

1985

The services in which were provided by the Kevin Coleman Center for Mental Health in

Ravenna as articulated in the May 1985 Open House Brochure:

The Kevin Coleman Center for Mental Health is a community based adult mental health center. Comprehensive services for the severely mentally ill are now provided in the central location.

Psychiatrists and psychiatric nurses are employed by the Center to evaluate and treat the physical problems causing mental illness. Psychological counseling helps the mentally ill person control confused thinking and emotions. Education and training prepare the mentally disabled person for normal community living. Positive social and recreational opportunities help people to succeed in living with themselves and others.

The Kevin Coleman Center also assists mentally ill persons in their home living. The Kevin Coleman Center for Mental Health at Lovers Lane in Ravenna serves the young adult with an eight-bed residential treatment program. This program provides housing for an average of six months. Two additional beds in this building are for shorter stays to help the mentally ill person overcome a crisis and avoid a psychiatric hospitalization. The center also has a 12-bed longer term, supportive housing program in cooperation with Portage Metropolitan Housing Authority. Community apartments are also arranged by the center with many landlords in the community.

Daily programming at the Center includes educational, recreational and treatment opportunities. Mentally ill persons can select a variety of activities depending on their interests and abilities. Art therapy, group psychotherapy, educational workshops, social groups and consumer groups are samples of the center's program components.

The center also offers various types of vocational opportunities for the mentally ill person. Vocational exploration and activities are the beginning of employment. The center also offers employment opportunities where a person can learn to adjust to the demands of a job. Job placement services help mentally disabled persons seek and find regular employment.

Background on construction of the Kevin Coleman Center for Mental Illness:

In 1979, Portage County was awarded two state construction grants to build and equip facilities to provide services to persons with severe mental disabilities. The State provided 100 percent of the cost of the construction since the projects were designed to meet a priority of the Ohio Department of Mental Health. Originally, Kevin Coleman Center was the grantee but transferred ownership to the Portage County Mental Health Board in 1980. Legislation in 1980 permitted Mental Health Boards to own property.

The original proposals were written to build two separate facilities -- one to provide residential treatment and one to provide day programming. A concern with operating costs motivated the Board to scale down the entire project and to request permission to build one facility. The Ohio Department of Mental Health approved the request change.

It took a great deal of additional planning and work to find an appropriate location and to meet all state and local requirements for construction. In 1982, the Mental Health Board purchased land from the county, adjacent to Robinson Memorial Hospital, to build the facility. The Board broke ground September 1, 1983.

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***On May 19, 1985, the dedication ceremony and the open house of the Lover's Lane location of the

Kevin Coleman Mental Health Center were held***

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