

# Advocacy

## **Patient Family Partnership Council Destigmatizes Mental Illness**

The Institute of Psychiatry (IOP) provides the most thorough care available for a full range of psychiatric problems. Patients benefit from attention by nationally recognized psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, social workers, psychologists, and researchers working together to provide care emphasizing confidentiality and mutual respect. One of the hallmarks of IOP's treatment approach includes the Patient Family Partnership Council (PFPC) implementation of family and patient centered care. The PFPC consists of four family members and four consumers, each having first-hand experience with mental illness or addiction, who serve on a patient satisfaction team, admission criteria task force and contribute to new employee orientations. The group also facilitates crisis intervention training for MUSC Safety and Security staff members, as well as a weekly spiritual support group for inpatients.

## **Trauma-Informed Care Promotes Well-being**

It is not rare for individuals to be exposed to traumatic events throughout their lives with the severity and frequency causing debilitating effects. The IOP treatment team is sensitive to patients who have suffered traumatic events and works diligently to avoid anything that aggravates memories of interpersonal violence or victimization. Trauma-informed care is based on five principles:

**Safety:** Ensuring physical and emotional safety.

**Trustworthiness:** Maximizing trustworthiness, making tasks clear while maintaining appropriate boundaries.

**Choice:** Prioritizing consumer choice and control.

**Collaboration:** Maximizing collaboration and sharing of power with consumers.

**Empowerment:** Prioritizing consumer empowerment and skill-building.