

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact:

Dan Arens, MBA

ADULT&child Mental Health Center

Phone 317-893-0336

Fax 317-859-5308

darens@adultandchild.org

Adult and Child Center wins \$2 Million in Federal Money to address 25 year premature death of people with Serious Mental Illness.

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The National Association of State Mental Health Program directors issued a technical report in 2006 which revealed that people with serious mental illness (SMI) die, on average, 25 years earlier than people without serious mental illness. While several factors are likely contributors to this alarming disparity, research indicates a clear link to lack of access to primary care in this population. Adult and Child Center is proud to announce the development of an integrated care project which aims to improve access to primary care for adults with SMI and support SAMHSA's Pledge for Wellness 10 by 10 Campaign, reducing early mortality in this population by 10 years over the next 10 years.

The 4 year grant project was funded by the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and includes a partnership with WindRose Health Network to integrate a primary care physician and nurse care coordinators into the mental health center. This cutting edge project will focus on holistically treating mental illness and chronic physical conditions like diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and COPD within the same team of providers. The key to success includes early identification, education, and encouraging consumers to better care for their co-occurring chronic disease. This venture also emphasizes the development of medical homes and engaging each consumer in their treatment rather than prescribing them treatment without follow up.

Adult and Child Center has been the recipient of numerous federal grant awards over the last several years, yielding a strong research component to their continuum of services. Adult and Child Center, a 501c3 Community Mental Health Center, has provided decades of quality evidence based behavioral health services to residents of Marion and Johnson Counties and has received state and national recognition as a leader in the provision of evidence based practices (EBPs) for adults with serious mental illness. They provide a full continuum of mental health services to adults and children including a very successful transitional living program for teenagers leaving the state foster care system and a growing therapeutic foster care program which serves abused and neglected children. Last year Adult and Child served over 6,000 unique individuals.

For additional information or a sample copy, Contact:

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