



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 19, 2015

NEW FEDERAL GRANT TO BENEFIT METRO EAST MENTALLY ILL PATIENTS

Granite City, IL - Chestnut Health Systems has been awarded a \$1.6 million federal grant designed to benefit individuals with serious and persistent mental illness. The four year project will enroll Chestnut Health Systems into a nationwide learning collaborative to integrate health and wellness strategies for those persons who suffer from mental illness.

“The goals of this project are numerous,” said Orville Mercer, Chestnut’s Southern Region Manager, “but Chestnut will attempt to enroll about 500 clients who suffer from mental illness and track outcomes of health and wellness interventions they select. We’ll help this special population of clients embrace strategies and pathways they choose to combat their chronic health conditions.”

Another goal of the project is to develop evidence-based strategies that can be replicated by other providers in other communities.

“Across Illinois, many communities lack critical access to community health centers and important mental health services,” U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) said. “With this funding, made available through the Affordable Care Act, Chestnut Health Systems will be better equipped to expand, test and apply innovative ways of delivering primary and behavioral health services to Metro East residents.”

This project will kick off with the start of the federal fiscal year in October.

Chestnut Health Systems has offered a broad array of behavioral health care services to residents in Central and Southern Illinois for four decades. Known throughout the state as one of the leading providers of substance abuse treatment and prevention, mental health counseling and housing, credit counseling, substance abuse-related research, training, and publications and employee assistance and workplace assistance, Chestnut’s team of caring professionals now numbers over 700 full- and part-time staff.

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