



**The HealthCare Connection receives \$500K grant for behavioral health integration project; partners with Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services and Talbert House**

**CINCINNATI. July 16, 2015.** The HealthCare Connection (THCC) has received a two-year, \$500,000 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for a behavioral health integration project. The goal of this project is to add behavioral health services at practice sites that currently do not have on-site services, making services more accessible to thousands of current adolescent and adult patients, and helping THCC meet the expected increase in demand in coming years. THCC is partnering with Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) and Talbert House in this project. “We have collaborated with both of these organizations for several years,” says Dolores Lindsay, CEO, THCC. “Their expertise and experience in behavioral health will be invaluable to this work.”

“Studies have shown that there is a high level of depression and substance use in the Greater Cincinnati area,” says Neil Tilow, president and CEO of Talbert House. “We will be working with The HealthCare Connection to help them directly serve the patients most in need of these services.”

“The HealthCare Connection and GCB have been partners in this effort since the launch of GCB's Holistic Health Project in 2010, and THCC opened an office at our Madison location in 2007,” says Jeff O'Neil, president & CEO of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services. “We have long recognized the importance and need for integrating on-site behavioral health and primary care services, particularly serving those patients with serious mental illness, including depression.”

Says Lindsay, “Nearly two-thirds of our adult patients have a chronic illness that puts them at increased risk for depression. However, the lack of start-up funds hampered implementation.”

Studies have shown that patients treated for diabetes are at much higher risk for developing depression than the general population, and THCC has more than 1,300 diabetic patients. And the numbers continue to grow.

In addition, studies have shown that single women who don't have enough food to feed their families are more prone to depression. In the areas served by THCC, there are five communities where more than 50 percent of the residents live at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. THCC hopes to better serve these populations at their practice sites.

Another important part of the project is the beginning of routine screening for substance abuse, starting in adolescence. “There has been a marked increase in substance abuse, particularly heroin addiction, throughout Greater Cincinnati, and it has reached epidemic proportions in some of the areas we serve,” says David Arveladze, M.D., Chief Medical Officer of THCC. “These services can be part of the solution to controlling substance abuse in northern Cincinnati.”

### **About The HealthCare Connection**

The HealthCare Connection (THCC) provides a medical home to uninsured, underserved and low-income families in northern Hamilton County. Founded in 1967, THCC provides a health care safety net to over 18,000 patients with an annual budget in excess of \$8 million. THCC’s service network consists of three community health centers, two school-based health centers, and four primary care/behavioral integrated care co-locations. **THCC is always working to expand access to quality, affordable primary and preventive care.**

For more information, please visit [www.healthcare-connection.org](http://www.healthcare-connection.org) or call 513-483-3081. Like THCC on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/hcconnection](https://www.facebook.com/hcconnection), and follow THCC on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/hcconnection](https://www.twitter.com/hcconnection).

### **About Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services**

Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCB) is the most comprehensive mental health provider in Southwest Ohio serving people with mental illness and related barriers. GCB is a fully certified, nationally accredited 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission to assist persons with mental illness and related barriers to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

### **About Talbert House**

Talbert House is a community-wide nonprofit that operates within five service lines: Adult Behavioral Health, Community Care, Court and Corrections, Housing and Youth Behavioral Health. Children, adults and families benefit from these proven services. Each year, Talbert House serves almost 36,000 clients face to face and an additional 34,000 are reached through prevention services throughout Greater Cincinnati. The Talbert House mission has two basic purposes: to improve social behavior and enhance personal recovery and growth.

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