



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
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## **Sinnissippi Centers Adding Additional Psychiatric Services Capacity**

Agency nearing previous capacity prior to start of state budget crisis

**(Dixon, IL)** Sinnissippi Centers will replace lost capacity of the agency's available psychiatric services, allowing an increase in the number of clients who will be able to access their medications at each of our five office sites.

**In May of 2016**, due to a combination of the loss of a Peggy Harris, P.A. who was a valuable provider of psychiatric services, and the ongoing budget stalemate in Illinois, Sinnissippi Centers was forced to reduce the number of individuals who received medication services by approximately 500. The current initiative should bring the agency close to its previous capacity prior to the budget crisis.

Sinnissippi Centers is not alone in facing challenges in providing Psychiatric services to clients. In fact, the entire country is impacted by a crippling deficit of psychiatric providers, and this challenge is greatly compounded in rural areas. Through over a year of recruiting, Sinnissippi Centers has been unable to secure a Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner to provide medication services to those receiving counseling services with the agency. Although Sinnissippi will continue to recruit for a full time provider, a partial state budget resolution has enabled Sinnissippi Centers to add telepsychiatry services in the interim.

Telepsychiatry is a well-accepted practice nationwide, and most participants report the same quality of care when receiving care this way. Some individuals still prefer seeing their physician in person and not by video; however, Sinnissippi Centers' experience is that the majority of clients have been pleased with the results of the agency's use of telepsychiatry in the past. The practice allows an organization to bring qualified providers to an area where they might not relocate for full time work.

Additional psychiatrist hours via video will commence on October 21st. If you or your loved one needs an evaluation and medication management, or if you are a physician who has referred to Sinnissippi Centers, please take advantage of this additional access. We are accepting new clients and referrals at this time. The mission of Sinnissippi Centers is to provide holistic care to those with mental illness and substance abuse disorders. Therefore, clients are only able to receive medication services if they are also engaged in therapeutic services (individual or group counseling) with one of the agency's other providers.

Although there are sure to be challenges ahead with the continued absence of a budget in Illinois, as well as an ongoing shortage of psychiatric service providers, it appears that the general landscape for community behavioral health providers is poised to improve. With continued fiscal health and a commitment to the community, Sinnissippi Centers will be here for many years to come, meeting the needs of our citizens with every resource available.

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