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## Buprenorphine Debuts in Wernersville Detox

by Debbie Beissel, R.N.

The Detox unit at Conewago Wernersville has become one of only a few centers in the Eastern Pennsylvania area to use Buprenorphine for the treatment of opiate dependence. Buprenorphine is only available to physicians who meet the requirements to obtain a waiver for dispensing.

Buprenorphine has been proven to significantly decrease the physical discomforts and cravings associated with opiate withdrawal. Until now, Methadone was the only treatment available to provide these benefits. Methadone is only administered in a limited number of clinics, therefore, limiting the number of clients able to receive this therapy. Buprenorphine therapy has several benefits over Methadone therapy including fewer side effects, lower abuse potential, stronger narcotic cell receptor binding, minimal overdose risk, and improved rehabilitation outcomes. The Buprenorphine client is given the comfort of a Methadone detox without the addictive qualities or the need for continued use.

Due to the increased comfort level and decreased cravings experienced by clients, they are less likely to leave against medical advice and they are able to

increase their participation level in their recovery process. This allows the client a greater chance for continued sobriety.

At the present time, Buprenorphine is being administered to our detox clients, but we look forward to expanding its use in our outpatient setting.

Conewago Wernersville has found referral sources are very interested in the new treatment, but have limited information available to them. The detox unit in conjunction with the marketing department, will be providing informational programs for our referrals. The detox staff continues to stay on the cutting edge of treatments and maintains their goal of making our unit a success.

For more information on Buprenorphine therapy at Conewago Wernersville, please contact Launa Miller, Director of Marketing at (570) 601-0877 ([lmiller@firetree.com](mailto:lmiller@firetree.com)) or contact the Detox Staff at (610) 685-3733 Ext. 132. 🌳

## News From Cyberspace

Look for the new and improved Firetree website coming soon! Users will be able to "surf on over" and find out the latest information on all Firetree, Ltd. facilities and programs. In addition to facility and program information, the website will feature an admissions page, current employment opportunities, FAQs, reference links, the most current edition of the Firetree Chronicle newsletter, a criminal justice professionals section (for requesting referral information), and an "Employees Only" section for various administrative needs.



Same address, new look and features  
[www.firetree.com](http://www.firetree.com)

### FIRETREE, LTD.

Drug & Alcohol  
Treatment  
Programs  
& Community  
Corrections  
Facilities

# Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Bureau of Prisons Community Corrections Contractor Conference

by Brandi Koppenhaver

The Federal Bureau of Prisons held its annual conference at Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland the week of April 13, 2003. Firetree Ltd. sent Brandi Koppenhaver from Conewago Wernersville and, Felicia Lewis and Larry Early from Capitol Pavilion to this conference. Attendees varied, from Bureau of Prison staff, to community corrections and drug treatment providers. The conference allowed for much networking with peers from the entire East Coast.

The Bureau of Prisons combined jurisdictions this year to allow for greater exchange of knowledge. Participants ranged from areas as far north as Maine to Tennessee in the south. The conference began with opening remarks by Edward Hughes, Northeast Regional Administrator and Andrea King-Wessels, Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator. The theme of this year's conference was "change".

Harley G. Lappin, the new Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Washington D.C., spoke of changes that were recently made from the Office of Legal Council (OLC). Community Corrections Centers will no longer be receiving direct court commitments. Direct Court Commitments were previously sent to Centers for short stays, generally 12 months or less for non-violent offenses. It was determined that this does not meet the guidelines for confinement, and therefore all direct court commitments will be routed to correctional institutions.

Another area of focus was the OLC finding to redefine pre-release inmates' CCC length of stays. Pre-Release cases will not longer be transferred to CCC's prior to their 10% date. These cases must be on or after their 10% date, or no more than 6 months left on their sentence, whichever is less. The only exception to this finding is the ICC (Intensive Confinement Center/Boot Camp) or Residential Drug

Program in the institution. This has impacted the CCC's by a decrease in populations. Since this has gone into effect (between 12/02-3/03) there has been a 12% decrease in the inmate numbers in facilities.

Mr. Lappin recognized other areas that have become problematic for Community Corrections Centers. These areas include finding resident employment in today's economy, inmate identification when returning to the community, and medication. It was recognized at the institution level as being a problem, which could hold up an inmates' progress in Centers that could spiral into greater issues now that inmates will be spending less time at a CCC. Lappin challenged providers to use creative means of dealing with difficult populations as they become more prevalent (i.e. mental health offenders and sexual offenders).

The final area Mr. Lappin focused on was that of changing disciplinary procedures for CCC residents. The Bureau of Prisons is looking to move towards progressive sanctioning. The previous trend to send residents immediately back to an institution for virtually any rule violation has now moved to that of an evaluation approach, based on each resident individually. It is the intention to utilize CCC resources and community resources, to provide services for those residents who have disciplinary issues, which could be handled at the Center level.

