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FOR MORE INFORMATION
Stacie Kemp
President/CEO
(815) 284-6611
staciekemp@sinnissippi.com

The Next Big Step in Providing Care

The state of Illinois received CCBHC grant, names Sinnissippi Centers as partner

(Dixon, IL)

Sinnissippi Centers is now able to take the next step in an ongoing project to become a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC). Earlier this month the state of Illinois announced they had been selected as one of ten states to participate in Department of Health and Human Services CCBHC Medicaid Demonstration Program designed to expand and improve access to coordinated mental health care and substance use services,

“Sinnissippi Centers was provisionally certified as a CCBHC earlier this year, dependent upon Illinois receiving the demonstration grant,” says Stacie Kemp, Sinnissippi Centers President/CEO. “Now, we move forward as a partner with the state in paving the way for the CCBHC model in the state of Illinois,” adds Kemp.

“This opportunity sets the stage for Sinnissippi as a leader in the state of Illinois and also provides opportunities for us an organization, as we ensure that clients have access to the full array of services that are needed,” says Kemp.

“SAMHSA’s grant award designating Illinois as an CCBHC demonstration State will make behavioral health treatment more accessible and change the behavioral health system landscape for decades to come,” said Illinois Chief Behavioral Health Officer David T. Jones. HFS anticipates that this program will bring an additional \$150 million into Illinois’ behavioral health system.

CCBHCs were created to strengthen mental health and substance use treatment across the country through comprehensive community outpatient behavioral health treatment. Their services must meet federal standards, and they must serve anyone who requests care for their mental health or substance use condition, regardless of age, ability to pay, or location. This model has been proven to significantly increase access to behavioral health care, including crisis care, for individuals who may otherwise have a difficult time accessing the services they need.

CCBHCs provide access to a range of services, including care coordination, and they incorporate evidence-based practices and other supports based on a community needs assessment. This includes crisis services that are available 24/7.

CCBHCs expand access to comprehensive mental health, substance use and crisis services; provide integrated care that focuses on the whole person; and closely partner with hospitals, law enforcement, and schools. CCBHCs help ensure everyone in their communities has equitable access to high-quality care, when and where they need it.

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- 3 million people are currently being served by CCBHCs in the U.S.
- 83% of CCBHCs provide services on-site in one or more schools, childcare centers or other youth-serving settings.
- 80% of CCBHCs offer one or more forms of medication-assisted recovery (MAR) for opioid use disorder.
- 98% of CCBHCs are actively engaged in one or more innovative activities in partnership with criminal justice agencies.
- 75% of CCBHCs increased outreach to people who have historically been underserved or underrepresented.

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS), which administers the Illinois Medicaid program identified 19 mental health and substance use treatment providers, across the state, including Sinnissippi Centers, to participate in the demonstration program, which will build on the Department's ongoing work to expand access to behavioral health services statewide.

"We are thrilled that our federal partners have chosen Illinois to participate in the CCBHC Demonstration Program, which will have a significant impact on increasing behavioral health and substance use treatment access across the state," said HFS Director Elizabeth Whitehorn. "Behavioral healthcare faces major capacity challenges across the nation, and this program recognizes that we must find a way to serve individuals in crisis, regardless of where they live and whether they have the ability to pay. This program will expand access in critical ways for people who have struggled in the past to find the services they need."

Sinnissippi Centers has been laying the groundwork for this moment over the past 3 years. "Sinnissippi Centers had received a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to become a CCBHC in 2021, but at that time the state of Illinois was not part of the nationwide demonstration project," says Kemp. "Now that Illinois has received their grant, we can begin to move forward for a fuller implementation of this model of care," adds Kemp.

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available by calling or texting 988 or via chat at 988lifeline.org. To learn how to get support for mental health or substance use issues, visit FindSupport.gov. Locate treatment providers by visiting FindTreatment.gov or calling 800-662-HELP (4357).

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