Friday, October 20, 2023

To the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction:

As the Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff at Evansville Rescue Mission (ERM), 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 because our citizens are in need of the comprehensive, integrated care offered by this model.

ERM has been serving those in need in our community for over 100 years. The heart of our mission is to provide the loving care our guests need to overcome addictions, abuse, homelessness, and other life-defining challenges. ERM provides emergency shelter assistance, food, a youth care center, thrift store, and PACES (Purpose, Accountability, Christ, Education, Service) program.

In our commitment to this endeavor, ERM will continue its partnership with the SWBH team in assisting those who present to us with mental health and/or substance use disorders. As a part of this partnership, the essential services we provide include:

* Food
* Emergency Shelter
* Men’s Residence Center
* Office Space for SWBH staff to provide services on site
* Data sharing

For our role as SWBH’s partners, we will build our partnership over the past several years continuing to collaborate to assure the comprehensive needs of those in crisis are met. This includes continued promotion of SWBH’s crisis services and collaboration with the ACT and Mobile Crisis Teams.

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 ERM’s support of SWBH, please reach out to me at my contact information below.

Sincerely,



Joshua Nichols

Senior Vice President / Chief of Staff

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