The conference concluded with "break-out" groups of providers from all areas, conducting training on numerous topics. These topics included: discipline, integrity, billing, accountability, life/safety; benefits of electronic monitoring and the From Prison To Payroll Program. There was a wide variety of training, information and networking that allowed attendees to prepare for the wave of the future. 🌳

## Look for Firetree, Ltd. at the Following Upcoming Conferences and Workshops!!

### National Institute of Justice

June 2-4, 2003

The National Institute of Justice will host their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Innovative Technologies for Community Corrections Conference at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia. This year's conference will focus on Innovative Technologies for Community Corrections. The conference will explore practical applications of innovative technologies currently in use as well as technologies not available, but on the horizon. Attendees will learn how technology can be used to enhance mission performance.

### PACNET Provider Fair November 3, 2003

PACNET will host their Annual Provider Fair at the Penn State Hotel, State College, PA. More information to come in the upcoming months!

### ICCA Conference November 9-12, 2003

The International Community Corrections Association will host their annual conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. This year's Research Topic – "What Works XI: Organizational Change to Embrace What Works Principles and Practices".

## Quality Improvement Team Success

by Steven McCardell

Firetree Ltd.'s proactive approach of systematically assessing the quality of service and effective environment of care management is achieving recognition. Each Firetree Ltd. program is audited monthly by an internal cross-functional team, consisting of both management and line staff. Participation on the team is on a rotating basis and the involvement of a staff that is varying in vocational background provides a unique opportunity for "cross-training" and team building activities. Formalized Quality Improvement (QI) teams were initiated to monitor compliance of several aspects of jurisdictional, contractual, and accreditation requirements.

The QI Teams are supplemented by a variety of other internal teams, such as safety committees, policy review committees, and contracted consultants. Certified safety committees meet monthly to conduct physical plant audits and to analyze environmental safety conditions. QI results are analyzed and, as necessary, disseminated to the Firetree, Ltd. Policy Committee for potential policy and/ or procedure revision/enhancement. Several training, safety, and food service consultants are utilized to ensure quality operations.

Very positive and successful oversight audits from jurisdictional auditors is testament to the QI initiative's effectiveness. 🌳

## Firetree, Ltd. Representatives Present At The PA Certification Board Annual Conference

Firetree, Ltd. was very proud to have two representatives of the drug and alcohol treatment programs, as presenters at the PCB Annual Conference held on April 7th – 8th at the Holiday Inn in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Kenn Hall, MS, LPC, CAC Diplomate, CCS, the Corporate Clinical Director, and Tom Deitzler CAC, CCS; presented on the use of the Franklin Reality Model in the treatment of the criminal justice client who also experiences co-occurring substance abuse disorders.

The presentation provided a historical perspective on the development of the Franklin Reality Model, and its significance in treating the criminal justice and substance abuse population. The team of Mr. Hall and Mr. Deitzler demonstrated how the model is used as the primary foundation for the provision of services throughout the drug and alcohol treatment programs offered by Firetree, Ltd.

The presentation was one of the largest given at the conference, with over 84 participants in attendance. Feedback received from both representatives of the PCB and those individuals who participated in the session, indicated that the presentation was a great success.

For additional information regarding the Franklin Reality Model presentation, please feel free to contact Kenn Hall at (570) 601-0877 ext. 1800 or e-mail ([khall@firetree.com](mailto:khall@firetree.com)). 🌳

## Firetree, Ltd. Focuses on HIPAA Compliance

*By Kenn Hall, Corporate Clinical Director*

Firetree, Ltd. recently sent two of the corporate staff to a training entitled “The HIPAA Clock is Ticking: Are You Ready?” The training, which was held on March 17, 2003, was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Community Providers Association. Both representatives from Firetree, gleaned a great deal of information and immediately began to apply their new found knowledge about HIPAA upon their return.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is public law 104-191, that was signed August 21, 1996, and was designed to protect health information and simplify accountability. It mandates new concepts and legal requirements for transmission, storage, use and disclosure of health information.

As an identified “covered entity” Firetree, Ltd. and its affiliates have been actively pursuing compliance. The agency is currently placing an emphasis on the Privacy Standards, according to information provided at the training, that went into effect on April 14, 2003. Some of the steps taken by Firetree, Ltd. to ensure compliance included the development and dissemination of a Privacy Notification statement, revision of existing authorizations for Release of Confidential Information, development of Business Associate Agreements, and the provision for staff training.

