

PSYCHOSIS IS REAL, SO IS RECOVERY:
SNAPSHOT OF THE LAST DECADE OF EARLY PSYCHOSIS INTERVENTION

ASHEY WEISS, DO MPH
VICE CHAIR CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY
ROBERT HEATH ENDOWED CHAIR OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROSCIENCES
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL PSYCHIATRY
TULANE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY
CO-FOUNDER / MEDICAL DIRECTOR EPIC/NOLA CALM

EPIC © CALM
EARLY PSYCHOSIS INTERVENTION CLINIC CLEAR ANSWERS TO LOUISIANA MENTAL HEALTH

WHY THE SENSE OF URGENCY?

- 1. Onset is during a critical time in life adolescence and young adulthood**
- 2. Risk of suicide as high as 1 in 6 after first episode of psychosis**
- 3. Those with schizophrenia die 20-30 years sooner than the public, mostly from cardiovascular disease**
- 4. Schizophrenia is a leader in direct/indirect costs to individuals, families, societies across the world**
- 5. Those with psychosis are more likely to be victims of violence**



International data supports a 2-pronged intervention in serious mental illness

Early Treatment=

Intervening intensively after the onset of psychosis improves outcomes over usual care



EPI C-NOLA
EARLY PSYCHOSIS INTERVENTION CLINIC

Early Detection=

Intervening earlier to shorten duration of untreated psychosis



CALM
CLEAR ANSWERS TO LOUISIANA
MENTAL HEALTH

Components of care at epic-nola



Nearly 1200 referred since opening

Over 200 active any any time

Average age at referral is 21

Less than 20% re-hospitalized

Majority in work or school

Psychosis awareness
Eliminating stigma



CALM

CLEAR ANSWERS TO LOUISIANA
MENTAL HEALTH

Community engagement
Advocacy

Empowering our patients with lived experience

EXAMPLES. ..Community engagement



Advocacy



Empowering our patients with lived experience



RESEARCH AT EVERY STEP...

IMPLEMENTATION AND EXCEEDING BENCHMARKS



> [J Health Care Poor Underserved](#). 2021;32(1):8-17. doi: 10.1353/hpu.2021.0003.

Establishing the Early Psychosis Intervention Clinic, New Orleans (EPIC-NOLA): Sustainability Challenges Threaten Clinical Success

Ashley Weiss, Serena Chaudhry, John Danie Cahill, Vinod H Srihari



PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES IN OUR APPROACH



Capgras Syndrome: In the Conscious and the Unconscious Mind A Case Report

Serena Chaudhry, DSW, LCSW, MPH,*† Ashley Weiss, DO, MPH,*† Costantino Surdis, MD,*† and Michael Garrett, MD‡



STAYING COMMITTED WITH THE UNEXPECTED



Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

www.cambridge.org/dmp

Brief Report

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

www.cambridge.org/dmp

Research Letters

Psychosis, Telehealth, and COVID-19: Successes and Lessons Learned From the First Wave of the Pandemic

Serena Chaudhry DSW, LCSW, MPH^{1,2}, Ashley Weiss DO, MPH^{1,2}, Grinasha Dillon BA^{1,2}, Ariana O'Shea BS^{1,3} and Tonya Cross Hansel PhD, LMSW³

Psychosis, Telehealth, and COVID-19: Engagement and Hospitalization Pre- and Peri-Pandemic

Serena Chaudhry DSW LCSW MPH^{1,2,3}, Robert Roy MS^{1,2}, Kasra Mansourian MS^{1,2}, Ashley Weiss DO MPH^{1,2} and Alan Breier MD⁴



HOW DO WE REACH PEOPLE SOONER?



ORIGINAL PAPER

Pathways to Care: How Help-Seeking Behaviors Relate to Duration of Untreated Psychosis and Treatment Engagement

Ashley Weiss¹ · Spencer Steadman¹ · Hannah D. Mercier¹ · Tonya Cross Hansel² · Serena Chaudhry¹ · Isabel Clark¹



EPIC and CALM TOGETHER TRANSFORMING PATHWAYS TO AND THROUGH CARE



First psychosis experience
~80-100/yr

Early Identification of
illness

Referral to an early
intervention clinic

Engage with EPIC-
NOLA and begin
recovery

Goals:
Shorten duration of untreated
psychosis
Decrease NUMBER of help-
seeking episodes
Recovery sooner
Enhanced quality of life

