



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
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**Local Agencies Respond to Lack of State Funds As Budget Stalemate Continues.**  
Sinnissippi Centers will close over the holidays and reopen January 4, 2016

**(Dixon, IL)**

Sinnissippi Centers will close for three furlough days in addition to our normal four day holiday closures for the Christmas and New Year's holidays this year. Sinnissippi offices will be closed from December 24, 2015, through January 3, 2016. Only specific services will continue during this time. Crisis services, our residential programs and a very limited set of clinical services will be provided during this time in order to keep our most vulnerable clients out of harm's way.

We are trying to decrease costs without sacrificing services. Every year we have a dilemma as our funding is squeezed ever tighter by the State of Illinois. The question we ask frequently: "Do we cut critical services that will lead to pain and suffering for those we serve, or do we use every means possible to balance our budget and maintain those services?" The latter seems to be the right thing to do, and as helping professionals, we cannot bear to eliminate programs that could ultimately lead to loss of life. This means that our caring and dedicated staff, upon whom many depend on for their emotional wellness, makes significant sacrifices to continue working towards our mission.

We are not the only ones who must make sacrifices during these hard budgetary times. Our county governments, schools, and universities must also make decisions about their futures. The impact of such sacrifices will last much longer than just the 175 days the state has not had a budget. In the years to come those who went without support during these months will experience a lasting impact. Those who need assistance will no longer be able to find help, lowering the overall quality of life in our communities. Many organizations have laid off quality and caring staff who might never return to the field. While some sacrifice is necessary to put Illinois on the right footing and put her on the path to a better budgetary future, the amount of sacrifice by our community members grows each day, and may not be fully felt until some later point in time.

According to reports from across the state, as many as 30 agencies very much like Sinnissippi Centers will be closing their doors for good in the next 1-3 months. How absolutely tragic for those communities. Sinnissippi, however, will continue for now to provide the best care possible to those in our communities. We will continue to partner and work with other local agencies to create a network of services that is beneficial to all within our communities. We only hope and pray that a sustainable solution can be found to adequately fund behavioral health, and to ensure that the state's bills can be paid on time, and that our communities never experience the loss of their critical safety net.

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