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Medical Director of Substance Use Disorder Honored as Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine

The BridgeWay Recognizes April as National Alcohol Awareness Month

North Little Rock, AR – April 5, 2021 — The BridgeWay announced that John Schay, M.D., Medical Director of Substance Use Disorders and Patriot Support Programs, has been designated as a Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM.) Founded in 1954, ASAM is a professional medical society representing over 6,600 physicians, clinicians, and associated professionals in addiction medicine. ASAM is charged with increasing access and improving the quality of addiction treatment, educating physicians and the public, supporting research and prevention, and promoting physicians' appropriate role in the care of patients with addiction. In 1996, the Fellows program was developed to celebrate the exceptional contributions of the leading members in Addiction Medicine. Since the program's inception in 1996, more than 300 physicians have been awarded Fellow status by ASAM. Said Dr. Schay, "I am honored to be recognized by my peers who ethically and compassionately advocate for the evidence-based prevention and treatment of addiction."

Dr. Schay is board-certified in Addiction Medicine with the American Board of Preventive Medicine and board-certified in Psychiatry with the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Dr. Schay received his medical degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in 2005 and completed his psychiatry residency at the UAMS in 2009 when he also joined The BridgeWay. Dr. Schay proudly served in the submarine service of the U.S. Navy as a nuclear mechanical operator during the Persian Gulf War.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month

With this announcement, we remind our community that April is Alcohol Awareness Month with these statistics from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Alcohol-Related Emergencies and Deaths in the United States:

- The rate of all alcohol-related ED visits increased 47 percent between 2006 and 2014, which translates to an average annual increase of 210,000 alcohol-related ED visits. Alcohol contributes to about 18.5 percent of ED visits and 22.1 percent of overdose deaths related to prescription opioids.

- An estimated 95,000 people (approximately 68,000 men and 27,000 women) die from alcohol-related causes annually, making alcohol the third-leading preventable cause of death in the United States. The first is tobacco, and the second is poor diet and physical inactivity.
- Between 2011 and 2015, the leading causes of alcohol-attributable deaths due to chronic conditions in the United States were an alcohol-associated liver disease, heart disease and stroke, unspecified liver cirrhosis, upper aerodigestive tract cancers, liver cancer, supraventricular cardiac dysrhythmia, AUD, breast cancer, and hypertension.
- In 2015, alcohol-impaired driving fatalities accounted for 10,265 deaths (29.0 percent of overall driving fatalities).

Economic Burden in the United States:

- In 2010, alcohol misuse cost the United States \$249.0 billion.
- Three-quarters of the total cost of alcohol misuse is related to binge drinking.

Source: [National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism](#)

The BridgeWay offers a Continuum of Care for Substance Use Disorders

In light of these trends, The BridgeWay offers a continuum of care for substance use disorders that includes:

- Acute care for dual diagnosis (the condition of struggling from a mental illness and a comorbid substance use disorder.)
- Medical detoxification
- Acute rehabilitation
- Partial hospitalization
- Intensive outpatient treatment

"Through these additional levels of treatment," said Dr. Schay, "we have a full continuum of care that allows a person to transition between different levels of care as they progress toward returning to their community. By treating addiction, we are addressing a major healthcare crisis."

To schedule an assessment, or make a referral, call our Assessment and Referral Department at 1-800-245-0011, or visit our website at www.TheBridgeWay.com.

Founded in 1983, The BridgeWay Hospital is the only freestanding psychiatric hospital in Arkansas with distinct programs for acute mental health, serious mental health, and substance use disorder treatment for adults, as well as behavioral healthcare for adolescents, ages 13-17, and children, ages 4-12. We offer a continuum of services designed to help people experiencing behavioral, emotional, or addictive problems that can lead to fractured lives.

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