



**Ascension**

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

To the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction:

As the Director of Behavioral Health at Ascension St. Vincent, I am writing this letter of commitment to demonstrate our support of the Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare (SWBH) 2023 application to become a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Demonstration Site.

Through this work, SWBH plans to develop the full menu of CCBHC services in our community. The services include: comprehensive community-based mental and substance use disorder services; treatment of co-occurring disorders; advancing the integration of behavioral health with physical health care; ensuring equitable access to care and reduction of healthcare disparities; consistently utilizing evidence-based practices; ensuring access to care across the lifespan; providing comprehensive care coordination; and promoting improved access to high-quality care.

We believe this program is critical to the wellbeing of Southwestern Indiana and its surrounding communities because our citizens are in need of the comprehensive, integrated care offered by this model.

At Ascension St. Vincent, we treat adult and geriatric patients in mental health crises and diverse populations of individuals in need of mental health services. On the Evansville Campus, our Adult Mental Health Inpatient Unit has served the community for over 32 years. Ascension St. Vincent Evansville is a Magnet-Designated hospital and is accredited by The Joint Commission. The Serenity Unit is an Inpatient Geriatric Psychiatric Unit on the Ascension St. Vincent Warrick Campus. This hospital has served the community for over 22 years and is accredited by The Joint Commission.

In our commitment to this endeavor, Ascension St. Vincent will offer inpatient psychiatric hospitalization as clinically indicated, as well as collaboration with the SWBH Crisis Team. Some examples of this partnership include:

- Care coordination
- Medical evaluation and treatment
- Inpatient psychiatric care
- Data sharing (non PHI, or with patient's written authorization)

For our role as SWBH's partners, we will build upon our history of collaboration, during which we collaborated for over a decade providing inpatient and emergent psychiatric care for the SWBH patients through work with the SWBH on site liaison.



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We appreciate this opportunity to collaborate with SWBH in this service transformation and we highly recommend them for receipt of this funding. SWBH is a key member of our continuum and enhancement of their services will be an integral part of continuing to promote equitable access to high-quality care to our community.

Should you have any questions about this letter or Ascension's support of SWBH, please reach out to me at my contact information below.

Sincerely,

 DNP, RN, LMHC, PMH-BC

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