

Greenville Mental Health Center Director Receives Prestigious Award

The Second Annual Southeastern Symposium on Mental Health (SESMH) was held at the Hyatt Regency Greenville May 11-13, 2017. The Symposium, sponsored by the Greenville Health System, provided an opportunity for stakeholders to collaborate across disciplines and promote a regional and national platform for the significant challenges associated with mental illness. The three day conference was attended by over 300 participants representing five southern states and hosted a variety of workshops and presentations by nationally recognized mental health advocates from a variety of professions. Each year the Symposium and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) recognize individuals who have demonstrated outstanding research, leadership, advocacy, and services to the mental health community.

This year, Al C. Edwards, MD, Director of the Greenville Mental Health Center, received the prestigious SESMH/NAMI Professional Mental Health Advocate Award by Bill Lindsey, Executive Director of NAMI South Carolina, and Ken Dority, Executive Director of NAMI Greenville. Recognized for his leadership and advocacy on behalf of individuals impacted by mental illness, Dr. Edwards encourages his staff to provide excellence in service and support to those seeking help from the Center.

The Greenville Center's staff was actively engaged in this year's Symposium by participating in roundtable discussions on community trauma, and presenting two workshops. Dr. Edwards and Christopher Haines, MS presented a workshop on School Based Mental Health, and Christine Carlberg, MA and Erica Van Wagner, LISW-CP presented on Trauma Informed Care. A dynamic Art of Recovery exhibit coordinated by the Greenville Center's Art Therapist, John Lorange, MS, was a focus of the Department's mental health exhibit.



In photo from left to right, Ken Dority (NAMI Greenville), Al C. Edwards, MD (Greenville Mental Health Center), Bill Lindsey (Executive Director, NAMI South Carolina), Glenda Hayes and Jill Mann, Greenville Mental Health Center Board Members.