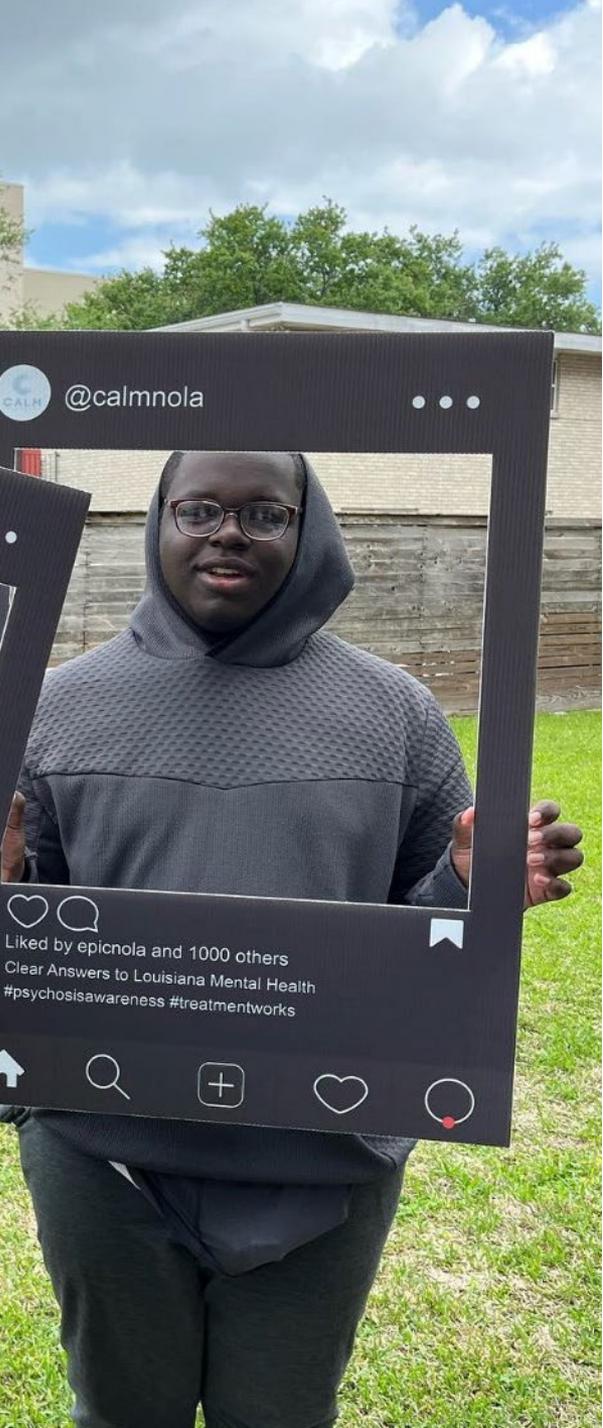
Published RESULTS ON THE IMPACT OF CALMON PATIENTS referred to EPIGNOLA



NO ACCESS | Brief Report | Published Online: 6 February 2025

Reducing Duration of Untreated Psychosis: Strengthening the Case for Early Detection Campaigns



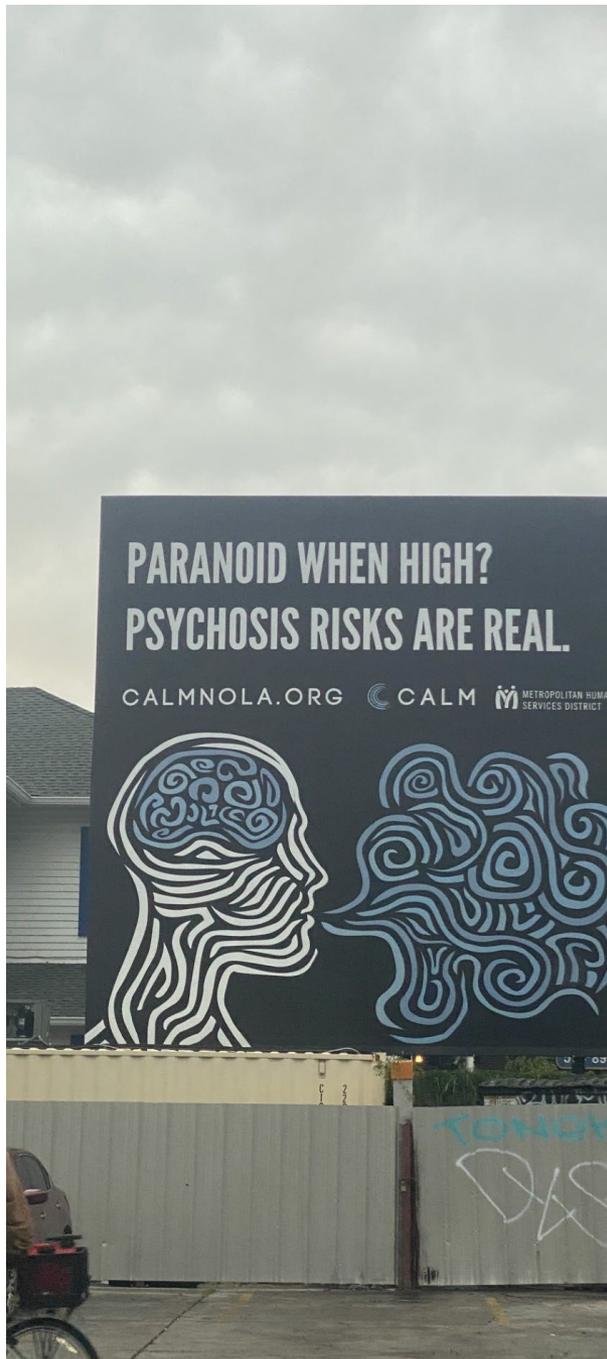


Lat est CAMPAIGN ON RISK FACTORS

**FAMILY HISTORY OF PSYCHOSIS?
THE RISKS ARE REAL.**

CALMNOLA.ORG  CALM  METROPOLITAN HUMAN
SERVICES DISTRICT





How to support our mission...

- Funding to support our annual psychosis awareness benefit: In My Mind
- Funding to support our CALM campaign, now with evidence to support reducing duration of untreated psychosis
- Funding to support our initiative to expand first-episode psychosis services to more rural areas of Louisiana through launching mobile health services

EPIC  CALM

HELPING LOUISIANA BETTER UNDERSTAND AND TREAT PSYCHOSIS



EPIC © CALM

HELPING LOUISIANA BETTER UNDERSTAND AND TREAT PSYCHOSIS



IN MY MIND

A BENEFIT BRINGING
AWARENESS TO PSYCHOSIS

FEATURING AN INTIMATE PERFORMANCE FROM



COLD

PRESENTED BY



NOVEMBER 7TH
at

Junebug

744 CAMP STREET NEW
ORLEANS, LA 70130

FROM
7-10PM

VIP HAPPY HOUR
6-7PM

SCAN THE
QR CODE TO
REGISTER!

