



Community Response to Addiction and Recovery to Broaden *Funding to benefit McLean, Madison, and St. Clair Counties*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 11, 2018

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BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – As more is learned about how to treat addiction, it becomes apparent that the condition must be treated like other chronic health concerns – and not as an acute condition that can be cured quickly and will not repeat. Three Illinois counties are a step closer to having in place systems of care for people needing help with substance use disorders.

Bloomington-based Chestnut Health Systems is the recipient of a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR). With the funding, Chestnut will bring together agencies and individuals to fill the gaps in community supports needed by those working toward recovery.

Addiction Treatment: A Change in Approach

Before 2004, many states and communities viewed substance use disorder (SUD) as an acute condition. They put programs in place to deal with the destructive and self-destructive events that played out when people were severely intoxicated. A focus on longer-term treatment and recovery was lacking. That has changed in recent years; Illinois and other states have shifted to a chronic care approach for people with SUD. That has meant the entire system – prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery – must embrace principles that focus on recovery. For people to be treated successfully and maintain their recovery, they need services not only for SUD, but also for the mental and physical health and for other ongoing concerns that often go hand-in-hand with SUD.

ROSC Councils

The DHS funding, totaling \$284,100, will support the work of Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Councils in McLean, Madison, and St. Clair Counties. Chestnut will oversee their creation, inviting providers of SUD treatment and mental health services as well as social service agencies and local government.

In McLean County, the Council will draw from several active committees focusing on drug and alcohol-related issues. In Madison and St. Clair Counties, the approach will draw from the Partnership for Drug-Free Communities and the St. Clair County Drug Prevention Alliance. The result will be coordinated networks of community-based services and supports to help people achieve abstinence. Further, the networks will improve the health, wellness and quality of life for people with or at risk of developing alcohol and drug problems. Eight ROSC Councils will be created throughout the state.

“Recovery happens within the community,” said Joan Hartman, vice president for behavioral health for Chestnut Health Systems. “The work of the local ROSC Councils will be to review services, supports, and other resources available, and, as community leaders, to address the gaps,” she said.

The funding will help to provide training and guidance for local agencies to implement person-centered approaches and to share with other stakeholders the need for this approach. It will fund planning, assessment, advocacy, strategy development, and implementation to establish a ROSC.

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Longer-term goals

In 2017, the state of Illinois set a goal of reducing opioid-related deaths by 33 percent in three years. The state agencies setting the goal recognized that the response to the crisis must include policy development, targeted interventions, health promotion, and stigma reduction. The ROSC Councils are in support of that response.

About the funding

These services are funded in full or in part through an Opioid-State Targeted Response (STR) Grant (TI080231) to the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

About Chestnut Health Systems

Chestnut Health Systems is a non-profit organization that has cared since 1973 for persons needing behavioral health services. Chestnut provides substance use disorder treatment, mental health counseling, primary health care, credit counseling, and housing and supportive services. It is a leader in substance use-related research.

More at www.chestnut.org.

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