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Community Behavioral Health Center Celebrates One-Year Anniversary

January 18, 2024-*Pittsfield* – The Brien Center’s Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC), celebrates one year of operation as of January 3, 2024. Established as part of the “Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform” the legislation funding increased reimbursement rates to community-based providers like the Brien Center, with a long-term goal of ending “boarding” in emergency departments where people in crisis wait for care. These changes have addressed the disparity in behavioral health care.

Located at 334 Fenn Street in Pittsfield, The Brien CBHC provides services around the clock for anyone in Massachusetts that may be experiencing a mental health crisis, whether or not they have health insurance. Anyone going through a crisis can either walk into the CBHC or call for a mobile community response team to come to their location enabling immediate health care for both youth and adults. In addition, a 24/7 crisis line is available by calling 1-800-252-0227.

In its first year of operation, the CBHC has had over 100 intakes a month. We have seen approximately 1,235 community members according to Becca Phelps-Smith, LICSW-Clinical Director of CBHC and Emergency Services.” Our CBHC offers individual therapy, medication management, peer support groups, and care navigation. Our Adult Community Crisis Stabilization Program is designed to be a less restrictive alternative to inpatient hospitalization for people in need of short-term, overnight crisis care. The programs have a home-like, friendly, and comfortable environment that offer a feeling of community while maintaining a safe and secure setting.” concluded Phelps-Smith.

Of this program, Paul Hickling, MS, SVP of Service Operations remarked, “The Brien Center is committed to our community and their behavioral health needs, we feel certain that the services that the CBHC brings to the community go a long way in addressing the behavioral health challenges faced by our community.” concluded Hickling.

About The Brien Center: The Brien Center is a community-based, non-profit agency with over a 100-year history of providing a continuum of care for children, adolescents, adults, and families with serious and persistent mental health and substance use disorders. The center maintains over 25 local sites with close to 50 programs, serving more than 10,000 annually.

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