

SEPTEMBER // אלו
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CORE Receives Grant from New York State for Employment Services

New York State awarded seven providers statewide with a portion of a newly allocated \$7,000,000 to fund employment services for individuals with behavioral health issues. We are proud to announce that Pesach Tikvah was selected as a grant recipient. Great thanks and praise are due to Pearl Ostreicher, director of Pesach Tikvah's CORE program, and her staff.

"Employment can have a tremendously beneficial impact on an individual's ability to recover from a behavioral health issue," OMH Commissioner Dr. Ann Sullivan said. "These new employment services utilizing a proven effective model Individual Placement and Support will enable New Yorkers living with mental health and substance use challenges to obtain employment in their communities. By helping these New Yorkers find and maintain meaningful employment, we can help them to achieve financial independence and remove a key obstacle on their paths to recovery."

Individual Placement and Support is a model that supports working with the individual at any point during their recovery and regardless of their prior employment history or existing barriers. This initiative integrates evidence-based practices, clinical treatment, recovery, and rehabilitation in a single, person-centered environment, which allows employment specialists to work closely with rehabilitation and vocational staff.

This person-centered model requires agency-wide strategies to encourage and engage individuals around competitive, integrated employment, in addition to a high level of partnership with local employers.

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A Tishrei Greeting from Pesach Tikvah's Executive Director

The past eight months have been some of the most transformative I've seen at Pesach Tikvah. Changing leadership can pose challenges to an organization, but what you all have done is rally around this organization and put forth your best work. I have seen Pesach Tikvah come together with a sense of purpose and unity. You have demonstrated that we are a resilient organization that always keeps its goal in mind: to serve the community with dignity and kindness, and with a personal touch. Because of everyone's work, Pesach Tikvah is in one of its best phases since its inception, both internally and in public opinion.

Our sophisticated programs are run by inspiring directors and dedicated staff. I want to thank all the program directors: Aaron Zev Herbstman, 926 Family Center Director, relaunched the 926 clinic and brought it back to its pre-pandemic numbers and efficiency. Aharon Fink, 640 Family Center Director, has been a beacon of great clinical acumen and nurturing of his staff, continuing to solidify his location as a boutique therapy experience. Esther Deutsch, Borough Park Family Centers Director, and Adira Tanenbaum, Borough Park Family Centers Assistant Director, have refined the clinics and done systems upgrades that exceed anything done before. Bruchy Endzweig and Gitty Kahan, CFTSS Directors, have made their program grow by leaps and bounds. Pearl Ostreicher, CORE Director, has added an employment division to her program and has strategically hired an excellent cohort of new staff. Jacob Lichtman, Health Homes Director, has expanded his program

far beyond expectations. Rabbi Avrum Grunwald, School Satellite Program Director, has exacted unprecedented growth of his program with great and sophisticated infrastructure into multiple communities. Chanie Shindler, ICF Director, has continued to refine and perfect the ICF, which is a foundational program of Pesach Tikvah. Diana Masri, COMHAB Director, has helped with the redevelopment of our OPWDD services and continues to expand our COMHAB program. Lea Scharf has outdone herself in bringing a magnificent training curriculum to the organization. She is a beacon of knowledge for young therapists. Hendy Roth, our CCBHC Director, has accomplished getting the CCBHC Demo designation, that will put the organization in great straits for decades to come.

I want to personally wish each of you שנה טובה ומתוקה and כתיבה וחתימה טובה. We have so much to look forward to in the coming year, especially working together with a sense of אחדות. My goal is for Pesach Tikvah to be a friendly and unified workplace where everyone feels supported, both in their work and personally. Thank you for your excellent work and good energy. Let's continue to support each other and bring Pesach Tikvah to new heights.

Yoram Storn
Executive Director



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Individuals assisted by this model are linked to employment supports, helped with navigating work incentives, and provided follow-along supports that are continuous.

“The newly launched employment segment of Pesach Tikvah gives clients the chance to feel a sense of purpose. Courses and work such as cyber security, real estate license, culinary work, notary course, security guard certification, plus more will be offered and encouraged. We also discuss how Social Security and/or health benefits can remain while simultaneously working and producing income. Between the wonderful work already being done from Pesach Tikvah staff, plus an employment path, will hopefully give clients a boost in their day-to-day mental and emotional well-being,” said Julien Saka, Pesach Tikvah’s IPS Employment Specialist.

The funding complements Governor Kathy Hochul’s multi-year \$1 billion plan to strengthen New York State’s mental health care system and drastically reduce the number of individuals with unmet mental health needs. Adopted last year, the plan provides the funding needed to open new programs, expand effective initiatives, and develop thousands of new units of specialized housing to serve individuals living with mental illness.

