



343 Wood Lake Drive SE
Rochester, MN 55904
Main Office: (507) 289-2089
Fax: (507) 289-5799
www.zumbromhc.org

Leadership Team Biographies

David E. Cook, L.I.C.S.W. – Chief Executive Officer

As CEO, Mr. Cook is responsible for the day-to-day operations at Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center. He has more than 25 years of administrative and clinical experience, including 20 in a leadership capacity in health care. Before joining the organization, he served in many leadership positions, including WellPoint, Medica and United Behavioral Health. Mr. Cook also has extensive clinical experience, serving as clinical director and a clinician at Cigna, United HealthCare and the Wilder Foundation. He has a Masters' Degree in social work from Washington University in St. Louis, is a licensed independent clinical social worker and completed a number of courses at the Carlson School of Management.

Gary Chaikin, M.D. – Medical Director

Dr. Gary Chaikin is a board-certified adult psychiatrist and member of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology with more than 25 years of experience. In his role as medical director for Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center, he is responsible for the development, implementation and coordination of psychiatric and medical practices and policies in the organization. Prior to joining the organization, Dr. Chaikin had his own private practice, served eight years on active duty in the United States Air Force as staff psychiatrist and worked at Gunderson Lutheran as the director of psychiatric education and chief of its outpatient behavioral health clinic. He also spent five years as a contracted psychiatrist at Fort McCoy. Dr. Chaikin has experience with ACT team services and coordinating behavioral health services with primary medical care through the medical-psychiatric interface. He has taught psychiatric theory and practices to physicians and other clinicians at the USAF Medical School. Dr. Chaikin received his medical degree from Emory University and performed his residency at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center.

Judith Eichman, L.S.W., L.A.D.C. – Chemical Health Services

Ms. Eichman administers the connections and referral unit and recovery programs for Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center. Over the past 20 years, she has steadily grown these programs to meet the increased needs of our community. In addition to her certification as a licensed social worker and licensed alcohol and drug counselor, Ms. Eichmann has a Masters' Degree in community counseling from Winona State University.

Heather Geerts, L.I.C.S.W. – Interim Clinical Director, Residential Treatment

Ms. Geerts provides administrative oversight for the organization's residential treatment and crisis stabilization programs. She has served in a variety of positions at Zumbro Valley over the past two years, including project manager for the Flood Recovery Partners program. Ms. Geerts has a Masters of Social Work degree from the College of St. Catherine/University of St. Thomas along with her certification as a licensed independent clinical social worker.

Scott Gerdes – Chief Financial Officer

In his role as chief financial officer, Mr. Gerdes oversees the accounting, finance and information technology departments. He also leads the finance committee for the Board of Directors. Prior to joining Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center, Mr. Gerdes served as controller for Bobcat of Rochester and treasurer for Rochester Public Schools. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bethel College in accounting and finance.

Tracy Lee, MBA – Human Resources and Facilities

As human resources director, Ms. Lee oversees staff recruitment and training; compensation and benefits; policy development; and employee relations. Before joining Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center in early 2007, she served as human resources director for Tandem Library Group. Ms. Lee has a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of St. Thomas.

Tina Nunemacher-Tews, L.S.W. – Community Support Programs

As director for Zumbro Valley's community support program, Ms. Nunemacher-Tews oversees a variety of services designed to help participants improve their community living skills. She has nearly 20 years of experience – including 17 at Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center – working in the mental health field. Ms. Nunemacher-Tews received her bachelor's degree from Winona State University and is a licensed social worker.

Sean Rice, MBA – Marketing, Development and Customer Service

Mr. Rice currently directs the organization's marketing, communications and fund raising activities. He also leads the marketing committee for the Board of Directors. He has more than 15 years of marketing experience, having worked for Mayo Clinic and Rochester Medical prior to joining Zumbro Valley in early 2008. He has a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of St. Thomas.