will also provide a history of the treatment mode.



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We want to create an active and vibrant community of individuals and organizations interested in benchmarking, performance management, and outcomes. If you have thoughts, ideas, suggestions, tips, or questions, we'd like to hear from you. Please feel free to contact us at [info@bpsys.org](mailto:info@bpsys.org).