Employment and socioeconomic status are key determinants of health and mental health. By increasing funding and support for all employment and rehabilitation programs, OMH can help providers like Pesach Tikvah implement these principles and practices.

Pesach Tikvah Receives CCBHC Demo Designation

Pesach Tikvah has received the prestigious CCBHC Demo designation. This expansion of the CCBHC grant is a great milestone for Pesach Tikvah’s clinics that deserves much acknowledgment. Great thanks and praise are due to Hendy Roth, our CCBHC grant administrator, for this monumental achievement.

CCBHC was a federally funded grant through SAMHSA given to not-for-profit agencies serving the underserved. Its goal was to usher in wraparound services for the underserved population, services like those received at Article 28 FQHC health centers, such as health screenings or an Article 32 OASAS clinic, as well as outreach and training. The CCBHC Demo is a state administered version of this grant with a higher rate of reimbursement.

Over the years the CCBHC grant and the CMHC grant (both federal grants) have funded Pesach Tikvah’s Training Institute and other training initiatives. It has allowed our therapists to benefit from an elaborate, built-out supervision structure. It has created an incubator for learning in the clinics.

The CCBHC Demo designation allows Pesach Tikvah to operate under the state’s guidelines in a more permanent fashion. It also allows Pesach Tikvah to compete with Article 28 Federally Qualified Health Centers, who in recent years have become our primary competitors as they have opened behavioral health departments.

With the CCBHC Demo designation, we will continue to stay the course of paying our clinicians highly competitive rates and giving

the most sophisticated training and supervision. Higher rates of reimbursement will afford Pesach Tikvah an opportunity for long-term retention of therapists. We will increase in outreach and will reinforce our sophisticated clinical learning programs.

Implementation of the CCBHC Demo designation is an involved process that will take time. It will pay off in the lasting growth of Pesach Tikvah’s clinics.

We cannot underscore enough how grateful we are to Hendy Roth for her skillful and dedicated work on this project. This was a multi-year process that she excelled at. A great thanks is also due to Hindy Langer, who initiated this project.

Study Finds That Positive Effects of Failure Are Limited

An interesting psychological tidbit that therapists and case managers might be interested in: Researchers from Northwestern University, Cornell University, Yale University, and Columbia University refuted the common platitude that failure breeds success in a recent study published in *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*. Their article, “The Exaggerated Benefits of Failure,” summarized research that they conducted on 1800 participants.

In some experiments, participants wrongly assumed that people pay attention to their mistakes and learn from them. “People ought to pay attention and learn from failure, but often they don’t because failure is demotivating and ego-threatening,” said one of the researchers, Dr. Lauren Eskreis-Winkler.

“While telling people they will succeed after failure may make them feel better, that mindset can have damaging real-world consequences,” Eskreis-Winkler said. In one experiment, participants assumed that heart patients would embrace healthier lifestyles when many of them don’t. In another experiment, nurses assumed that their colleagues would learn from their mistakes, but they didn’t.

The study noted the assumption that other people will learn from their failures and reform their behavior can lead to a lack of proper rehabilitative care. People are less likely to help others when they assume that others will help themselves.

Failure doesn’t lead to success in the real world. In truth, only 35% of lawyers, 43% of nurses, and 58% of teachers pass professional exams upon retest. Participants also underestimated the likelihood that failure would follow initial failure—in other words, they overestimated the likelihood of subsequent success—for low-achieving populations. Predictors expected 26.61% of students to continue to fail the GED after initially failing it, whereas in reality, 40% of students who initially fail continue to fail every retest they take.

You can read the study at:

[The Exaggerated Benefits of Failure \(apa.org\)](https://apa.org).

Focus On:
Shoshana Mirkin,
Payroll Specialist/Employee Trainer

Q&A



Each month, we feature an unsung hero of Pesach Tikvah – someone who contributes something indispensable to the organization. This month, we spoke with our Payroll specialist/Employee Trainer, Shoshana Mirkin, about her work.

Q: How long have you worked for Pesach Tikvah?

A: I'm just coming up on my six-month anniversary.

Q: What does it mean to do payroll?

A: It means to do everything accurately, because people rely on their salary. I make sure that people are not overpaid or underpaid. I go through the invoices and make sure that there are no double invoices. I ensure that the employees who are getting paid are the correct employees, that their employee ID matches their name.

I ensure that every employee is getting paid the right amount at the right rate.

Q: What do you like about working at Pesach Tikvah?

