



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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David Lawrence Center Receives HUD Grant to Improve Access to Services for Low-Income, Uninsured Residents

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 receipt of a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) which will provide low-income, uninsured individuals in need of mental health and substance abuse services with easier access to those services.

The one year grant, approved by the Collier County Board of Commissioners, is in the amount of \$89,802. David Lawrence Center will use the money to fund the Benefits Administration Project which will assist qualified individuals with enrollment in various healthcare plans including Medicaid and healthcare marketplace plans.

The program will target current David Lawrence Center clients while also reaching out to non-clients who are in need of services. David Lawrence Center currently has 1,365 low-income, uninsured clients, and more than 30% of new clients have no insurance. One hundred percent of these individuals are living at or below the poverty level.

David Lawrence Center will hire two full-time benefits managers who have experience working with children and adults in a behavioral healthcare setting and who have the ability to assess client needs and assume advocacy roles. The two will be responsible for providing both assistance and outreach services. The benefits managers will meet with individuals, help them learn about and understand their options, and assist with the enrollment process. They will also coordinate delivery of services as well as maintain detailed and accurate reporting and tracking measures while conducting appropriate follow up activities.

To assist with the implementation of the program, the grant funding will allow for the purchase and installation of four free-standing computer kiosks which will provide access to

the Internet so individuals can apply for benefits. In addition to healthcare plans, the benefits might include assistance with child care, housing, food stamps, and public assistance. The kiosks will be installed on the Center's Main Polly Keller Campus in Golden Gate, as well as in the Immokalee and Horseshoe Drive satellite offices.

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 50,000 people each year. David Lawrence Foundation generates philanthropic support for the advancement of the Center's mission, operations and growth. For more information about David Lawrence Center and Foundation call 239-455-8500 or visit www.DavidLawrenceCenter.org.

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