



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 25, 2019

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Gloria Martin
Director of Child & Adolescent Services
(815) 284-6611
gloriamartin@sinnissippi.com

Sinnissippi Centers Providing More Services On-site at Schools

Serving students on site serves a need early in life for behavioral health services.

(Dixon, IL)

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) **one in five youth live with a mental health condition, but less than half of these individuals receive needed services.** Undiagnosed, untreated or inadequately treated mental health conditions can affect a student's ability to learn, socialize, and experience success in school and later in life.

"In fact, **emotional and behavioral difficulties are among the most common health issues faced by our nation's school-aged children**", says **Gloria Martin**, Sinnissippi Centers' **Director of Child & Adolescent Services.** "Many mental health conditions begin by adolescence. Half of individuals living with a mental health condition experience onset by the age of 14. This number jumps to 75% by the age of 24. Social, emotional, and behavioral concerns may appear at a much younger age," adds Martin.

"Schools provide a unique opportunity to identify and treat mental health conditions by serving students where they are on a daily basis," says Martin. "**School personnel play an important role in identifying the early indications of an emerging mental health condition** and in linking students with effective services and supports."

Recognizing the need to identify and offer support to children and families, **Sinnissippi Centers and over 100 partner organizations implemented a system of care** in 2010 for children's mental health services. The Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation has been a key supporter of the local system of care providing financial and technical support. As essential members of the system of care, area schools identified the need to expand existing school resources by adding behavioral health counseling services housed within the school setting.

"Sinnissippi Centers now has counselors in over 20 area schools with plans to continue growing," says Martin. "Children receiving school based services are clients of Sinnissippi Centers, but their treatment is provided primarily at school. Children who have access to school based mental health services are ten times more likely to take advantage of help."

School personnel report having additional counseling resources located at the school makes it easier for children and families to receive counseling on a regular basis. Children look forward to being able to see a counselor more often, and often how improvement quickly. School based mental health services treatment correlates with reduced discipline problems, higher graduation rates, and ultimately more positive life outcomes.

For more information about programs and services, call Sinnissippi toll-free at 1-800-242-7642. Sinnissippi has office locations in Dixon, Mt. Carroll, Oregon, Rochelle and Sterling.

###