A: I like the environment. I like that we're a team. Zack (our HR Director, who has been profiled in this column) and I help each other.

Q: What are your goals for the future at Pesach Tikvah?

A: My goal is to ensure payroll is running smoothly and efficiently together with the payroll team. We have no room for errors. My other goal is that all trainings are completed by our employees 100% in a smooth and efficient manner.

A great thanks goes out to Shoshana Mirkin and the team for ensuring accuracy in payroll and doing trainings – her work is vital for all of us. Would you like to suggest an unsung hero of Pesach Tikvah for next month's newsletter? Email ckurtz@pesachtikvah.org to make a suggestion.

Good News from Pesach Tikvah Programs

Pesach Tikvah finished the summer in a spirit of excellence. We are looking forward to a productive autumn of serving the community in great spirit. גוט געבענטשט יאָר, to everyone at Pesach Tikvah!

Clinics: Our clinics are experiencing unprecedented growth. Thank you to our directors, therapists, and administrative staff for your phenomenal work.

- The Borough Park clinics welcomed a new group of interns.
- The Borough Park clinics are setting up more group supervision to increase clinical support.
- The 640 Family Center's intakes are pouring in since people have returned from the summer and are reaching out for help.
- מוֹדל טוֹב — the 640 Family Center's Director, Aharon Fink, is celebrating his third anniversary as Director.
- The 640 Family Center has brought in a small group of excellent new therapists. Welcome!
- The 926 Family Center welcomed a new cohort of diverse and talented interns.
- מוֹדל טוֹב to 926 Family Center clinician Dov Sadowsky on the birth of a baby boy!

School Satellite Program: Much respect to Rabbi Avrum Grunwald for his outstanding work.

- The School Satellite Program has added four schools.
- It has hired four new therapists.
- The School Satellite Program is currently planning group supervision for its therapists.

Senior Services: Senior Services has expanded its therapeutic services. A great thanks is due to Senior Services Director Zalman Kotzen and his dedicated staff.

- Senior Services hosted a big, beautiful luncheon for Holocaust survivors at Park Manor. The many attendees enjoyed a lovely catered lunch and time to network and socialize. Senior Services staff member Sarah Blima Gestetner told an uplifting story. Entertainment was a well-known singer and her daughters, who serenaded the attendees and interacted with them after the performance. Each Holocaust survivor was gifted a hand blender.
- Senior Services distributed 1000-piece puzzles and yarn for knitting to Holocaust survivors.

- Senior Services hosted its first group therapy session for senior women. Thirty women attended the uplifting evening, which was held at the 926 Conference Room. The subject was Positive Family Interactions. It was led by Susan Weinberger, LCSW. Following the group therapy session, Senior Services staff member Rochie Weinberger led a painting class. Light refreshments were served. It was an enlightening mental health program that everyone enjoyed.

Health Homes: Excellence in Care Management is standard operating procedure for Pesach Tikvah's Health Homes Director, Jacob Lichtman, and his on-the-ball Care Managers.

- Health Homes welcomes new interns Naftali Adler, Lauren Chaouh, and Yitty Kohn.
- Health Homes has moved into a new space on the third floor.

COMHAB: A great thanks goes out to COMHAB Director Diana Masri and her staff for continuing to deliver excellent service to people with developmental disabilities and their families.

ICF: Praise is due to ICF Director Chanie Shindler, Izzy Tropper, and Diana Masri for continuing the legacy of one of Pesach Tikvah's foundational programs so competently and with so much compassion for the residents.

- All of the residents of the ICF are doing really well.
- The ICF successfully completed staff trainings.

CORE: The CORE program is pleased to announce that it has retained the services of Rabbi Dr. Aaron Finkelstein, licensed clinical psychologist. Dr. Finkelstein will be providing individual and group supervision to its staff. The CORE program emphasizes the training and development of its staff, and clinical supervision is key to their ability to provide high-quality, effective interventions toward their clients. Welcome, Dr. Finkelstein; the CORE team is excited about this new chapter in the annals of CORE. "May we continue to go נחיל אל חיל with דשמיא!" said Pearl Ostreicher, CORE's Director.

CFTSS/Simpatico: CFTSS/Simpatico has so many new clients that it has expanded its staff!

- Welcome to new staff members Yocheved Reichberg, Yiddis Weiss, Mati Hechel, and Gitty Friedman. They will be doing onboarding, intakes, and case coordination.
- Simpatico has created many new creative arts groups for children. These groups help children build self-esteem, decrease dysregulation and improve regulation, build skills, and address their goals. The creative arts groups are held in the 926 Clinic and remotely.