



Media Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 15, 2013

David Lawrence Center to Acknowledge Representative Matt Hudson for Support of Mental Health

Naples, FL – The David Lawrence Center, Collier County’s only comprehensive, not-for-profit mental health and substance abuse treatment facility serving children, adults and families, is pleased to announce that Representative Matt Hudson will be honored for his unwavering support of mental health services at a reception at the David Lawrence Center on Thursday, October 17 at 9:00 a.m.

WHO: Florida House of Representative Matt Hudson, Karen Buckner David Lawrence Center Director Children’s Community Services and the new Community Action Team program, Executives from David Lawrence Center, Florida Council for Community Mental Health, SalusCare and NAMI. Interviews with Representative Matt Hudson and key management staff from David Lawrence Center about the new Community Action Team funding and the impact it will have on Collier County at risk children will be possible.

WHAT: Reception honoring Florida House of Representative Matt Hudson

WHY: As Vice Chair for the Health and Family Services Policy Council Representative Hudson has strongly advocated for adequate mental health funding while in office and recently championed a new state-funded intensive mentoring and treatment program called a Community Action Team for children ages 11-21 who have serious mental health and substance abuse disorders. The program which began serving children this month is designed as a cost effective way to divert at-risk youth from the child welfare system, juvenile justice system and restrictive institutional care. The Children's Community Action Team model was piloted in Bradenton and was so successful that the state Legislature is using it as a model for this new, nearly \$7 million initiative to fund the teams in 10 communities, including this new program in Collier County. The Legislature is spending \$700,000 per year for each team.

WHEN: Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

WHERE: David Lawrence Center, Telford Classroom Building D-2, 6075 Bathey Lane, Naples

If you are interested in attending, please contact David Lawrence Center Communications Director Trista Meister at 239-354-1468.

David Lawrence Center is the Southwest Florida-based, not-for-profit leading provider of behavioral health solutions dedicated to inspiring and creating life-changing wellness for every individual. The Center provides innovative, comprehensive inpatient, outpatient, residential and community based prevention and treatment services for the one in four local children and adults who experience mental health, emotional, psychological and substance abuse challenges. David Lawrence Center has eight locations in Collier County and touches the lives of more than 30,000 people each year. For more information about David Lawrence Center call 239-455-8500 or visit www.DavidLawrenceCenter.org.

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