



## Behavioral Health Program

Suicide is an important problem among older adults. Suicide rates are particularly high among older men, with men ages 85 and older having the highest rate of any group in the country. Suicide attempts by older adults are much more likely to result in death than among younger persons. Reasons include:

- **Older adults plan more carefully and use more deadly methods.**
- **The physical frailty of older adults means they are less likely to recover from an attempt.**
- **Older adults are less likely to be discovered and rescued.**
- **Some older adults purposely engage in indirect life-threatening behavior, which will eventually lead to their death. Examples include refusing medication, food, or liquid; refusing or ignoring medical advice; not attending to their hygiene; and living in unsafe/unsanitary conditions.**



Our program has been in existence since 2014. We have built our model on the premise that if we approach the care of a patient with mental illness from a holistic perspective, within his/her chosen environment, we will be successful in preventing frequent hospitalizations, thereby, making psychiatric home health care the most cost-effective treatment available for this patient population.

We offer a well-rounded team approach to the therapeutic interventions that allow the psychiatric patient to maintain in his/her home environment, despite the regular adjustments necessary in response to exacerbations of illness, stressors and needed adjustments to medication. Our team includes:

- **Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses** with Masters level degrees or board certification
- **Social Workers** with years of experience in working with this population
- **Occupational Therapists** who work with patients on resocialization, organization of the environment and techniques to lessen paranoia and improve self-esteem, and use of pill boxes to enhance medication compliance
- **Home Health Aides** who have specific training in helping psychiatric patients manage their personal hygiene while appropriately managing fears, paranoia and disorders that make hygiene an issue

**Our patients consistently demonstrate improved:**

- **Management of oral medications**
- **Management of injectable medications**
- **Cognitive function**
- **Confusion frequency**
- **Anxiety level**
- **Behavioral problem frequency**

**\*Visiting Psychiatric Physicians available. We are happy to arrange this service for patients in need. Please inquire further if necessary\***