Although initial training has been provided, Firetree, Ltd.’s corporate office intends to support on-going and extensive training in this vital area. It is our intent to utilize the training material provided by the PCPA as a part of Firetree, Ltd.’s new hire orientation process. Meanwhile, for those current employees, Firetree, Ltd.’s Training Coordinator and Corporate Clinical Director are working to schedule additional training at each facility to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the Privacy Standards.

Individuals who have questions or concerns regarding HIPAA compliance can contact Steve McCardell, Corporate Compliance and Privacy Officer. Mr. McCardell can be contacted at (717) 236-0132, or by e-mail ([smccardell@firetree.com](mailto:smccardell@firetree.com)). 🌳

## Harrisburg Transitional Housing – 3/4 House Opening Soon!

*by Larry Early*

In the very near future, Harrisburg Transitional Housing (HTH) will open for business. You may ask, “What is Harrisburg Transitional Housing (HTH)?” HTH is a housing facility for half way house and inpatient clients, who have successfully completed their treatment programs. The HTH facility is residential housing, where the residents will have an opportunity to exercise their newly acquired independence.

Adjacent to Firetree Ltd.’s Capitol Pavilion Facility, the former three (3) family dilapidated dwellings, were completely renovated and transformed into a three (3) story independent living facility. The facility is referred to as a 3/4 house that will provide a stable and structured environment for people who are returning to the community from various penal institutions throughout the country.

The rules and regulations of the transitional housing unit will ensure that all the tenants will continue to sustain a stable, safe and substance abuse free life. The house rules will include but are not limited to random drug testing, curfews and maintaining the cleanliness of the facility. The tenants will stay employed throughout their stay at HTH to meet financial obligations.

The opening of the Harrisburg Transitional Housing facility will address an identified need for housing during the re-entry phase of the transitional services for people in the Criminal Justice System. To find out more on the 3/4 house HTH facility, contact Launa Miller, Director of Marketing at (570) 601-0877 or e-mail ([lmiller@firetree.com](mailto:lmiller@firetree.com)).

## Firetree, Ltd. Corporate Offices

800 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, PA 17701  
Ph. (570) 601-0877 Fax (570) 326-1050

*The Firetree, Ltd. Family...*

### Community Corrections Centers

#### Capitol Pavilion

2012 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102  
Ph. (717) 236-0132 Fax (717) 236-4070

#### Conewago Wernersville

Sportsman Road, Building 27, P.O. Box 165  
Wernersville, PA 19565  
Ph. (610) 685-3733 Fax (610) 685-3735

#### Outbound (Female Only)

1829 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102  
Ph. (717) 236-4100 Fax (717) 236-2215

### Drug & Alcohol Treatment Programs

#### Conewago Place (Inpatient)

424 Nye Road, Hummelstown, PA 17036  
Ph. (717) 533-0428 Fax (717) 533-1050

#### Lycoming House (Inpatient)

1708-1710 Point Breeze Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19145  
Ph. (215) 468-2797 Fax (215) 468-2128

#### Conewago Wernersville

*(Inpatient, Halfway House, Detox, DUI, COR)*  
Sportsman Road, Building 18-19, P.O. Box 165  
Wernersville, PA 19565  
Ph. (610) 685-3733 Fax (610) 685-3735

### Outpatient Services

#### Genesis House, Inc.

800 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, PA 17701  
Ph. (570) 322-0520 Fax (570) 326-9674

#### Genesis House – Harrisburg

1826 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102  
Ph. (717) 236-3126 Fax (717) 920-5426

#### Genesis House – Wernersville

Sportsman Road, Building 19, P.O. Box 165  
Wernersville, PA 19565  
Ph. (610) 685-3733 (Ext. 52) Fax (610) 685-3735



## Conewago Place Promotes a New Clinical Director

*by Marlena Seguin*

Brian Hofsass, CAC, was recently promoted to the position of Clinical Director at Conewago Place. Brian has brought with him a tremendous amount of experience, determination, and excitement to the position.

Brian was first hired at Conewago Place in 1999. He was originally hired as a Counselor's Assistant. He quickly proved to Firetree, Ltd. that he could succeed in the position and was promoted to a Counselor position. In 2000, Brian again was promoted to a new position of Senior Counselor. For two and a half years he has worked hard and dedicated much time to his position at Firetree while juggling his responsibilities as a husband and a father to his daughters: Brianna, Cali, and Brooke. He has even managed to earn his CAC while working at Conewago Place.



Brian is the youngest Clinical Director that Firetree, Ltd. has had at any of their facilities. At the moment, Brian is continuing to prove that he is an asset to the company by showing that he is a respected leader among the staff at Conewago Place and taking the time to earn his CSC. We wish the best of luck to Brian in all of his future endeavors. 🌳